

Hello Bullets Swimmers & Families,

There is a new program that has recently been unveiled by USA Swimming this past month. The program is called **DECK PASS**. Deck Pass is a new way to swim and share online. USA Swimming members earn digital patches for competing- automatically (based from SWIMS); check their verified IMX scores, best times, recent meets and rankings, and connect with their friends. Coaches can award patches to their swimmers; get teams' times, scores and ranks; and get USA Swimming information on events, meetings, certifications and results. Deck Pass replaces your 'My USA Swimming page' on the USA Swimming web site. We have a few swimmers that have already begun to use this program and the feedback has been great. All of our coaches have also set up accounts. It is quick and easy and a fantastic new tool to be used by our swim club. There are a few questions that have already come up that we wanted to clarify a few of these items:



1. This is not like Facebook. While this is a social media network in a sense, there is no dialogue or text that can be posted on your page. Swimmers cannot post comments on their or others pages. The information that can be shown on your page is fixed.
2. Only those you accept as your “Friend” can view your Deck Pass page. Friend requests are simple and can be found on your page.
3. The coaches cannot request a swimmer as their friend on Deck Pass, but we can be Friends. Swimmers are the ones that need to “friend request” the coaching staff. It is a safeguard of the system so that adults do not friend request athletes.
4. Only coaches can award patches to swimmers. Swimmers cannot award patches to themselves or others.
5. A coach does not need to be your “Friend” in order to award you a patch.
6. Swimmers can track their goals throughout the season. Others may see your goals only if you want them too.

A short video is available at www.usaswimming.org/deckpass that explains the program in detail. We highly recommend viewing this prior to signing up.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR DECK PASS?

Signing up for Deck Pass is easy. Simply *create an account* on usaswimming.org.

If you are a member of USA Swimming, be sure to link your USA Swimming membership to your Deck Pass account. Just follow the prompts after you sign up for Deck Pass to link your account to your USA Swimming membership. If you wish to complete this step later, you can go to *My Account* to make any updates. When you link your USA Swimming membership to your Deck Pass account, all your times from USA Swimming-sanctioned meets will automatically be updated on Deck Pass, so you can begin earning patches right away – or at

least as soon as you compete in your first meet of the season. Also, your coach can award you patches for all the hard work you do in practice and at meets.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY USA SWIMMING?

My USA Swimming is now Deck Pass. If you had a My USA Swimming account, your old account will automatically be converted to a Deck Pass account. There is no need to create a new account, or delete the old one. All the information from My USA Swimming is still there, including your Best Times log, Recent Meets log and IMX Scores. In addition to all those great features, you will now be able to earn digital patches for your accomplishments in the water, and set and keep track of all your goals for the season.

The Academy Bullets coaches are going to start awarding patches to swimmers beginning next week. We hope everyone signs up and uses this program. Please speak to your group coach or myself if you have any questions at all.

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Thanks,

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