

BRAZADAS BLAST

SCHEDULES

Please continue to check the calendars/website for the most up-to-date practice times, changes, and cancellations.

- [May Practice Schedule](#) (Swim Team)
- [June Practice Schedule](#) (Swim Team)
- [Masters Practice Schedule](#)
- [Lap Swim Schedule](#)

COMPETITION SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

FDST AB Modified LC Invite

- Saturday, June 13 – Sunday, June 14
- Meet fact sheet, [click here](#)
- All swimmers are encouraged to attend. [Click here to register.](#)
- **Registration closes Tuesday, June 2**

SBSC Semana Nautica LCM Meet

- Friday, June 26 – Sunday, June 28
- Meet fact sheet, [click here](#)
- All swimmers are encouraged to attend. [Click here to register.](#)
- **Registration closes Tuesday, June 9**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rethink Collegiate Swimming by Craig

The school year is quickly coming to an end, and for many swimmers that means summer training, vacations, championship season, and for some of our older athletes, thinking seriously about college swimming opportunities.

For years, many swimmers and parents have viewed the dream as earning a full ride scholarship to a major Division I program like Texas, Stanford, Cal, Florida, or other nationally recognized schools. The reality is those opportunities are extremely competitive

and usually reserved for national level athletes who can immediately impact a program at the NCAA Championship level.

But here's the good news. There are so many opportunities to continue swimming in college beyond just the top powerhouse programs.

One thing I firmly believe is this:

There is a place in college swimming for almost every athlete who truly wants it.

Whether that is Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA, or Junior College swimming, athletes can continue their careers while earning an education, growing as people, and being part of a team environment that can shape the rest of their lives.

And first and foremost, college is about getting an education.

Yes, go after the scholarship opportunities. They absolutely matter and can significantly help families financially. But finding the right fit academically, socially, and athletically is just as important as the level of the program itself. And you have a far better chance earning an academic scholarship vs an athletic one.

Over the years as a head coach, I've been fortunate to help guide many swimmers through the college recruiting process. I've coached athletes who have gone on to swim for Division I Top 10 programs and earn All American honors. I've also had swimmers continue successful careers at Division II, Division III, NAIA, and Junior College programs.

And honestly, success looks different for every swimmer.

One thing that has changed a lot over the years is the level of swimming across all divisions. There are incredibly fast swimmers at the Division II, Division III, NAIA, and Junior College levels. Some Division III national level swims are as competitive as many Division I conference championship finals. Because of that, families should never overlook opportunities simply because of the division label attached to the school.

Finding the right fit academically, socially, financially, and athletically is what matters most. For many swimmers, the best overall college experience may actually come from a program outside the traditional powerhouse Division I schools.

For some athletes, success means competing at the NCAA Division I level. For others, it means finding a smaller school where they can contribute immediately, balance academics and athletics well, and enjoy the full college experience.

One of my favorite parts about coaching has always been helping athletes navigate that journey. Sitting down together, discussing goals, evaluating programs, talking honestly

about fit, making phone calls to college coaches, helping swimmers understand the recruiting process, and preparing them for what comes next.

Over time, many college coaches began trusting the athletes coming from our programs because they knew they were prepared for the next level. They knew our swimmers were team driven, accountable, coachable, hardworking, and still developing. They understood these athletes were capable of lasting all four years at the college level and continuing to grow both in and out of the pool.

That matters.

College coaches are not only recruiting times. They are recruiting people, teammates, work ethic, attitude, and long-term potential.

For swimmers hoping to continue to the collegiate level, versatility is also important. Coaches love athletes who can contribute in multiple events and continue improving over time. Strong academics matter too. The ability to balance school, training, and responsibility often says just as much about a swimmer as their race results.

And for parents, remember that the recruiting process is a journey too. Every swimmer develops differently and on a different timeline. Some athletes are heavily recruited early, while others continue improving later in high school and find opportunities later in the process.

No matter where a swimmer lands, continuing the sport at the collegiate level can be an incredible experience.

Swimming teaches discipline, accountability, teamwork, resilience, time management, and independence. Those qualities last long after competitive swimming is over. As coaches, we're always happy to help guide families through the process and answer questions along the way. The journey to college swimming can sometimes feel overwhelming, but there truly are more opportunities out there than many people realize. And for those younger swimmers just getting started, keep dreaming big. The journey begins one practice, one meet, and one step at a time.

If you have questions, just ask Coach Jay or me. We are here to see each swimmer succeed.

