



Pacific Dragons Swim Team



May 28th, 2010

To Our PDST Families:

Welcome to register for Pacific Dragons Swim Team (PDST) 2010-2011 season. We look forward to another exciting and productive year-round training for our PDST swimmers.

PDST has had an amazing year as a new US Swimming affiliated competitive swim team – many thanks to PDST staff members, parents and our swimmers. Together, we have worked hard to enable our swimmers to be the best they can be. We started in Sept. 2009 with 30 swimmers; we are well over 60 swimmers now and are still growing. Our swimmers have participated in all levels of PNS meets and the Northwest Sectional Champ meet. In the PNS 14 and Under Age Group Short Course Champ meet held on Dec. 2009, our swimmers captured one 1<sup>st</sup>, two 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a couple of top 16 finishes. Later in March 10 at NW Age Group Sectional Champ meet, our swimmers were also placed into top 8 finishers. Better yet, we have our first Western Zone time qualifier and we are looking forward to the opportunity for a PDST swimmer to represent PNS in the US Swimming Western Zone Champ meet in August. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing many more PDST swimmers qualified for the upcoming PNS Long Course Champ meet at end of the July. On the dry side of the team, our parent booster club was established in our 1<sup>st</sup> year with the support of our parents. Many parents have volunteered their time and expertise to support our team and our swimmers. We look for continued strong support from our booster club going forward and thank all our parents for your time and contribution to the team.

With all the achievements, PDST was awarded as a Level 1 club in the US Swimming Club Recognition Program by US Swimming (see Level 1 Club certification seal at top of this page) on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. This program identifies and recognizes club programs that demonstrate a commitment to long term club growth, development and stability. Clubs must meet markers measuring business and organizational success, parent and volunteer development, coach development and education, athlete development and performance. Clubs are ranked Level 1 through Level 4. PDST becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> among 48 PNS teams to achieve this recognition. We are very proud of this outstanding achievement, especially as a 1<sup>st</sup> year US Swimming team.

Going into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year for PDST, we envision a much more “stabilized/normalized/formalized” team regarding to group setup as well as group practice schedules, weekly practice hours, and pool locations. We strive to improve our program both in and out of the water. We have worked closely with management of several pools in our 1<sup>st</sup> year in operation. By our hard work, our practice time for next season is more ideal and more aligned with our PDST family’s needs, as we based on the information gathered from our PDST parent survey in January, 2010. As you know, the water space is very limited in our area with several swim teams in this area needing pool time. As a by-product of the unprecedented economic

downturn since 2008, we have observed several pools in our area closed or being considered to be closed due to lack of sufficient funding or high deficit in operation. The pool time cost started to rise quickly from the remaining pools as pool operators needed to cover the pool operational cost through rentals to deal with much reduced municipal government funding. Worse yet, the trend is continuing at present and we will embrace another sharp increase in pool rental fee this coming season. This left us with no choice but to raise the annual PDST dues this year in order to partially offset our increased pool cost – a much less desired outcome from my perspective and sincerely hope the trend will at least moderate in the future. However, although our fees for 2010-2011 season are higher than last year (see Table 3 for details), we still remain the most competitive team for the offering with the information we gathered (see reference provided next page in Table 1 and Table 2), thanks to our conscious cost control measures on every function of the team and the strong desire to offer most value to our families.

As always, we know you have a choice in choosing a swim team and we appreciate your decision to be with PDST. We hope that your experience with PDST was positive and we will continue to do our best to focus on our swimmers, to let them be the best they can be – in swimming and in their life.

Sincerely,



Peiyong Li, Head Coach, on behalf of PDST