

WATER RAT SWIM TEAM

FALL 2025 REGISTRATION PACKET

About the Water Rats

The Westport Weston Family YMCA Water Rat Swim Team is a year-round, nationally recognized competitive swim program organized and operated within the Westport Weston Family YMCA. The Water Rat Swim Team is a registered USA Swimming Team sanctioned by Connecticut Swimming, Inc. and competes in USA Swimming competitive swimming as well as YMCA swimming at the local, regional, state, zone and national level.

Consistent with the Family YMCA's mission to develop and nurture the potential of every child, promote healthy living and foster a sense of social responsibility, our team members acquire excellent swimming skills, make new friends and learn how to set goals while developing self-discipline and self-confidence.

Registration

In order for their children to be members of the Water Rat Swim Team, parents of newly admitted and returning swimmers must do the following:

- Members of the Water Rat Swim Team must be individual or family members of the Westport Weston Family YMCA.
- Members of the Water Rat Swim Team need to use the Family YMCA's online registration system to enroll their children for their Water Rat Practice group. To register with the Y please connect with Adrienne Williams, the Swim Team Administrator at awilliams@westporty.org.
- After registering with the Family YMCA, parents will then register their children on Team Unify, the team's online management system. The system will require families to provide certain information, including, but not limited to, medical information and emergency contacts. Payment of the PET-WRAT fee by credit card is made on Team Unify as well. Go to wrat.org and then click Registration under the pictures to register on Team Unify.

2025-2026 Seasons

Short Course
See wrat.org for details

Long Course
see wrat.org for details

Fall Practice
Schedule
September 2025 – March 2026

Spring Practice
Schedule
April 2025 – June 2026

Tentative Summer Practice Schedule
Late June 2026 – August 2026



Practice Pools

Strittmatter Family Aquatic Center
Westport Weston Family YMCA
14 Allen Raymond Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Hunt Club Pool
Fairfield County Hunt Club
174 Long Lots Road
Westport, CT 06880

Mahackeno Pool
Westport Weston Family YMCA
14 Allen Raymond Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Water Rat Swim Team 2025 – 2026 Fees

There are several fees that a family must pay to have a child participate on the Water Rat Swim Team. They are as follows:

1. The Y Membership fee
2. The Y Swim Team Program Fee
3. PET-WRAT fee
4. Other Fees – pay as you go to cover USA Swimming Athlete Registration, meet fees, and other events

A more detailed description of each fee is provided below.

Y Membership Fee

The Y membership fee varies depending on whether a family gets their swimmer an individual membership or a family membership. Contact the membership desk at 203-226-8981 about the Y membership rates. Please pay your Y memberships at the Membership desk or by contacting Brian Marazzi at bmarazzi@westporty.org.

Water Rat Y Program Fees Paid Via Adrienne Williams During Registration

The table below shows the annual Y swim team program fees, which may be paid in full or on a six (6) month installment plan payable the 1st of the month from September 1st through February 1st. **These fees are to be paid directly to the Westport Weston Family YMCA by check, credit card, or bank draft once you have registered with Adrienne Williams at awilliams@westporty.org.**

Practice Group	Annual Y Program Fee	1 st Monthly Payment	Months 2-6 Payment
White	\$1600(for Sept-March)	\$400	\$240
Red	\$1900	\$450	\$290
Blue	\$2500	\$600	\$380
Discovery III	\$2500	\$600	\$380
Discovery II	\$2550	\$600	\$390
Discovery I	\$2950	\$700	\$450
Challenger II	\$3300	\$800	\$500
Challenger I	\$3300	\$800	\$500
Senior III	\$3300	\$800	\$500
Senior II	\$3900	\$1000	\$580
Senior I	\$4000	\$1000	\$600

PET-WRAT
Paid Online on the Team Unify Registration System

After registering with the Y, families will be directed to register on the team's swim team online registration system to pay what is called a PET-WRAT fee, a parent encouragement tax and booster club dues. Those fees are as follows:

PET-WRAT Fees for 2025 – 2026
Paid by credit card as directed on Team Unify

1 swimmer on the team	\$125
2 or more swimmers on the team	\$150

The PET-WRAT fee has two purposes. First, it allows the Parents' Club to support the team by hosting swim meets, buy team equipment, subsidize socials and the annual team banquet, and award financial assistance to swimmers who cannot afford to pay the full cost of being a Water Rat. The annual fees are set every year in June or July when the Parents' Club Board votes on the club's budget.

In addition to paying PET-WRAT fees, all Water Rat families are required to help manage the Water Rat Swim Team by performing volunteer jobs, which help them earn PET-WRAT points. The number of Water Rat swimmers in a family, and their ages, determine the number of PET-WRAT volunteer points a family must earn. If parents earn more volunteer points than required, they will earn back part or all of their PET-WRAT fees. Rebates are paid during the summer after the end of the long course season. If families do not meet their minimum volunteer commitment, they will be subject to a non-compliance fee of \$50.00 for each minimum volunteer point not earned, with the maximum penalty being \$500. **To avoid non-compliance assessments, parents should notify the PET-WRAT Coordinator within a week of the event that they volunteered.** Notification of noncompliance fee due will be sent via email to families in August after the long course season.

PET-WRAT POINTS

Number and Type of Swimmers	Number of Points
8/under Swimmer	15
Age Group Swimmer	25
Senior Swimmer	25
2 or more swimmers including an 8/under	30
2 or more AG and/or Senior Swimmers	35

Parents can register to volunteer using their Team Unify account, which keeps track of their PET- WRAT points.

PET-WRAT fees, PET-WRAT points and the importance of volunteering are explained in the club's Volunteer Policy, which all parents must acknowledge when they register their swimmer. The intent of this policy is not to raise money but to emphasize how important it is that we work together to provide well-run meets for our children. The team cannot run a meet without adequate parent support. This policy is intended to provide flexibility for families throughout the meet season to fulfill the minimum volunteer commitment. Many of our parent volunteers earn in excess of 100 hours during the year. Families not doing their fair share jeopardize the smooth management and operation of team events and subject the club to increased membership fees.

Other Fees During the Year Paid by credit card as directed on Team Unify

In the past we have had an escrow system to pay for USA Swimming Athlete Registration and meet fees for a swimmers participation in the first few meets. This year we are going to switch to a pay-as-you-go system. What that means is that we will not charge an upfront team escrow fee but have families pay for events as they occur, meaning charging you for USA Swimming Athlete Registration when the Team Administrator registers swimmers and charging you either right before or after swimmers participate in a meet or event. To facilitate that, we need you to leave a credit card on file on the Team Unify system.

Refund Policy

Parents may get a refund of payments made under the following circumstances.

1. The Y Swim Team program fee is usually paid in 6 installments from September 1st through February 1st. If a swimmer leaves the team prior to the last payment, they will not be charged for the remaining payments. For example, if a swimmer leaves the team on December 15th, the family will not be charged the swim team program fee January 1st and February 1st. **After February 1st, refunds will not be issued except under exigent circumstances.**
2. The Y membership fee is usually paid monthly. If a child leaves the team and has an individual Y membership, the Y will cancel that membership and not charge the family going forward.
3. A pro-rata portion of the PET-WRAT fee will be returned if a swimmer leaves the team before February 1st. **After February 1st, refunds will not be issued except under exigent circumstances.**
4. When swimmer leaves the team, any money left in the family team escrow account from previous years will be refunded. New swimmers will not have any money in those accounts so no money need to be refunded.