



City of Cartersville

P A R K S & R E C R E A T I O N

City of Cartersville Cobias Swim Team

*Parent Information
Policy Guide
ByLaws*

Youth Athletic Mission Statement:

To provide quality park facilities and recreational programs for our community where participation and enjoyment are achieved in a safe and family oriented environment.

Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department, Cobias Swim Team Coaches, and parents are working together to provide the best youth aquatic program for our community. To accomplish this we must all:

- 1) Remember the aquatic program is for the swimmers not the adults.
- 2) Encourage good sportsmanship.
- 3) Remember that swimming is FUN, and winning should never be placed ahead of the emotional and/or well being of the swimmers.
- 4) Cheer for your swimmers and refrain from being negative towards opposing swimmers. Be positive when dealing with our youth!
- 5) Do whatever we can to assist in making youth aquatic activities a pleasurable and memorable experience.
- 6) Remain in the spectator area during meets.

About the Cobias

The Cartersville Cobias is a Georgia Recreation and Parks Association summer league swim team. We are a function of the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. As we are the only team in our area, we swim with the Northwest Georgia Swim League made up of Recreation Agency teams. During the season we typically swim five or six regular meets and one or two special meets.

Team Philosophy

The Cobias is a competitive swim team, intended for those who, as a minimum, know the basic strokes. While it is not a venue for learning to swim, it is one for improving technique, speed, and endurance. Heavily stressed are the qualities of sportsmanship, friendship, discipline, competitiveness, and team spirit. The team and coaches have two basic goals:

- That all swimmers end their season more competent and confident in the water than when the season began.
- That everyone, swimmers and families alike, have fun, ending the year and looking forward to next season.

1. Location

This program is held at Dellinger Park Pool located above the main office of the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department.

2. Enrollment

Swimmers must register with the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department during regular business hours and during the time frame set aside for swim team registration. Swimmers must be between the ages of 6-18 to participate in the Cobias Swim Team. Age control date is June 1st.

3. Try-Outs

If the swimmer has never swam on the Cobias swim team they then must **try-out**. Try-out day is set up by the Cobias coach for a Saturday before swim team practices begin. **TO BE ON THE COBIA SWIM TEAM A SWIMMER MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM ONE LENGTH OF THE POOL (25 yards) WITHOUT STOPPING.** If a swimmer does not make the swim team a refund will be given minus a \$10.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after the second week of swim practice.

4. Hours/Days

The Cobias will practice Tuesday-Friday. Practice times are put forth by the Cobias coach and will be available during registration.

The Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department has set aside time so the Cartersville Cobias Swim Team can utilize Dellinger park pool. The Cobias and Coaches are the only swimmers allowed in the pool during this set aside time. **NO SIBLINGS, PARENTS, FRIENDS, ECT.** will be allowed in the pool during this time.

5. Registration

Each swimmer must be registered through the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. When you enroll your swimmer at the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department you must, at that time, pay fees for the whole summer program. Fees must be paid by the 1st day of swim practice and/or before the first day your child practices with the swim team.

A non-residence fee will be applied to any swimmer who lives outside of the City of Cartersville. A copy of the swimmers birth certificate is also required at the time of registration if not already on file.

Fees do not include some entry fees or travel expenses going to and from swim meets. There are a limited number of spaces per age group. Once filled the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department will make a waiting list and contact those on the list as soon as there is a space available.

6. Attendance

Each swimmer and his/her parent should take responsibility for attendance in the workout and practice schedule. Once the coach has set the swimmer's schedule and notification of absences are mandatory. Parents will assume responsibility for transportation and punctuality at both the beginning and end of practice.

7. Dress Code

Good Personal appearance, appropriate dress, proper behavior, and cleanliness are vital to each member of our Swimming community. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the planned activities.

Swim Suits will be available at parents cost. The swim team has a special team suit for meets, included in registration fee. This suit is not required to be wore at all times, primarily for meets.

Caps will also be available to parents cost.

Goggles and fins are to be purchased individually and will not be available to purchase by the Cobias swim team.

8. Lost and Found Articles

The Cartersville Cobias swim team or the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for lost items. Each person is responsible for his or her possessions! Items not claimed will donated to a local shelter.

9. Money

Cartersville Cobias Swim Team and the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department will not be held responsible for lost money at the facility. Any fees should be paid in a timely manner through the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department during regular business hours and through no one else.

