



**YShark Swim Team  
Pre-Planning Parent Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2007**

***In Attendance:*** Linda Bommarito, Catherine Giallonardo, Ray Ikka, Matt Markey, Chuck Reimers, Jim Shavrnock, Debbie Watkins, Penny Weber.

***Call to Order:*** YShark chair, Penny Weber, called the meeting to order.

***Welcome Back:*** Penny welcomed all members back to the new season.

***Team Name:*** The idea of changing the name of the swim team to "YSharks" was introduced.

***Important Dates:*** Fall Conditioning will run September 5 – 29, 2007, three times a week. The official season begins October 1 and runs through the end of March 2008.

***Website:*** This is the year we attempt to "go semi-paperless," and every member was strongly encouraged to view the Sharks website, <http://webpages.charter.net/ymcasharks/>. Jim has been working this summer to get the site up and running, and he asked for input from all members as to how the site could be enhanced and improved. Penny asked attending members to "get the word out" that although she would gladly answer any telephone call, she would not be initiating mass phone calls to team members or their parents. All who are involved with the YShark program is responsible to check their emails and the website regularly!

***Welcome Back and New Team Member Letters:*** Penny currently is working on this letter, and she passed around a rough-draft copy for review. This particular letter will go through the U.S. Mail, not email. Chuck recommended that after we have the first wave of sign-ups for the season that a separate letter should be sent to those families who did not return, a "We Miss You" type of letter. All in attendance agreed that this was a good idea.

***Conflict Resolution:*** Penny spoke regarding the role of herself, as chair, and the rest of the committee, as being friends to the team families. Another possible role we could take would be as mediators in terms of conflict. Sometimes kids and/or their families are hesitant to contact the coach, Chet, or his staff, when there are concerns. Jim suggested that as part of the opening season, Chet could speak to our open-door policy and cite that the YSharks committee members stand ready to assist any family with any concerns. Matt seconded this recommendation.

***Parents' Participation:*** Penny raised the issue of having all families contribute, and that every parent needed to participate in some tangible manner. Every responsible position needed to be filled. Jim said he could create links to the parent organization on the web site. The committee then discussed security

issues with listing names, telephone numbers and email addresses on the site. Would it be possible to password protect such an on-line list? Would a non-published, hard-copy roster be the answer? Penny and Jim agreed to get together and further discuss this matter and have a recommendation for the next meeting.

**“Fun” Raising:** Penny suggested that one of the most important things we can do is lose the word “Fundraising” and replace it with “Fun Raising.” Swimming is extremely inexpensive for families (as compared to other sports), and parents need to step up with financial contributions, in addition to their registration fees. Matt stated that the group needed to define what our goal was in terms of dollars, and he strongly encouraged everyone to think outside the box, to be creative with our ideas to raise money. Ideas were passed around, including paid advertising on the scoreboard at meets, having a Parents’ Swim-a-Thon, etc. Some goals to shoot for might be bonuses for the coaches (in lieu of gifts at the end of the season), and a laptop computer to improve scoring at the meets.

**Beginning of Year Party:** A barbeque/volleyball afternoon was proposed, as a way to reunite families, welcome new members, and give the season a great kick-off. The date of Sunday afternoon, September 30<sup>th</sup> was agreed on. In the event of a rain-out, it could be moved into one of the gyms. Also proposed was a pot-luck event which would eliminate the need for a barbeque if the afternoon was a rain-out. The group agreed to keep it simple, with final decisions to be made at the next meeting.

**Scoreboard Manual:** Chuck stated that a manual needed to be created to run the computers for the scoreboard. He said that the last home meet was a “disaster” in terms of the computer issues. Chuck and Ray agreed to get together to begin creation of this manual and will report their progress to the committee at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** September 11, 2007, 7 p.m., at the Saginaw YMCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Giallonardo  
Acting YSharks Parent Meeting Secretary