COACH'S CORNER

ABC...and XYZADA!!!

As we finish up the Academic year 2025-2026 it is important to reflect on the TIME spent this last year. We are lifelong learners and it's important to learn from the past

year. Taking the things that worked well and building on them, and those things that didn't work well, learning from those-shift gears-and be better this year. June 1st is really the beginning of what is to come this next swimming year and the effort you put in for June+July+August will set you up very well for swimming in the Short Course, SCY, season. If you are a Junior going into your Senior year this next year, or an 8th grader going to HS or even graduating Kindergarten...we all have something exciting and new in front of us. I call it "what's next!?!?", and now is the TIME to focus on this, commit to it and begin putting in the hard work. It truly is an exciting TIME for us all.

A little side note and speaking of hard work, I'm so impressed with the Brazadas Team; White/Navy/B-Team and Masters, new staffers, the Rec Summer Team and Masters. You all have really made me smile with your #attitudeiseverthing approach and helping us become the team we want to be. Please keep up this dedication, the hard work will pay off!

Last but certainly not least, a special shout out to all the swimmers who swam at the Ventura swim meet this past weekend. It was so incredibly nice to see you all swim, get to know you better and to see you represent our team outside of Bako! I'm looking forward to the next time that I get to see you all swim!

Have a fantastic week and see you all poolside
-Coach J

DIRECTOR'S DESK

What a fun weekend we had in Ventura! As a coach, I had such a blast spending the weekend with Coach Jay, our swimmers, and our parents at the meet. Honestly, not often can you say all of that together and truly mean it, but this meet was special. Great racing, great attitudes, supportive parents, and a whole lot of memories made together.

It's also crazy to think we only have TWO more long course meets before championship season is here. Time really does fly in swimming. One moment the season is just beginning, and the next thing you know, championship season is right around the corner. So swimmers...sign up or get out of the way! Let's finish this season strong and make these next opportunities count.

That idea of time moving quickly has been on my mind this month.

The journey just goes way too fast doesn't it? That is, the journey of a parent. I remember swimming hours upon hours and the journey seemed never ending, but that's the swimmer's perspective. Reflecting back now, I can only thank my Mom and Dad for letting me own swimming, making it mine for succeeding and failing.

To them, time was probably racing. They wanted to see me grow and get better every day. But instead of stepping in constantly, they dropped me off at practice and let me experience the sport for myself. Meet to meet, they saw huge improvements instead of the microscopic improvements that happened daily.

I created my own success by owning my swimming. I learned to talk with my coaches, work through problems, and get along with teammates. And there were definitely hard times too. Sure, I would talk swimming to my Mom and Dad even though they were probably clueless half the time. “So and so did this,” or “you wouldn’t believe what coach had us do today.” Sometimes maybe I even expected intervention. None came.

Looking back, that was one of the greatest gifts they gave me.

Swimming became mine right in the earliest of ages when I started. Their role was to support my dream and be the best cheering squad possible. Talking to them about swimming was easy because they simply listened. I never expected criticism or negative feedback, just support and encouragement.

Now as a coach, I get to see swimmers grow every single day. I know what to look for technically, and if I don’t have the answer on deck, I have resources and other coaches to help find the best solution. I try every day to help make each swimmer’s journey successful.

At the same time, I’ve learned how important ownership is for young athletes. Sometimes even small comments from Mom or Dad about technique or races can slowly shift ownership away from the swimmer. Over time, the athlete can begin looking for approval or critique after every swim instead of learning confidence and accountability themselves. That’s why I think one of the best ways parents can be involved is through support and volunteering. Timing, helping at meets, organizing events, working committees, or just cheering loudly from the stands...those things matter so much. Parents become part of the journey without taking the journey away from the swimmer.

And honestly, some of the best seats in the house are right there on deck volunteering. As this month’s theme of time comes to an end, I think swimming reminds us how fast these years really go. The little moments, the car rides to practice, the dinners, the long meet days, the breakthroughs, and even the hard days eventually become memories. So let’s enjoy the process, support our swimmers, and appreciate the journey while we’re in it.

Go Brazadas!
Craig

Office Hours & Contact:

Monday–Thursday, 1–5pm at East Side Aquatic Center.

If we miss your call at 661-456-8401, please leave a message. We return calls and emails within 24 hours on weekdays (except meet days).

Team Resources:

Team Member Handbook and Brazadas Blast archive available on the [Resources Page](#). The Blast is sent every Tuesday, miss one? Find it in the archive.