



March 27, 2020

Update on COVID-19—current and next steps in supporting clubs

During this time of uncertainty, we strive to provide our members with information and updates that impact and influence our clubs and the sport of swimming in our province.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic affects all of us. I feel unsettled and unsure of what the near future brings both for our swimming community and personally for my family. These are uncertain times, leaving all of us with many difficult decisions around next steps regarding the operating of our clubs and associations.

We continue work together with Sask Sport and Swimming Canada and the other provincial offices to ensure that decisions that impact our sport and membership are addressed uniformly and timely. As you chart these uncertain times, it is essential that we follow the direction of our Federal and Provincial governments to ensure we take the necessary steps to keep our communities safe and healthy.

Club Boards should continue to work closely with head coaches and take time to consider all options, pausing to review (amongst other items); the clubs current financial position; the financial outlook and projections for the short, medium and long term; club policies and contracts; employment laws and regulation prior to making any decisions; and likely most importantly how to maintain a sense of connection to club membership during this period of social distancing.

Attached to this letter is a summary of some of the current and next steps Swim Sask is taking to support our membership.

As always, I remain committed to providing you with updates and information as I have it available to me.

Swim Sask continues to work remotely for our membership and sport. Please reach out with any questions you may have to me at marjwalton@swimsask.ca or by phone at 1-306-780-9238.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Marj Walton
Executive Director



Swim Saskatchewan current and next steps in supporting clubs

Communication

To help communicate with our members, Swim Sask has updated our home webpage to post “Important Updates” while managing the COVID-19 pandemic. We have included direct links to our government and partner websites and any Swim Sask communication to his central point. You can access it here:

www.swimsask.ca

Coaching

A couple years ago a Facebook group was set up for Swim Sask Coaches. This past week, we have begun using it much more frequently to share links and resources to provide a platform for our coaches to share and collaborate. Coaches can ask to [Join here](#).

The Coaching Association of Canada is working with Swimming Canada to pilot the Community Coach and Swimming 101 courses online in AB and Ontario. We will share updates as they become available.

Club Meetings

We will continue to hold club meetings with Head Coaches and Club Presidents in the coming days/weeks to ensure we stay connected and work collaboratively to support one another.

Next Meetings for:

Head Coaches: Year-round/Age Group

Clubs: Year-round/Age Group and those that have master's as part of them.

Clubs: Summer

Masters only club – RMSC

Master and Senior Officials

Date and Time

April 3 – 12:15pm
Teleconference

Sometime the week of April
6 to 9 - 7:00pm
Teleconference

2nd week of April - to be confirmed

Swim Sask will set something up next week
March 28 -10:30am
Teleconference

Date and Time

Weekly on Friday

Semi-Annual General Meeting May 2, 2020 at 10:15 am Teleconference

Cancellations and Postponements

As per Swimming Canada direction, all sanctioned competitions between now and April 30 are cancelled.

Today, Swimming Canada has cancelled all National Sanctioned meets for remainder of the season ([link](#)).

As of today's date, the **City of Saskatoon** has closed leisure facilities indefinitely. All programs and bookings cancelled until May 21, 2020: **This now means the Laser Swim meet on May 2 and 3 is now officially cancelled.**

Swim Saskatchewan has also cancelled the following:

- NCCP Swimming 101 Course: Humboldt – April 10-12, 2020
- NCCP Swimming 201 Course: Saskatoon April 22-24, 2020

Other events that have been cancelled or postponed by our partner agencies that impact our members include:

- Sask Summer Games – TBC (decision to be made May 15 to June 1)
- All NAIG Swim Team Camps– POSTPONED
- NAIG 2020 Games – POSTPONED to summer 2021
- NAIG Coach and Coordinator Symposium – POSTPONED





Swim Saskatchewan current and next steps in supporting clubs

Insurance

Swim Sask through the Sask Sport Group Insurance policy with AON Reed Stenhouse provides the following, and the policy is effective April 1 to March 31 of each year.

- General liability insurance
- Directors & officers liability insurance
- Legal defense
- Sport accident insurance

The General Liability and Sport Accident Insurance provides coverage for any registered participant/member “while participating in or training for a sanctioned sporting or training event.

