

Proposal: GASL will Adopt Swimtopia League-wide

As Hytek Team Manager and Meet Manager are being phased out many teams in our league have been going to different Swim Team Management Software. Many teams in GASL have settled on Swimtopia. There are many benefits to Swimtopia as a team management option, but its full functionality becomes available if we adopt it league-wide.

Benefits:

Free League Website Swimtopia provides our league with a free, dedicated league website. It is an easy website to manage - no HTML or WordPress knowledge necessary. This allows more league volunteers to share resources and information.

Free Team Websites Each team gets its own website, complete with great volunteer management, team communications, meet entry software (replacing Hytek Team Manager) and meet hosting software (replacing Hytek Meet Manager) at no additional cost to each team beyond the per swimmer charge.

Online Team Store Each team website includes an easy-to-use online store. It makes selling team gear or collecting for team pictures, picnics, or coaches' gifts a breeze.

Sponsorships Teams can easily use the integrated sponsorships functionality to engage local business support.

League Management GASL will be able to set the following up for the whole league, instead of each team creating their own for every meet, every season:

Shared Meet Templates - leagues can define meet entry, seeding, & scoring rules for all teams

League Meet Schedule Import - Swimtopia will import the entire league schedule, meaning every teams' meets are set up in their SwimTopia team websites with the correct meet template, reducing the workload and the chance for errors

Shared Waivers - league can post optional waivers that teams can add to their own registration forms

Shared Roles - leagues can easily communicate with key people across teams, such as League Reps, Tech Reps, etc.

Costs:

The league pricing is \$2.50 per swimmer. There are no additional fees for the website or web-based software. Leagues enjoy the lowest cost per swimmer, regardless of individual team size.

Teams will need to build that cost into their registration fee. League pricing is so inexpensive partially because Swimtopia is able to send GASL a single invoice, rather than billing each team or collecting from individual parents.

Right now, each team pays GASL a league fee in May. If we go to Swimtopia as a league, the teams will need to pay GASL the league fee + \$2.50 per athlete.

To maintain the league website, team websites, and league history we need to pay for at least 50 swimmers per team if we have to cancel the league again as we did in 2020. Hopefully, it does not ever come to that again!

LATE REGISTRATIONS - If teams accept late registrations they will need to send parents to the league site (www.gasl.swimtopia.com) to pay the \$2.50 fee. Swimtopia passes on the credit card processing fee of 2.9% plus 30¢ per transaction. That is similar to the way late registrations work with our AAU Insurance. Parents who register after the team has sent the AAU batch registration are sent to the AAU site to pay the \$14 AAU Insurance fee directly.

Issues:

Swimtopia is much easier to learn than our current Hytek software. There are a few quirks that teams who used Swimtopia this season shared with us:

- Swimtopia is still fairly new so they have not added all of the reporting capability we got with Hytek. The reports most teams use most frequently are easy to create. There are some reports that require a workaround right now.
- Swimtopia does not support our freestyle relay in the same way Hytek did. No software anticipates a 5-person relay. The GASL freestyle relay 5th swimmer is always listed as an alternate. However, Hytek allows relay alternates to receive awards and have the relay count as a swim. That means that with Swimtopia, teams will need to create a 5th relay ribbon label and be sure the 5th relay swimmer does not exceed their meet entry limit of 4 events.
- Swimtopia's meet software does not lock out changes after entries have been exchanged. It does flag changes, so a team that is concerned that another team has made unauthorized changes after the exchange will have to check the flags on each entry.
- Swimtopia does not have an unpaid waitlist functionality. Teams will be billed for all waitlist registrations. However, you can create a Google Form for waitlists and put the link on your Swimtopia website.

Teams who have not already tried Swimtopia can [try it for free](#) or contact one of the teams currently using Swimtopia to get a virtual tour. You can also explore our league website gasl.swimtopia.com to get an idea of what your team website might look like.

The majority of teams who used Swimtopia indicated they were likely to vote for a proposal to try Swimtopia league-wide. We propose that we adopt Swimtopia for the league, starting with the 2021 season.