Hi Boarfish Families,

It's time to get ready for the JSL Championship! Champs hosts all 16 JSL teams at Brooks Family YMCA for one big (fun!) meet. Team scores at this meet determine league standings for next year, which determines whether each team is in division I, II, or III. Because of the scale of this meet, it doesn't look exactly like the others. Entries follow a different procedure, the event lineup includes both medley and freestyle relays and both long events, scoring is different, and spectators will rotate through the pool viewing area.

All this is to say, this email is important! Please read it so that you know what's happening and your kids know what's happening. Champs is super fun, but it's even more fun if you know what's going on. This is one of the last long emails I'll send, I promise.

Action items:

1. Read the JSL Champs Parents' Memo
2. Review the meet entries attached to this email
3. Review the arrival time for your swimmers (below)
4. Order a BHSC Champs hat! (optional)

More information can be found on JSL's General Championship Info Page, including the order of events and final schedule for each session.

Hats: order here! We hope to have these in by Thursday, and if not will pass them out at Champs. We have 100 hats, first come, first served. You do not need to be attending champs to order a hat. If you aren't attending champs or the banquet, you can pick up your hat at the front desk through August.

Entries: final champs entries (including heat and lane) are attached to this email. These cannot be changed. If your swimmer can no longer make it to champs, please let me know ASAP. Relays are not included in the entries and will be posted at the tent area day of. As always, these are subject to change and are not finalized until the last minute.

Parking: The Champs committee has worked closely with Charlottesville High School (CHS) to access their parking lots. There is construction at the school, so please follow the signs and RMC Event Parking directors closely. CHS almost revoked parking privileges after last year due in part to people not parking in designated areas and because of the amount of trash left behind. Please pick up after yourselves and stick to designated parking so that we can preserve this important relationship! See more details in the JSL Champs Parents' Memo. The only available parking at the YMCA will be for coaches and volunteer shifts, as well as handicapped parking. Volunteers may not use their volunteer parking pass for any reason other than their designated volunteer hours, so please re-park accordingly if you are staying for your swimmer's events.

Volunteer check-in: The team faces a points penalty if our volunteers do not check in properly! See the JSL Champs Parents' Memo for details.

Arrival and warmup: This is the time you should be at the BHSC team area--please factor in the time it takes to park and walk to Brooks! We will take the swimmers into the building about 10 minutes before their warmup starts.
Friday morning (11-12): Arrive at the tent by 9:15, warm ups begin at 9:45
Friday afternoon (13-18): Arrive at the tent by 2:00, warm ups begin at approximately 2:30
Saturday morning (8&U): Arrive at the tent by 7:45, warm ups begin at 8:15
Saturday afternoon (9-10): Arrive at the tent by 1:00, warm ups begin at approximately 1:30

Swimmer check in: When you arrive, swimmers should check in at the BHSC team area and receive their wristband. The wristband will list their events with heat and lane info, and they will need it to be allowed on deck.

Swimmer check out: Do not leave the meet until your swimmer explicitly checks out with the coach stationed at the tent area. We've had several unfortunate situations where kids have gone home early, relays have changed, and we've had to ask families to drive back to the pool. To prevent this, **ALL SWIMMERS, regardless of if they think they're on a relay or not, need to check out with the coach at the tent before they leave.** We may ask alternate relay swimmers to stick around momentarily until all 4 relay legs are set. If a relay doesn't swim because we don't have enough kids left, the team loses 20-40 points. I appreciate your flexibility in advance!

Setup: BHSC is assigned a team area at McIntire Park near the playground. Please bring tents (if you have one) and chairs! The tent area is the home base for all families and for swimmers 9 & up between events. All 8&U swimmers will stay with coaches the whole time. We've found this works best with quick turnarounds between events and a lot of ground to cover on tiny legs between the tent and the pool.

It is definitely worth bringing two towels, especially for swimmers with back to back events. Bring snacks, water, gatorade, etc. Bring shoes that your child will wear when walking from the tent to the pool. There is a bin at the clerk where swimmers can leave towels/shoes/etc while they swim.

The clerk of course is in the basketball gym. When events are announced, **coaches and team leaders will walk groups of kids to and from the clerk**. Parents/spectators/swimmers in other sessions are not allowed in the clerk of course.

Spectator info & meet pace: Since Champs sessions are only one age group at a time, the meet moves much more quickly, and your swimmer will be back on the blocks much faster than a typical meet. Please prepare your swimmer to be monitoring the events closely, listen to coaches, and appropriately fuel and hydrate before and during the meet. The sessions go fast! Please see the JSL Champs Parents' Memo for more info. You will need to be paying attention to the loudspeaker! There is also a livestream for spectators who won't be at Brooks. The livestream will be found here (it is not posted yet).

Heat sheet: the heat sheet will be posted to this page when it is available.

SPORTSMANSHIP: A note from the BHSC JSL Representative, Amelia Walton: The Champs committee has been working behind the scenes to coordinate this meet since February and we have 500+ people volunteering over two days to pull it all off. It is controlled chaos! Please take a moment to thank a volunteer or two, follow all posted signs, comply with the rules of the meet and generally bring lots of Ohana energy to this meet. Remind your swimmers to be supportive of other teams and swimmers and generally enjoy the communal effort swimming requires. If you have specific feedback about the meet or ideas for ways that things might be organized in the future, please feel free to email me (Amelia Walton, walton.amelia@gmail.com) and I will pass your feedback along to the JSL Board and Champs Committee. This will not be a perfect weekend, nothing ever is, but it will hopefully be seamless and a whole lot of fun, so thank you in advance for all of the ways that you contribute to this effort!

Awards: Ribbons are awarded out to 36th place (or 25th place for 13 up) and can be picked up at the banquet. If you are not attending the banquet, ribbons (and trophies) can be picked up at the front desk through August.

Inclement weather: With any luck, the sunshine will be on our side! Please refer to the inclement weather section in the JSL Champs Parents' Memo and know that the committee has expressed the following three priorities in the event of inclement weather:

1. Safety for all people first!
2. Keep the meet moving. The YMCA pool is grounded and safe to swim in during storms.
3. Support spectators if possible. Please know that the meet directors will do everything possible to help you see your swimmer, but in the event of a storm, it could be that in order to support the first two priorities, spectators may have to observe their swimmer via live stream. We know that this is not ideal and appreciate your understanding!

Finally, swimmers should get lots of rest this week! It is important to rest and fuel properly to swim our best. Eat breakfast the morning of the meet, hydrate before you're dehydrated, and get extra sleep. Friday and Saturday are predicted to be very warm, so bring a cooler with plenty of water, gatorade, healthy snacks, and frozen washcloths (or similar) to keep your family cool!

Please reach out with questions! If you have a question better answered by a parent who has seen this spectacle as a spectator, Jeannette Cohen (jmlcohen@gmail.com) and Amelia Walton (walton.amelia@gmail.com) are great resources. While this is a lot of information, champs is SO MUCH FUN. I can't wait.

Go Boarfish! Regular season champions!
Annabeth