

SHARKS SWIM CLUB

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The name of the organization is “**THE SHARKS SWIM CLUB**” which was established on 27th April 2017 as a bona fide organization registered with the Department of Youth Development and Sports (see appendix 1).

Sharks Swim Club is a member of the Saint Lucia Aquatics Federation (SLAF).

The Sharks Swim Club acknowledges that the Saint Lucia Aquatics Federation is the sole governing body for swimming matters in Saint Lucia.

The Sharks Swim Club also acknowledges that World Aquatics (WA) is the sole world governing body for swimming matters and as a result shall seek to uphold their goals and values.

Article II: Purpose & Mission Statement

Sharks Swim Club Vision Statement

To instill a life-long love of swimming and to build a program of excellence in training, team building, character development and family support where every swimmer can achieve their potential and compete at the highest level.

Mission Statement and Objectives

- To provide excellence in professional coaching and programs to develop individuals to the best of their abilities to compete at the highest levels.
- To provide an atmosphere that inspires swimmers to achieve their maximum potential through a strong work ethic, discipline, self-motivation and self-esteem.
- To develop team unity where everyone encourages and takes pride in each other at all levels of competition.
- To instill a lifelong love of swimming through enjoyment and accomplishment at all levels of swimming.

Article III

Functioning

Our club is a year-round competitive swim team offering high quality professional coaching and technique instruction for all ages and abilities. The goal of our team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from novice to international competitor.

All Senior Coaches are certified either through the American Swimming Coaches Association, or FINA /WA or both and have attended several Coaching Seminars gaining valuable knowledge and experience to share with our swimmers. They provide assurances that the time children spend in swimming, will be quality time.

We are a non-profit club, run by a Functioning Executive Committee, which includes a Head Coach. All members are welcome to be involved in team activities, fundraisers and serve on the Executive Committee.

“Sharks” is a club for all young persons that want to learn the art of swimming. We teach all our swimmers the five strokes in swimming: Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Dolphin in a competitive environment. The choice is theirs should they want to compete. Our philosophy is simple; KAIZEN which means continuous improvement.

Our club is a Coach-driven-Parent-supported-club that believes our kids should have fun and enjoy their learning experience which will last them a lifetime.

Article IV Membership

Section A. Membership Requirements

The Executive Committee shall determine who is eligible to become a member of the Sharks Swim Club. The types of membership are:

1. Swimming Members
2. Non-Swimming Members

Admission as a swimming member is based on successfully completing the application process, which is based on the application form (see appendix 2).

Non-swimming member is a parent/parents or guardian/guardians of an active swimmer.

Section B. Membership Privileges

Members have the right to equal participation in all practices they have signed up and paid for, competitions and Club events.

Section C. Member Responsibilities

Swimming Members are expected to attend all practice sessions. Variations must be communicated to the Head Coach.

- Members are required to submit on time, payments of club fees, SLAF Annual Membership fees and the Sharks' Members Insurance.
- Club fees are to be paid on the first of the month for the current month.
- Insurance must be paid on the first of November annually.
- SLAF Membership Fees must be paid on the first of January annually.
- Members are required to abide by the rules and regulations of Sharks Swim Club (see appendix 3).

Parents will be required to volunteer to assist at swim meets and other swim club activities.

Section D. Member Resignation

A Member may discontinue his participation in the Club by notifying the Executive Committee. Two weeks notification is required. Notification is to be in writing or via email.

Section E. Member Expulsion

A member may be expelled from the Club through agreement by vote of the Executive Committee (by at least 3 members of executive committee) after being advised of the relative issue, persons involved and relevant investigation undertaken.

Article V Officers

Section A. Officer Positions

The Executive Committee shall consist of 5 members; Head Coach/President (non-elected), Vice President (elected) , Treasurer (elected) ,Secretary (elected), PR/Marketing officer (elected) and shall have the authority to alter the number on the executive committee as necessary only by majority vote of >66% at an annual general meeting.

The term of the Executive Committee will be 2 years. There will be no limits on the number of times members may run for positions on the Executive Committee.

The executive committee will be authorised to form subcommittees/ ad hoc committees as required.

Secretary will be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the club.