A “Sanctioned Event” includes all games, competitions or sport demonstrations run by the PSGB or by a member club authorized by the PSGB, including related training **at the event site and at club premises** (premises means the pools that you use).

While Swim Saskatchewan formally sanctions swimming competitions, we informally sanction training when a club affiliates with us and provides the pools that they use to train in.

For a full summary of Swim Sask Insurance Programs please visit the website:

<http://solutions.aon.ca/sasksport/coverage.aspx>

Effective March 27, 2020 our insurance provider has agreed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, that the following 3 scenarios of training is permitted and would be covered under the insurance plan:

- A Registered Active Coach that is a member of Swim Sask provides the dryland workout for athletes to do. The swimmers do the workout on their own, anytime, with their parents or siblings or anyone they want. In some cases, the swimmers are using Facetime or Zoom meeting to ‘do the workout together.’
- A Registered Active Coach that is a member of Swim Sask conducts/leads a dryland workout for the athletes to do via a Zoom meeting.
- A Registered Active Coach that is a member of Swim Sask provides age appropriate links to online programs swimmers to do.

NOTE: for clubs that are using a 3rd party provide (Craven Sports, Level 10 etc.) please ensure you check with them if they are covered by insurance to be giving virtual training during this time. You also want to get them to list your club and Swim Saskatchewan as a co-insured on their policy. (much like we do when some of you go to the USA for a camp and the pool wants to be listed as a co-insured on our Swim Sask certification of insurance. It is their policy that comes in to play and not the Sask Sport/Swim Sask insurance policy.

This is same for when we are back to our regular living and the swimmers in your club physically go to that gym.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

Q. Our club wants to ensure that we are able to create a connection to our registered athletes during this uncertain period, as the mental and physical health of our athletes is important. Can a club set up programs to be delivered by video conference so athletes can connect with their coach and other teammates in their squad on a regular basis to deliver programs on strength and fitness. Is this activity covered through the Sask Sport/Swim Sask group insurance program?

A. The simplest way to look at this, is similar to where pool activities required the supervision of a registered coach, any activities clubs are doing with athletes/members through virtual conferences/programs also requires the supervision of a coach. This means activities are guided by the coach and the coach would be online with the group of swimmers. The type of exercise activities **MUST** be geared toward the level of the athlete and any equipment that is used, must be for its intended purpose. (i.e. – no using a sack of potatoes for weights or step stools to simulate stairs).

Q. I coach a group of athletes, and provide some individualized training based on the needs of the athlete. Can I provide additional customized workouts or activities my athlete should be doing to maintain their fitness level outside of any online group led activity?

A. Again, the type of activity **MUST** be geared toward the level of the athlete and any equipment that is used, is used with its intended purpose. Athletes should have regular check-ins with their coaches to monitor and evaluate the fitness program.

Q. I want to post a workout on our Club Facebook Page for the members in our club. Would this type of activity be considered appropriate?

A. This type of activity would not be considered appropriate or within the assigned scope of duties of a coach. There is no way to ensure that the activity is either supervised by a registered coach or that the activity is appropriately geared toward the level of individual athletes.

Q. Over the last couple of years, there has been a focus on Safe Sport and the Responsible coaching Movement and Open and Observable Environment. Therefore, the following steps should be put in place by the Club to make sure that any virtual training program follows the principles of Safe Sport?

A. Some things to consider while delivering programs/services virtually while still adhering to Safe Sport Guiding Principle are:

- During video streaming sessions such as Zoom, Google Hangout or Teams, make sure these sessions are taking place with a full group and not one on one with an athlete and a coach.
- For those under 18, parents should be aware of this type of programming and have given their consent for their child to participate.
- Encourage athletes to set up the online sessions in areas of their home which is also open and observable to others. An example of a room that is open and observable might be a family room whereas, a closed-door bedroom would not be seen as open and observable.
- All activities should be done at home, following requirements established by Saskatchewan Health Services as it relates to COVID-19 Pandemic with regards to social isolation, where needed; and social/physical distancing. Athletes should not be working out with others at this time nor should they be sharing equipment.