

Sharks FAQ

updated 07-20-16

- 1) **Why do I need to be a YMCA of Saginaw member?**
 - a) YMCA of the USA requires all swimmers of a competitive swim team to be a full facility member of the hosting Y. Each swimmer is then covered under the YMCA insurance.

- 2) **If I am a Bay City YMCA member can I join Sharks?**
 - a) We are open to anyone joining the sharks, but the swimmer needs to be a YMCA of Saginaw member even if the entire family is a member at the Bay City Y.

- 3) **How much does Sharks cost?**
 - a) We have a couple of options that would depend what the total cost would be.
 - i) First we would need to start with a YMCA of Saginaw membership. Are you looking for the entire family to join? If so, it is \$59/month. If you are looking for the swimmer to join it is \$15/ month for youth or \$20/month for high school students.
 - ii) Then we look at the registration for swimming. Fall/Winter session fees are: Mini Sharks is \$95, Junior Sharks \$150 and Sharks is \$195. Spring/summer fees vary.

- 4) **How do I know if I should sign my child up for Mini Sharks, Junior Sharks or Sharks?**
 - a) Mini Sharks is ages 6-10 and practice 2 days a week. Fall and Winter practices are 60-90 minutes and summer practices are 60 minutes.
 - b) Junior Sharks is for ages 8-12 and practice up to 4 days a week. These practices are 90 minutes.
 - i) This is the half-way point for swimmers whose skills are past mini-sharks, but not quite ready for Sharks.
 - c) Sharks is for ages 12-18 and practice up to 4 days a week. These practices range from 90-120 minutes.
 - d) You are not sure where to start? Based on the age start them lower and move them up once the coach thinks they are ready.

5) Do you prorate?

- a) We accept registrations throughout the session and people can join as it fits their schedules but the Y does not prorate for this program. You will get the most of it if you start at the beginning of the session.

6) May I try it out before I join?

- a) Absolutely! Please contact Tina Swanton at 989-753-7721 and she would be happy to let you try the program out for a week to meet the coaches and try the practices.

7) If I sign up for Sharks do I need to attend all 4 practices?

- a) You will get out of the program what you put into it. You may attend as many or as few of the practices that fits your schedule.

8) Do I have to compete in meets?

- a) All meets are optional for the swimmers. We encourage our swimmers to attend home meets and it is a great place for the swimmers to get started but no meet is mandatory.

9) Can I swim in the championship meets?

- a) The swimmer must swim in 3 YMCA sanctioned meets to participant in the cluster, state, zone or national meets. All qualifying times are posted on the website. Most championship meets the swimmer needs to qualify.

10) How long is a session?

- a) Sessions are about 3 months long.
 - i) Fall: September-November
 - ii) Winter: December-March/April
 - iii) Spring: May – End of school year
 - iv) Summer: End of school year - August

11) What is USA swimming?

- a) USA swimming is another option we hold for our swimmers. A swimmer who wants to swim in USA meets must hold a USA swimming card. USA swimming is an additional cost/year or a seasonal option from the summer. The only home meet the YMCA of Saginaw hosts that is a USA meet is Beat the Heat in July.

12) What do I need to bring?

- a) Your child will need a suit and goggles to get started. We encourage those who plan to continue swimming to then get their own equipment like a kick board, fins, and pull buoy to make sure there is enough equipment for those who are just getting started.
- b) Team suit can be purchased during the fall session
- c) Team caps can be purchased through Chet (Head coach) all year, but if you are looking to order one with your name on it they will be done during the fall session.

13) What is expected of parents?

- a) This team would not continue to grow and survive without the parent volunteers and support. All home meets and events are run by our parents. We have an executive parent committee to over see and organize the events. This is an option to be apart of, but mainly we need people for specific tasks during the events.

14) Where and how do I sign up?

- a) All registrations and payments are done through the member service desk at the YMCA of Saginaw. The first time needs to be in person to sign waivers, membership packets and get a picture taken for the membership card. Any session after that can be done in person, over the phone or through e-mail with Tina 989-753-7721 or TMSwanton@SaginawYMCA.org. All checks are made out to "YMCA of Saginaw"
- b) We encourage each family to have a credit card on file so meet fees can be charged the first of the moth for all previous month fees.

15) How do I get an account on Team Unify?

- a) When you sign up for Sharks, Junior Sharks, or Mini Sharks you need to make sure we have your e-mail, phone number and swimmers date of birth. An account will be made for you, and you will receive an e-mail to login and choose a password.
- b) If you do not receive an e-mail with in the first week you are signed up please contact Tina Swanton at TMSwanton@SaginawYMCA.org.
- c) You will only be entered if you turned in a health history form.

16) Where do I sign up for meets or to volunteer for home meets?

- a) Your team unify account under "Events". However, all payments need to go through the YMCA.