

## Swim Alberta's High Performance Strategy - Overview

*Our Vision – every swimmer has the opportunity to reach their full potential.*

*Strategic Direction – Provide program, services and support to maximize all aspects of competitive swimming.*

*Our Priority – Creation and implementation of a sustainable High Performance strategy for Olympic stream athletes that is fully aligned with Clubs and Swimming Canada.*

### The High-Performance Program Initiative (HPPI)

- Increase the stability in identified performance clubs, through supporting performance coaches to exist in an environment where they can focus on coaching and not the daily operations of the club. Support the board leadership in performance clubs to successfully foster the support for performance swimming within the club setting by providing additional support through identified partners, including Swim Alberta.
- Create a system, structure and program that support High Performance Swimming in Alberta to ensure an athlete pathway for development that continues beyond age group swimming and retains the best athletes, when it is in their best interest, to remain in the province to train and compete.
- Develop and implement a system for identification of targeted performance athletes that provides support and development for athletes both within the partner club (hub) and to other outlying clubs (spoke) through a collaborative relationship between coaches.

### Success Factor

The number of swimmers training in Alberta on a full-time basis will comprise [10%] of national team members by 2024 as compared to 4% in 2016.

### How it impacts our athletes and coaches

**Athletes** - Through the creation of an athlete pathway that initiates at the club level learn to swim and developmental age group club programming; to supporting identified targeted athletes both within the partner club and in other club programs within the area; to identified varsity athletes, and where required, post grad/varsity athletes. Swim Alberta is not trying to create a national centre, but a high-performance program that fills needed gaps and supports performance of swimmers in the province.

**Coaches** – Through mentorship opportunities, with identified performance coaches, coaches of identified athletes can develop an ongoing relationship that supports their own development as well as the development of the athlete, when it is in the athletes best interest to do so. In smaller club programs, which may have identified athletes, it allows the athlete to benefit from programs and services that will support their development through coaches working together to facilitate any needed support for that athlete.

### Who trains in the training group

- Athletes will be identified by Swim Alberta through a level of priorities. These levels are still being finalized, but would include such measurements as FINA A times, On-Track Athletes, etc.
- Identified athletes, do not need to be a registered member with the partner club, although they do need to be a registered member with Swim Alberta and be eligible for national and junior national team selections.

### What are the role of the identified/selected Performance Coaches

At a high level, the Performance Coach(s) will:

- Deliver daily training (pool deck coaching) to Identified Athletes who are training full time in the training group.
- Act as a lead and mentor to other coaches in Alberta by actively sharing information - technical, training and development; and working directly with coaches of identified athletes to support the development of both the coach and athlete.
- Facilitating athlete visitations into the training group when it is in the best interest for the development of that athlete.

In addition, they will also have responsibilities to the partners:

- Providing guidance to Swim Alberta technical and funding programs, including leading of tour teams as required
- Provide guidance to strategic initiatives of Swim Alberta and Partner Club
- Involvement in provincial technical meetings (national)
- Liaising and working with athletes who have been selected to Swimming Canada Junior National or National Teams.
- Working in conjunction with the partner club coaching staff and/or Varsity club coaching staff to ensure direct alignment of the athlete pathway and technical programs of the club for both athletes and coaches

### Who are the partners

Partnership are still being finalized, but it is anticipated that the partners will be Universities – Athletic Departments or Kinesiology Departments; Partner Performance Clubs, Swim Alberta, Swimming Canada and potentially facilities, the Alberta Sport Development Centres, etc.

### What are our next steps

We are still in development meetings with potential partners in both the North and South of the province. Over the next several weeks these partnerships will be further explored and solidified. Swim Alberta is committed to ensuring that as a partner and leader in this initiative that the best interests of our athletes are taken into account and also ensuring the interests of clubs are also considered. It is our goal to have elements of this program in place in the fall of 2017, recognizing that additional components may be added or services and structures enhanced over the next few years.