

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Why do volunteers matter in swimming?

Outside of paid coaches, swimming is run entirely by volunteers. Each person you see on deck at swim meets, and those who are helping to organize the team and meets behind the scenes, is an unpaid volunteer. Officials, meet directors, announcers, computer operators, safety marshalls, pool parents, the board of directors: they are all unpaid volunteer positions. Can you imagine your swimmer spending all season preparing for a meet to discover there is no one operating the computer so you won't be able to see their final times? Or there aren't enough officials, so your swimmer's times don't count? Or there simply aren't enough timers to even start the meet?

KCB anticipates hosting between 5-8 swim meets each year. These meets not only provide opportunities for our swimmers to race and showcase new skills, but the meets also generate necessary revenue for the team to "keep the lights on". To host these meets, and some of the fun activities we provide the swimmers each year, we require all of our swim families to meet a minimum annual volunteer obligation.

What is the minimum annual volunteer obligation?

The annual volunteer obligation is set each year based on each family's assigned practice group. For families with multiple swimmers, the annual obligation is that of the highest level swimmer in the family. The obligations are not additive. Details of the minimum annual volunteer obligation can be found at the KCB Volunteer Policy page.

Can I exceed my minimum annual volunteer obligation?

We would love for you to be an overachiever! Please note, however, that if you do exceed your minimum annual volunteer obligation for the current year, the excess hours do not roll over for the next year. Additionally, you cannot "donate" your excess hours to another family's account.

Another perk of overachieving? The KCB Board hosts a volunteer appreciation party each fall to celebrate our volunteers who have gone above and beyond their annual minimum volunteer obligation. We hope to see you there!

What happens if my family does not meet our minimum annual volunteer obligation?

If your family is unwilling or unable to complete your minimum annual volunteer obligation, you may "buy out" the remainder of your unfulfilled hours at a rate of \$50 per hour. This will be billed in September following the year in which you were unsuccessful in completing your required obligation.

Are there different expectations for families that join in the middle of the season?

No. All of our families have from September 1-August 31 to fulfill their volunteer obligations. However, if your circumstance requires special consideration, please reach out to the KCB Volunteer Coordinator to discuss as we do understand that life happens. Any waiver of the annual minimum volunteer commitment will be made upon review of the individual circumstances, including demonstrated effort to meet the requirements.

Is there an additional requirement for championship meets hosted by KCB?

Yes! KCB is one of the largest teams in the LSC, which allows us both the privilege and responsibility of hosting championship meets. These meets benefit not only the swimmers in our program, but the swimmers in the entire LSC who count on KCB to run these meets smoothly and efficiently to create a fast swimming environment. Please see more details about those obligations in the KCB Volunteer Policy.

Do my hours completed at a championship meet count towards my minimum annual volunteer obligation?

Yes. These hours will count towards your minimum annual volunteer requirement. However, if your championship obligation is greater than your minimum annual volunteer requirement, you are not excused from completing your championship obligation.

Example: The Smith family has a 20 hour minimum annual volunteer requirement. However, KCB is hosting MV Championships and Sectionals. John Smith is swimming at MV Champs and Jacob Smith is swimming at Sectionals. The Smith family must complete 3 sessions at MV Champs and 3sessions at Sectionals. The number of hours in the combined 6 sessions is 30 hours, but the Smith family is still obligated to complete all 6 sessions.

What happens if my family doesn't complete our volunteer obligations at a championship meet our swimmer competes in?

If your family fails to complete the required number of sessions, your family account will be billed at a rate of \$50 for the number of sessions missed.

We are new to the sport and I am nervous to volunteer because I don't understand how swim meets work. What can I do to contribute?

Welcome! Please visit the list of various volunteer positions in our Volunteer Descriptions Page, where each is described along with a notation of whether prior experience or knowledge of the sport is necessary. Additionally, there may be other volunteer opportunities available throughout the year such as helping out at our Swim-A-Thon event, volunteering as a Pool Parent, or assisting the coaches with new swimmer evaluations.

I would like to spread out my volunteering throughout the year. When are the meets KCB hosts throughout the year?

KCB typically hosts the following meets:

Ann Ketterer in September

Blazers BB Meet in October

Winter Classic in December

Brian Howard Memorial Invitational in January

MV Age Group Champs in March

KC CUP in June

Additionally, KCB hosts 4-5 “Blazer Series” meets for our newer age group level swimmers. These meets are smaller, Blazer-only, and a great place to start your volunteering journey.

How do I check my progress on my annual minimum volunteer obligation?

You can check your current progress by logging into TeamUnify. Select “Events & Competition” in the left column, and “Job Sign Up Report”. You will be able to see every volunteer position you have held this season, along with how many hours each was worth. We encourage you to check this frequently and reach out if you notice any discrepancies. Please note that this function is not available in the OnDeck app, you must utilize the desktop version of TeamUnify.

I am ready to volunteer! How do I sign up for a job?

Approximately two weeks prior to any KCB hosted meet, the KCB Volunteer Coordinator will send an email out with information on how to sign up. Typically, you will be able to sign up using a link within the meet information on TeamUnify. You may also do this via the OnDeck app.

How do I know what the responsibilities are of each volunteer position?

We are glad you asked! We know this can be confusing if you are new to swimming, or if you have recently joined us from a different team where they used different names for certain volunteer positions, please see our KCB Volunteer Description page. We have created a list of each volunteer position, along with a brief description of their responsibilities. We have also noted whether they require prior experience or a lot of time on your feet.

I signed up to volunteer and can't make it. What should I do?

If it is more than 72 hours prior to the meet, you can go into the sign up and edit it yourself. If it is any closer to the meet, you must call/text/email the KCB Volunteer Coordinator. If you do not contact the KCB Volunteer Coordinator prior to your session, you will be assessed a "no show fine" of \$50 per hour missed.

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What happens if I volunteer at a swim meet not hosted by KCB? Can I get credit for those hours?

These hours are not automatically reported to us from other host teams. Additionally, only timing at a non-KCB meet will count towards your minimum annual volunteer obligation. In order to have them credited to your account, please email the KCB Volunteer Coordinator with the meet information, job title, date, and hours worked. Please note these will be added manually and may take time to be visible in your TeamUnify account.

I think I would like to become an official, how can I learn more about that?

Please reach out to our Officials Chair, Bill Gazda. Becoming an official will relieve your family of your minimum annual volunteer obligation. However, you will be obligated to officiate a certain number of sessions per KCB hosted meet and you will be obligated to officiate a certain number of sessions per year and remain in good standing as an official in order to be excused from your minimum annual volunteer obligation. Please see our KCB Volunteer Policy for more details.