

CBST-SAL – Swim Parents’ Meet Etiquette

- The basic job of a swim parent (who is not volunteering) at a swim meet is to cheer for the swimmers.
- Non-working parents should NOT be on deck. Parents may bring their children onto the deck to get them settled upon arrival but should leave the deck immediately after doing so. Parents who are not working may not realize it, but they are in the way of the volunteers and swimmers and they sometimes over-crowd the deck, creating an unsafe environment. Please do not put deck parents, board members, officials, and other meet workers in the uncomfortable position of having to ask you repeatedly to leave the deck. If you feel the need to be on deck for the full meet every meet, ask the volunteer coordinator to schedule you to work every meet.
- Remember that deck parents line the kids up to swim. It is their job to line up the kids who are on deck in the designated area. They will NOT look outside of that area for your child. It is your responsibility to tell your child to remain in the designated area for the age group and to ask the deck parent for permission before leaving that area. If you notice that your child is not in the designated area 5 events before an event your child is swimming, you need to tell your child to report to the deck parent immediately. Swimmers who miss a race will not be put in another race. If you feel that there is a problem related to your child getting lined up for races, contact the representative for your swimmer’s team (girls or boys).
- Parents should never enter the deck to talk to a coach during a meet. Any issue about which a parent needs to have a discussion with a coach should be brought to the coach’s attention via email and a mutually convenient meeting time should be identified so that during practice and meets the coaches can do their job effectively.
- At home meets a copy of the line-up will be posted off-deck near the snack bar. After getting your child settled on deck if you need to see a copy of the line-up this is the one you should use. If you need help understanding the line-up, ask the snack bar personnel for help. At away meets we will try to find a convenient off-deck location to post the line-up for parent reference. Keep in mind that throughout the course of a meet, changes to the line-up do occur and will not be updated on any posted line-up. Line-ups being posted happens just before (or sometimes even just after) the start of the meet due to last minute changes and the volume of work at the scoring table leading up to the start of the meet.
- Remember that the goal here is for the kids to have fun and be active. Let’s all support them in a positive way.