



FCST TEAM NEWSLETTER – September 24, 2018



- 2018 Gold Medal Clinic with Simone Manuel – Register through the Sept. 30th! [CLICK HERE](#) to register for clinic!
- All FCST competitive swim groups will competes at the **FCST IMX-Travaganza** in Spring Branch ISD (Oct. 20 & 21). Make sure to communicate your attendance to you lead coach. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info
- When shopping on Amazon consider using AmazonSmile and donate to First Colony Swim Team! – [CLICK HERE](#)
- Ever thought about officiating? Come contribute to the sport!
 - [Information about becoming an Official](#)
 - [An Open Letter from USA Swimming Official Bonnie Finnigan](#)

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 30:

Open Water Carnival

Oct. 7:

Fall Splash N' Dash

Oct. 20 & 21:

FCST IMX-Travaganza

[Main](#)

[League/Lessons/Tri](#)

[Masters](#)

[Parking at FCST Pools](#)

Meet Entry Timelines & Information*:

Meet Webpage, Dates, & Location:	Athletes Eligible:	Prelim and Final Entry Deadline:	Volunteer Opportunities:
Gulf Open Water Carnival , Sept. 30, Manvel, TX	AG1, AG2, AG3, PRE2, PRE3, SR1, SR2, SR Elite	Sept. 20	N/A
FCST IMX-Travaganza HOSTED by FCST , Oct. 20 - 21, Houston (Spring Branch), TX	All FCST competitive swim groups	Sept. 27	Coming Soon!

**Families are responsible for communicating meet entry issues with their athletes respective coach, as their primary coach is most responsible for their athletes training and competitive plan.*

***Once the final entry deadline has passed, no changes may be made on FCSTs' end. Athletes can deck-enter at the meet (if allowed by meet management) at their own expense and with coaches' permission. This is not the most ideal way to enter a meet having schedules planned ahead of time is very beneficial to the athlete.*

Why do swim Officials disqualify (dq) kids? Why don't they just let them swim?

This is a frequent question by parents when their swimmers experience disqualifications at meets. The role of an official is two-fold. First, officials are tasked with providing a safe and fair competitive environment. The second role is in educating swimmers – both those learning the strokes and those who may have become complacent in practice. For both of these reasons, consistent enforcement of the rules is important.

However, what happens if your swimmer has been incorrectly disqualified? What if there are extenuating circumstances – like crowd noise during a start? Officials are trained to give the swimmer the benefit of the doubt – and if they aren't sure, a good official won't make the call. However they are also human and can make mistakes. For that reason, there is always the right of a respectful request to review disqualifications by asking the meet referee to interview the officials involved in making and accepting the call. As a parent, if you have a question about the legitimacy of or reason for a dq, instruct your swimmer to ask their coach. Often the coach also saw the infraction and can clarify the call for the swimmer. But in the case of an error, this is the role of the coach as an advocate for their swimmer. A parent or swimmer should never approach an official to request review of a call. A coach will know the protocol required to give the swimmer the best opportunity for a fair review. Encourage communication between your swimmer and your coach and foster trust in that relationship. The coaches are invested in your

swimmer – trust them to act in your swimmer’s best interests and to grow your swimmer through all of their experiences.

- USA Swimming Official Bonnie Finnigan

FCST Contacts^:

- FCST Office: (281) 969-8759; Mon.- Thurs: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Fri: 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Team Accounts & Billing: Hillary Martinez (fcstadmin@swimfcst.com)
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^If you are no longer affiliated with the team and would like to be removed from the distribution list, please email fcstadmin@swimfcst.com