10. Discipline

The Cartersville Cobias participants are expected to follow and adhere to all rules set forth by the staff and coaches. Positive reinforcement is the Cobias coaches' primary approach. If a problem of discipline arises the coaches' will handle the situation promptly. Repeated misbehavior will not be tolerated. Good conduct is expected of swimmers in pool area, and at swim function, or event.

11. Inclement Weather

The Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department and the Cartersville Cobias Swim Team Coaches reserve the right to cancel swim practice due to inclement weather (snow, thunderstorm, hurricane, tornado, etc.) The Cobias swim team practice will not be held during these times to ensure the safety of the swimmers in the pool and car riders. To check on cancellation due to inclement weather, please call the following numbers for information.

Matthew Siniard, Head Coach.....770-655-7663

Weather Hotline.....770-387-5626 then press 2

12. Accident or Illness

If a swimmer is injured at the pool, first aid will be administered. Parents will be contacted in those cases that are serious enough to warrant communication. If staff persons are unable to reach the parent, the emergency contact (which should be provided by the parent) will be called in an effort to find someone to come for the swimmer. If an illness or injury occurs that requires advanced medical treatment, 911 will be called.

If your swimmer shows signs of illness, he/she should not be sent to practice. When a swimmer becomes ill at the facility, you will be notified of the illness. Please see the following policies on certain illnesses:

Fever	If 100 or above, swimmer will be sent home
*Ringworm	must be covered in order to participate, not recommended to swim
*Chicken Pox	scabs must be dry before returning to program
*Head Lice	No live lice may be present
*Poison Ivy	must be medicated and covered to participate
*Diarrhea	swimmer should not practice for at least two days following any symptoms
*MRSA	Swimmer should not return to practice until after doctor's release.

13. Swim Meet Participation

Throughout the summer each swimmer will have the opportunity to swim in various meets. These meets are an evaluation process to assess the swimmers progress and give the swimmer an opportunity to receive recognition for their efforts.

A swimmer is expected to compete in meets and events as scheduled by the coaching staff. Meet sign-up will be posted prior to each meet. Swimmers must register for events prior to the cut-off date as set by the coaches and meet directors.

Cartersville Cobias swim team will participate in the Northwest Georgia Swim League and host/and or attend 5-6 meets during a summer season.

Swimmers must be a Bartow county resident to compete in the District 5 swim meet.

GRPA Swimming Georgia Recreation and Parks Association

GRPA sanctioned swim meets will be funded through the parent and the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department.

(Participants must be 7 years old by June 1st to participate in District & State Competition.)

To attend meets a swimmer must be in good standing with all entry fees and dues. A swimmer should be in good standing with respect to his/her attendance at practice.

Parents are also required to participate in at least 3 swim meets a year. If there is no parent participation we would have no swim team. It is imperative that parents participate in swim meets.

14. Age Divisions

There are six age divisions for boys and girls in the summer swim league. The age divisions are as follows: (cutoff date-age prior to June 1st)

- a) 6 Boys/Girls
- b) 7 and 8 Boys/Girls
- c) 10 and Under Boys/Girls
- d) 12 and Under Boys/Girls
- e) 14 and Under Boys/Girls
- f) 18 and Under Boys/Girls

There are five age divisions for boys and girls in the Georgia Parks and Recreation Association meets (District and State). The age divisions are as follows: (cutoff date-age prior to June 1st)

- a) 7 and 8 Boys/Girls
- b) 10 and Under Boys/Girls
- c) 12 and Under Boys/Girls
- d) 14 and Under Boys/Girls
- e) 18 and Under Boys/Girls

15. Events

Swimming events for the summer league in each age division for boys and girls are as follows: (Length of competition in yards)

- a) 6-10 year olds Boys/Girls
 - 1) 50 Freestyle
 - 2) 100 Medley Relay
 - 3) 25 Freestyle
 - 4) 25 Breast Stroke
 - 5) 100 Individual Medley
 - 6) 25 Back Stroke
 - 7) 25 Butterfly
 - 8) 100 Freestyle Relay

- b) 12, 14, &18 Under Boys/Girls
 - 1) 100 Freestyle
 - 2) 200 Medley Relay

- 3) 50 Freestyle
- 4) 50 Breast Stroke
- 5) 100 Individual Medley
- 6) 50 Back Stroke
- 7) 50 Butterfly
- 8) 200 Freestyle Relay

16. Staffing/Swim Methods

It is the responsibility of the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department to employ coaches and handle all disciplinary problems. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the coaches or swimming methods used, please notify the head coach immediately. If you can not reach the head coach, you may call Megan Hix, Aquatics Coordinator.

