

29 August 2007

Greetings ICE parents and welcome back to another season of swimming. As the incoming president, I look forward to working with you in creating a positive athletic experience for your children. As you know, registration is next week, and I'd like to take this time to share my view of the state of the Club and the challenges we have in front of us for the upcoming year.

In entering this season, the Iowa City Eels continues to be a strong competitive swimming program serving the Iowa City area. We are the second largest swim club in the state, employing two full-time coaches who are recognized as leaders in Iowa swimming and who work with a number of qualified assistants whose energy and commitment provide depth to the staff. We support five training groups, hold practices in three different pools, and work hard to meet the wide spectrum of needs and interests of both novice and experienced swimmers, each with their own unique abilities, goals and athletic ambitions. Our club continues to support a solid membership base; over 110 swimmers participated in the 2007 summer season, and we had a strong showing at the Long Course State meet, finishing second overall and first in the senior age-group division. In all, our program provides an important service to its athletes and their families, and personally I am grateful for the positive role it has played in the lives of my own daughters.

Like any private club, we have challenges ahead. Listed below is what I perceive to be the main issues to address during the upcoming year:

Pool Space Rental and Scheduling. Most notably in this area is preparing the groundwork for a more intensive collaboration with the University of Iowa and the new facilities that will be coming online (estimated completion Fall 2009). Additionally, groundwork has been laid in negotiating earlier times during the day for pool space at Mercer. The ultimate goal is to have slightly earlier practice times that also accommodate parent work schedules.

Volunteering and Club Participation. As you may know, the Club does not hire administrative or secretarial staff; therefore, it is the responsibility of all parents to lend a hand in its running, thereby also bringing equal representation of all its members. We haven't instituted this portion of the Bylaws recently, but will do so starting this season. This means that during registration, all parents will sign up for one of six standing committees. A list of these committees is included in the registration materials attached to this document. Please note: This involvement will not require attendance at multiple meetings. In fact, most of these committees have narrowly-defined jobs and require no meetings at all—just a small amount of your volunteer time that allows for a more formal structure for your input and participation in the Club's operation.

Fundraising. Fundraising is a necessary component of the Club's \$150,000+ budget. A goal this year is to purchase four lane lines and update old and problematic timing

equipment. In order to do this, we will need to explore more creative and plausible fundraising projects and work to increase revenue generated from corporate sponsors.

Personnel for Hosting Swimming Meets. Our biggest and most important fundraiser is the hosting of four major swim meets during the short- and long-course seasons. These meets are incredibly arduous undertakings, and some of our most dedicated parents work long hours to ensure the success of these meets. Two individuals in particular have fulfilled the roles of meet referee and technical director and have been forced into far more hours of service than is fair or reasonable. We need to identify (and train) new individuals to assume some of these responsibilities. A main goal this year is to create a more manageable workload in these areas that can be shared by 3-4 people.

Listed below this letter are the voting members of the Board of Directors, the governing body of ICE. Please offer to them your suggestions and ideas and thank them for volunteering their time and service to our club. Our first Board meeting of the season will be September 11 at 6:30 at Mercer Aquatic Center.

Thanks in advance to the many things you will juggle so your child(ren) can swim this year. I hope our club helps your young swimmers attain their own personal goals, whatever they may be, and I hope you find friendship and fulfillment in your participation as well.

Here's to a great season of swimming!

Gregg Shoultz
President, Iowa City Eels

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Past President—Ed St. John; esj178@southslope.net

President—Gregg Shoultz; shoultz.gregg@iccsd.k12.ia.us

Vice-President—Jeff Martin; Jeff.Martin@jacobsonco.com

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Secretary—Bradley Gilchrist; bradley-gilchrist@uiowa.edu

Athlete Representative—Chelsea Hartman

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Trustee—Al Miller; amiller@co.johnson.ia.us

Trustee—Barry Butler; patrick-butler@uiowa.edu

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Non voting board members

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Assistant Head Coach—Adam Osweiler; coachouoz@aol.com