Novice Division (10-14yr group) Newsletter- Fall 2026

Season Dates: August 24 - December 12, 2026
Practice Days: Monday/Wednesday/Saturday or Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday

Practice Times for the 10-14yr group (all in the outdoor pool)

- Mon-Thurs practices: 6:10-7:00pm
- Saturday practices: 10:30-11:30am
- All Saturdays for the Fall (cancellations, changes, etc) are posted on the Team News page
- Review the Inclement Weather & Cancellation policy and sign up for text alerts for your group
- *Swimmers must attend according to their registered days/class time due to coach/swimmer ratios. Making up a missed practice on an alternate day is not an option due to full classes.*

Important Dates:

- No practice: Monday, September 7, 2026 (Labor Day)
- No practice: Wednesday–Thursday, November 25-26, 2026 (Thanksgiving)
- Last day of practice for 2026: Thursday, December 10, 2026
- Return to practices in 2027: depending on placement, return to practice would be early to mid January *(a new registration would be needed and sent at the start of December).*

Meet & Events Schedule

- Upcoming Next Gen Meets
  -Fridays: October 9, November 13, December 11

- Next Gen meets are broken up into smaller age groups per session and run at a pace suitable for swimmers and parents new to swim meets.

- Meet information and schedules are posted in the Meet Info section of our website.

Season Dues Payments

Enrollment for Novice is Season based. A portion of the Season dues were paid with your online registration. The remaining season dues is scheduled to debit to your saved payment method:

- 6:10pm groups: $120 automatic payment will post on October 1, November 1 for remaining season dues. Season ends Dec 9-10..
- You can view your upcoming invoice or edit your payment method by logging into your Team Unify account https://www.teamunify.com/team/laca/page/home

Outfitting

- **Practice**: Goggles and any one piece suits for the girls and jammers or briefs for the boys (better movement in the water). Hair must be tied back and/or must wear a swim cap.
- **Team Suits:** Optional for 9 & U. Swimsuits are available at SwimOutlet.com (https://www.swimoutlet.com/crawfish).
- **CA Swim caps and CA T-shirts:** available at the Info Booth or by email order, helen@crawfishaquatics.com and added of your 1st of month invoice.

- **CA Apparel from Screen Shots**- large variety of items,order online here

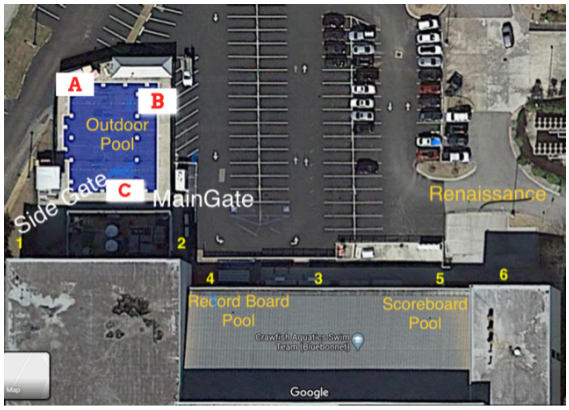
---

Facility/Pool Entry, and Pool Exit Points for Practices

There is no Spectator Seating on the pool deck- the indoor and outdoor pool decks are open for swimmers & coaches only during practices. The outdoor pool gate will remain open and there are spaces to watch from around the outdoor pool as well as the common areas/bleachers inside the white fencing along the outdoor pool. Conditioned space is available in the back hallway (Renaissance hotel end of the facility).

Drop Off/ Pick Up for practices in the Outdoor Pool

- Swimmers will enter and exit through the main outdoor pool ramp/gate from the main parking lot.
- Swimmers may begin entering the outdoor pool area starting 5 minutes prior to the practice time. *(Wait for the coaches to bring the previous group out to the ramp area).*
- Following practice, the coaches will walk them back to the ramp area for pick up.
- ***Swimmers are not released to locate cars parked in the parking lot***. Please park and walk up to meet your swimmer at the outdoor pool ramp area following practice.



Communication & Resources

- **Absences:** No need to report unless out more than 1 week (email office if extended).

- **Make-Ups**: Swimmers must attend on registered days; limited exceptions may be available- email the office.

- **Emails/E-news:** Primary communication is through email. You can add up to 3 additional emails in your TU account through your log in.

Planning for Inclement Weather, the outdoor pool & cancellations

Text Group Sign-Up (GroupMe)

Sign up for text alerts for ALL GROUPS that you have swimmers participating in.

We have split the text groups by team divisions to limit unnecessary text alerts when possible.

- **Novice:** https://groupme.com/join_group/109335945/ll8RaHrB
- **9 & Under:** https://groupme.com/join_group/109335827/BXasA4Nl
- **Age Group:** https://groupme.com/join_group/109335924/52OqcjBD
- **High School Group:** https://groupme.com/join_group/109336086/xb9Rvk0F

Outdoor Pool Use and Practice Cancellations

We will continue practice in the outdoor pool during light rain, as long as there is no thunder or lightning and visibility above and below the water is safe.

- Timeline for cancellations:
  - Because weather can shift quickly, cancellation decisions are made as close to practice time as possible.
  - Exceptions: if severe weather is clearly approaching, we may cancel earlier.
  - If practice must end early, we have protocols in place for safe dismissal.

Moving Indoors and Make-Up Practices

Each group has a set number of 'rain outs' before moving indoors or scheduling a make-up:

- **Novice:** 2 per season (no make-up).
- **9 & Under:** 1 per month (no make-up).
- **Age Group:** 2 per month (no make-up).

- After the rain-out allowance:
  - Groups may be moved to the indoor pool. (We'll let you know in advance if your group is next to rotate inside.)
  - A make-up practice **may** be scheduled after the budgeted number of cancellations:
    - **9 & Under** → Saturday make-up
    - **Age Group** → opportunity to attend both Friday & Saturday
    - **Novice** → season extension, Saturday make-up, or indoor pool option

Important capacity note: No make-ups or extra attendances are permitted during Monday–Thursday practices to maintain safe coach-to-swimmer ratios and group productivity.

- Communication: Families will receive an email update after any canceled practice, with details about make-ups or the next group to move inside.

Division-Specific Notes

9 & Under and Novice

- Practices are held in the outdoor pool except for Dec/Jan/Feb & June/July PM groups.
- During possible inclement weather, parents are asked to remain on-site in their car.
- Swimmers should bring only essentials (towel & goggles) for quick transitions.
- If practice ends early, swimmers will be escorted to the indoor pool deck to wait for pickup or until practice resumes.

Age Group

- Uses both indoor and outdoor pools.
- Outdoor and indoor groups will rotate cancellations to support consistency for all groups.
- *Example: if an outdoor group is canceled, the next rainout will affect the indoor group.*
- Families will always receive an email update clarifying which group is “next to move inside” or “next to be canceled.”

High School Group

- Practices indoors most of the year.
- When outdoors, the group usually moves inside with a possible delayed start.

6:45pm AG/MS (November–May)

- Options during inclement weather:
    - Reschedule to Wednesday (unscheduled day).
    - Cancel without make-up (depending on frequency of rainouts).
    - Delay start to 7:00 or 7:15pm indoors.

Middle School Training Group (September–November)

- Almost always able to move indoors.
- Indoor practices may be delayed to 7:00pm due to pool usage.