All of our coaches are well trained and highly capable of running the Swim Team. They are experienced swimmers and very knowledgeable of swim team programs. We take pride in our capacity to hire such seasoned coaches. It is imperative that we work together to enhance the swim team program and ensure its success. In efforts to do so we ask parents must stay behind the blue line indicated on the pool deck know as the spectator area. This is in effort to have your child's full attention given to the Coaches allowing your child to receive full benefit of their time put in during practice.

17. File Box

The Cartersville Cobias swim team use a large hanging file box to send information out to each swimmer. At the first practice all new swimmers will have to talk to the Booster Club Coordinator to get their name added in the file box. The file box will be available at each practice and is expected to be checked at each practice.

Each family will have a file with their last name printed on the tab. This is how swimmers will receive their ribbons, directions to meets, and all other information needed during the swim season.

18. Sign-Up Board

The Cartersville Cobias Swim Team will participate in about 4-5 meets a season. It is very important for swimmers who wish to participate in those meets to sign up for them. The Monday before every meet the Coaches will post sign-ups for each swimmer to sign up for the up coming meet. The sign-ups then go to the coach who sign-up the swimmer for the meet. It is imperative that the swimmer sign up for the meet as soon as possible. **NO SIGN-UP WILL BE ALLOWED PAST WEDNESDAY BEFORE A MEET.**

19. Parent Conduct

The Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department and the Cartersville Cobias Swim Team has a zero tolerance policy on unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind; including any negative cheering/hollering will result in a warning and/or removal from the site, whether it is for or against your team.

Parents will also be required to attend a parent orientation class if they have not already done so. This class is required for every parent that has children in any sport sponsored by the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. Parent Orientation class are held throughout each month. For questions or inquiries on parent orientation classes call the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department at 770-387-5626

20. Important Numbers

Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department.....770-387-5626
Megan Hix, Aquatics Coordinator.....770-607-6527
Matthew Siniard, Head Coach.....770-655-7663
Assistant Coach

BYLAWS
Of
Cartersville Cobias Swim Team

Article I- Name

The name of the organization shall be the Cartersville Cobias Swim Team or Cobias.

Article II- Purpose

The Cartersville Cobias Swim team is a function of the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department which is a non-profit organization. The Cartersville Cobias mission is to engage swimmers in competitive program by teaching proper technique and encourage skill development in a supportive team environment exclusively for charitable, educational, and athletic purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III- Earnings

No Part of the net earnings of the organization shall insure to the benefits of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

Article IV-Membership and Fees

Section I –Membership

Any family or individual interested in carrying out the purposes of this organization may be a member of the Cartersville Cobias swim team. The maximum membership is to be determined by the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department and can change any year. Each swimmer must register with the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department as put forth by the Department.

Section II –Fees

Swimmer fees are payable to the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. Fees are to be determined by the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department and can change any year.

Section III- Termination

Any swimmer wishing to terminate their membership on the Cartersville Cobias Swim Team must contact the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. A refund will be

available minus an administration fee put forth by the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. No refunds will be available after the first two (2) weeks of practice.

Section IV –Participation

Swimmers are encouraged to participate in all Cartersville Cobias Swim Team sanctioned events. All swimmers are expected to attend all practices and meets on regular bases.

Article V- Coaches

Section I -Compensation

It is the responsibility of the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department to employ swim team coaches. The Cartersville Cobias Swim Team at no point shall be responsible for the compensation of swim coaches. The Cobias however can reimburse coaches for travel expenses or additional compensation under the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section II –Certification

Coaches must maintain their American Red Cross Lifeguard/CPR/AED/First Aid as well as Water Safety Instructor certifications, also complete American Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches as a requirement of employment through Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department. NYSCA-SWIMMING, USA Swimming, ACEP, and GHSA are other approved Swim, Team coach certifications.

Section III –Conflict of Interests

A coach may not be employed by another competitive swim club unless prior notice is given. The Cartersville Cobias Swim Team expects dedication from all of the coaches.

Article VI- Membership Meetings

Section I – Annual Meeting

The Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for setting aside a location, date, and time for an annual meeting. This annual meeting will be before the start of every summer swim season. All members are invited to attend.

Section VII – Special Meeting

The Cartersville Cobias and the Cartersville Parks and Recreation Department reserve the right to call special meetings of its members. These meetings may include but are not limited to meet meetings, travel meetings, etc...