Treasurer will be responsible for collection of fees, Fund Raising and production of yearly financial statements. Independent audit is required once every 3 years.

The Learn to Swim (LTS) Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the LTS Programme and appointed by the Head Coach/President.

Article VI Finances

Membership dues will be determined by the Executive Committee as deemed necessary.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be convened during the last week in March annually.

The quorum required for an annual general meeting to be convened, is the presence of a minimum 1/3rd of the membership.

Article VII Amendments

The Executive Committee may make amendments to the constitution as deemed necessary only after said amendments have been voted on at an annual general meeting.

Name: David Peterkin

Date: 8th Aug 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Peterkin'.

Signature:

Role: Head Coach/President



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS

Certificate of Registration

This is to certify that

SHARKS SWIM CLUB

Is a Bona Fide Organization registered with the Department
of Youth Development and
Sports.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of the Permanent Secretary, positioned above a horizontal line.

Permanent Secretary

27/4/2017
Date

Department of Youth Development and Sports

Registration No. CO 74

This certificate is valid for 3 years from the date of issuance

Appendix 2 – Sharks Swim Club application form



Registration Form

Date of Application

Swimmer's Name:

Date of Birth:

School:

Cell Phone: (swimmer)

Previous swimming Experience:

Medical issues --- Please list anything of importance to your child's health for the guidance of the coach — e.g. heart murmur, panic attacks, asthma, etc.

Family or swimmer's doctor: _____ Parent/Guardian

Telephone (home/work/cell)

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Email Address: _____

How many days per week will you be swimming?

For administration only

Application approved

Date of approval

Signature

Print Name

Appendix 3 : Rules and Regulations

Team Rules for Swimmers

- Swimmers should be ready to get into the water at their designated practice time. It is wise to arrive at least ten minutes early to find goggles, put on swim caps, use the restroom, etc.
- All swimmers who have long hair that can fall into their eyes and mouths should have it pulled back away from their face and are encouraged to wear a swim cap for practices and meets.
- Swimmers should not enter the pool (not even their feet) unless the coach has instructed them to do so.
- Swimmers are expected to show respect for coaches and parents at practices and meets. If a discipline problem arises, the coach has the authority to remove the swimmer from the pool area. In the event the child is asked to leave practice, the parent will be notified. The goal of the coaches is to ensure the safety of the swimmers and to keep the season enjoyable for all team members.
- Swimmers are expected to stay within the designated Sharks Swim club bullpen area during swim meets if one has been designated. We try to keep the various age groups segregated so that swimmers are easy to locate. Each bullpen area will be staffed by a parent volunteer who will assist the kids to their race. Swimmers, ages 13 and older, are responsible for getting themselves to the starting blocks early for their race. If your swimmer is NOT in the bullpen area, they may miss their event.
- Swimmers should never leave a meet without checking with the bullpen chair to see if they are scheduled to swim on a relay. Please also notify the Coach if an emergency arises and your child needs to leave early.

Team Rules for Parents

- Any swimmer under the age of 9 **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian for their safety during any swim team function. Please no drop-offs.
- Siblings and/or parents of swimmers are not allowed in either pool during practice or swim team events. We know this is difficult, but it is a rule of Sharks Swim Club. If you need to enter the pool deck – please communicate with the coach on deck first and they will guide you accordingly as how to proceed.
- Parents are welcome and encouraged to watch practice from the stands. Please do not sit near the edge of the pool or approach the coaches regarding any personal issues while practice is in session unless a safety issue is involved. The coaches need to keep their focus on instructing the swimmers. Likewise, the swimmers need to keep their focus on the coaches and the lesson.
- Coaches are not responsible for children left unsupervised before or after practices. Please plan to pick up your child as soon as the swim practice is over. If there is a question of the practice being cancelled due to inclement weather, check your WhatsApp group chat for any last minute messages. If no message has been received, come to the pool and check in with the coaches on the status of the practice session. Do not drop off your child without checking in as to what is planned for practice that day - sometimes practice is delayed until the rain slows.
- Never take your child from a swim meet without checking with the coaches to see if your child is needed to fill a relay team. Please also notify the Coach if an emergency arises and your child needs to leave early.
- Parent Volunteers are expected to stay until the end of their session, regardless of if your swimmer has completed all their events.