



Hello Crawfish family,

We are excited to share these exciting announcements and staff updates with you.

As you already know, this past December, Coach Steve Panzram, Director of our Nicholls location, announced he would be retiring after State Meet this July. At that time, he and Coach Addy will be moving to live closer to his family in Pensacola, Florida.

With this announcement, Crawfish began a national search to replace Coach Steve and Coach Addy. After reviewing dozens of applications and fielding many inquiries about the position followed by selective interviews, Crawfish hosted the two top candidates in Baton Rouge and Nicholls for in-person interviews. After this extensive process, our decision was clear!

We are proud to announce **OJ Mesina** as the new Head Senior Coach and Site Director of Crawfish Aquatics at Nicholls.

Coach OJ joins us from the Northern Kentucky Clippers, where as a Gold Medal Club Coach, he helped develop, re-organize and build a very successful program in the suburbs just south of Cincinnati, Ohio.

A certified USA Swimming Coach since 2006, OJ has worked with all levels of competitive swimmers, from beginners to elite athletes. His experience ranges from Junior Olympic State Champions, numerous Sectional, Futures, and NCSA qualifiers (in both 14-and-Under & Senior level athletes), Junior National, Senior National and Olympic Trials Qualifiers.

Coach OJ also has four years of experience running the Xavier University Swim Club, and a decade of full-time elementary teaching experience at King Academy Community School in Cincinnati.

"I am incredibly excited and honored to be working with Crawfish Aquatics as the Site Director for the Nicholls location," OJ says. "Crawfish Aquatics is an amazing organization that looks to inspire and help young women and men become not only great student athletes, but more importantly, outstanding people with integrity, honor, motivation, and respect. I look forward to bringing my experience, energy, and love of swimming to the Nicholls site and all of Crawfish Aquatics. I can't wait to become a part of this family and help the organization and athletes grow while still respecting the many rich traditions that have made Crawfish Aquatics into the program it is today."

Coach OJ represents the values and spirit of Crawfish Aquatics, and he brings solid experiences and coaching knowledge to our program. We are proud to welcome him to Louisiana and into the CA FAMILY!

We're also happy to announce that **Coach Brent Labat** will be our new Head Age Group Coach /Director of Program Administration while continuing to direct the Swimming Lessons programs at the Nicholls location. Coach Brent has been working with the program since the Nicholls location opened in 2013, joining our staff full-time in 2016.

Coach Brent has played a vital role in the program with his daily attention to the details that make programs run smoothly, his commitment to administrative duties, his ownership of our mission, and his constant seeking of new methods of good management. We know he's going to continue to be a key component to the overall development and growth of the Nicholls location and Crawfish Aquatics as a whole.

"Since the opening of our Nicholls location in 2013, I have had the privilege of growing with our site," Brent says. "We have established a foundation that, with Coach OJ's support and our staff's continued

work, can launch us even further into surrounding communities and spread our mission of not only training athletes but teaching them to reach their full potential in everything they pursue athletically, academically, and morally. I am excited for the opportunity to engage our younger athletes as Head Age Group Coach and immerse them into a sport that has become one of the most important parts of my everyday life. I am also thrilled to continue leading our lessons program in a positive direction and sharing our gift for life with everyone who will join us!"

On a final note, we have officially renewed our long term lease with Nicholls State University. This is a thriving relationship, and we will be utilizing the facilities there on campus for Crawfish Aquatics swim team and swimming lessons for a long time to come.

Mark your calendars!

- *July 24 (late afternoon/evening):* final Summer season practice, season recap and going away event for Steve and Addy Panzram
- *August 7 (evening):* Welcome Celebration for Coach OJ
- *August 8:* Short Course season practices begin for Senior/Junior
- *August 13:* Short Course season practices begin for AG / 8 & U