

Girls Swim Overview

The 2025 Joel Barlow High School Girls Swim team is coached by Eileen Earle. Coach Earle is in her 27th season. Assistant Coach Dick Hawks makes up the coaching tandem. The Brookfield YMCA provides a 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. window for the team to practice. Joel Barlow High School is one of the three schools in the South-West Conference that does not have a pool on campus. Before coaching at Barlow, Coach Earle swam in college and coached in recreation. She said that swimming has always been a part of her life. Patience is one of the things that Coach Earle has learned about herself through coaching. “Each group of girls and each team has different aspects that you have to learn to deal with,” said Coach Earle.

The captains of the 2025 Joel Barlow Girls Swim team are Abby Bonoff, Tori Swearingen, Jay Godfrey, and Anabella Cam. Two other names to note are Danika Roche and Makayla Pederson. Makayla is the youngest of the bunch, being a sophomore, while the rest of the girls are seniors. Coach Earle described these girls as the top swimmers. Joel Barlow shares the swim team with Bethel and Immaculate. In total, there are 16 Barlow girls, seven Bethel girls, and seven Immaculate girls. One disadvantage that the team faces is that they do not have any divers. This typically means they must catch up in swimming events since they won’t get points from diving.

A standard CIAC meet features eleven events. This includes eight individual events and three relay events. The goal is to score the most points in each event. Coach Earle tells her players, “That if you get 3rd, you help the team as much as the first-place person or 4th or 5th because you kept them from getting those points and we got points.” For individual events, the top five swimmers earn points, and for relays, the top three teams earn points.

Practice starts with a warm-up, and then the team does specific drills or a practice set before getting into their main sets. The main sets can be aerobics or sprints, or a combination of both. Coach Earle divides her practice into groups depending on the skill levels of the athletes. Some swimmers on the team are more experienced, while some are beginners. The distance each athlete swims is different and depends on what goals Coach Earle is looking to accomplish that day.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, the swim team competed in the SWC championships, finishing in 5th place. Over the weekend, Makayla Pederson set a new school record for the 100-yard backstroke, recording a time of 58.83 seconds. Through the regular season, the team finished in 4th place with a 7-4 record.