

FISH EAGLE AQUATICS

Dear Fish Eagle Aquatics swimmers and parents,

May 2024

We would like to welcome you to the new swimming season. As you may know, the swimming season runs from 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025.

FEA Club has been running for 25 years. We have an Executive body made up of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and an Executive Member, as well as a supporting committee made up of swimming parents & coaches. We have frequent planning meetings to ensure the smooth running of the club. Our club Administrator is Tarita Pollicutte.

Fish Eagles have head coaches in George: Rainier Mathee, Franna Vorster, JP vd Merwe Oudtshoorn: Delia van Biljon, Plettenberg Bay: Willie Wilson, Mossel Bay: Louw-Let Fourie & Riversdale: Mariana Vermeulen. They each have supporting coaches & LTS coaches in each of their swim schools.

Fish Eagle Swimmers must train with a registered FEA coach.

Each coach has their own registered Swim School. Coaching fees are paid directly to coaches and NOT to Fish Eagle Aquatics Club. Only registration, gala entry fees & kit purchases are paid to Fish Eagles.

Swimmers must register, along with at least one parent, for either Junior or Senior League. Junior League is for those swimmers who have not yet swum a 'level' qualifying time. Senior League is for level swimmers. Your coach can help you if you are not sure which League to register for. Junior League galas are in 25m pools & Senior League takes place in both 25m & 50m pools.

Your Registration Fee covers the registration with your Club, Fish Eagle Aquatics (FEA), with our district, EDEN Aquatics (EDA), with your province Western Cape Aquatics (WCA) as well as with our national swimming body, Swimming South Africa (SSA). Any communication will also always be done in this order; the swimmer/parent communicates with the club, who in turn communicates with the district, who then sends it to province, who in turn makes contact with SSA if necessary. **No swimmer/parent is allowed to communicate directly with EDA, WCA or SSA.**



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Club transfers must take place before 30 November 2024. An administration fee will be charged for club transfers.

All gala invitations and entry fees are sent out by our Administrator to members; payment for these galas will **ALWAYS** be to FEA and it is **very important to note** that the payment must have a clear beneficiary reference (Surname & Name of swimmer); details of the way you should structure your beneficiary reference will be communicated along with the Gala details. Statements are issued at the end of each month, to help you keep track of charges & keep your payments up to date. For out of District galas you must consult the calendar & let the Administrator know if you would like to compete in one of these galas.

Every season kicks off with 3 EDEN Aquatics Short Course (25m pool) galas followed by the EDEN Aquatics SC Champs in September. Swimmers must take part in 2 of the 3 EDA SC Galas to be able to enter for the EDA SC Champs, with times obtained in these galas. Junior & Senior Registered swimmers can take part in these galas.

The EDEN Junior League series season starts around end September. These galas take place in a 25m pool. Consult the EDA Swimming Calendar for the dates & venues, but these might change due to weather conditions, etc. At the end of these galas, normally in March, there is an EDEN Junior Championship. Swimmers can only take part at the EDEN Junior Champs in events for which they have times and if they took part in a minimum of 2 EDA Junior League Galas. A Team is chosen at the JL Champs to take part in the Inter District Invitational Junior Level 1 Team Championship. This gala is rotated between the districts of the Western Cape on a 2 yearly basis.

October sees the start of the Long Course (50m pool) season. Every year EDEN Aquatics enters a team to take part in an Inter District gala which is normally held in January. Selection for this team is based on times swum in the season to date, and participation in the EDA LC Champs is compulsory. EDEN colours are awarded to these swimmers. The Inter District Prestige gala rotates between Port Elizabeth (NMBA), East London (BCA), Eden & Cape Town (CTA).



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FEA also hosts an annual fund-raising gala, the ***Freda Barnard Invitational Gala***. We normally have more than 400 swimmers, and in 2024 a record 670 swimmers, from all over South Africa attend our gala. The 2024 event will be the 43rd year the Freda Barnard is hosted & promises to be better than ever! The gala is planned for mid October. We encourage all FEA swimmers to attend and book accommodation (if needed) well in advance. Profits from this gala are used to support our FEA swimmers & coaches at Levels & out of town galas during and at the end of the season.

Towards the end of the season the various SSA Levels galas take place. SSA sends out yearly qualifying times for these galas. There are NO qualifying times for Level 1 and both Junior & Senior registered swimmers can take part. For Level 2, Level 3, Junior Nationals & Senior Nationals only Senior registered swimmers, who swims the qualifying time, may enter. Updated qualifying times are circulated regularly.

FEA has a club kit including club t-shirt, golf shirt, hoodie & shorts and our new sublimation t-shirt & dry towel. Accessories available include FEA beanie, swim cap, sun hat, mask, buff & peak cap. Parents can also order white FEA Official shirts & white zip up jackets. Our club swim cap can be purchased with or without your child's name on. **Swimmers must take part in a FEA swim cap at all galas.** For medal presentations, FEA kit and shoes must be worn on the podium. Costs & procedures for ordering FEA clothing will be communicated regularly.

Parents, if you are not already qualified, please note that you are expected to become a qualified timekeeper & official for Galas. Information on courses in this regard will be communicated to you throughout the season. Parents are to officiate at Galas in white shirts, blue pants & closed white shoes as per SSA Rules.

We wish you a happy and successful swimming season.

FEA Executive & Committee



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