



CONSIDERATIONS FOR GROUP PLACEMENT

The JETS coaching staff puts much time, effort, and consideration into ensuring that each swimmer gets placed in the practice group that is most beneficial to their long-term development and success. Within this process, coaches review and discuss a number of criteria that affect the resulting group placement. Some of these criteria are highlighted below.

Some criteria are objective and easily measurable, such as test set results, meet performance, and practice attendance, while other criteria are subjective and left to the experienced opinion of the coach, such as attitude, maturity, mental discipline and practice habits. The coaching staff will meet after each season to discuss group moves for the following season. Group moves will ideally be made between seasons, however, mid-season transitions will be considered in exceptional circumstances when coaches feel a change needs to be made sooner rather than later.

Parents are encouraged to talk to the coach about their child's progress throughout the season. Concerns about group placements should be discussed privately with the coach; do not concern swimmers with group placements. Instead, emphasis should be placed on the swimmer's overall development, regardless of which group that development takes place. Please have faith in the program and the decisions made by the coaching staff—they have educated and experienced insight and, just like parents, keep the best interest of the swimmers in the forefront.

JETS Group Placement Criteria and Considerations

- Stroke and skill development
- Practice performance and training ability
- Level of commitment, maturity, and self-discipline
- Meet performance and best times
- Age and previous experience
- Space availability
- Satisfactorily completes placement test/tryout (if new to team)

Practice Group Promotions

The swimmer under consideration:

- Consistently makes choices that demonstrate a willingness to make the commitment level (attendance, attitude, etc.) expected at the next level.
- Has mastered stroke and skill expectations of the current practice group.
- Consistently trains above the level of the current practice group while demonstrating the ability to train successfully at the next practice level.
- Exhibits a level of maturity and responsibility typical of swimmers at the next level.
- Fits age and experience parameters of the next practice group.

Practice Group Demotions

Though it is a rare circumstance, and ultimately undesirable, there may be a situation that warrants moving a swimmer back down to the previous level if that is what is best for the swimmer in the long run.

The swimmer under consideration:

- Has demonstrated that he/she is not willing to make the commitment level expected of the current practice group.
- Is not meeting the minimum training speed and expectations at the current practice level.
- Needs injury rehabilitation at a less strenuous level.
- Has a seasonal sport or other conflict with the current group's practice schedule.