

April 20, 2020



Dear Club Presidents and Members

Re: Summer Swim Season and COVID - 19

Please feel free circulate to your membership and coaches

During a time of great uncertainty and extraordinary challenges, our swimming community has demonstrated tremendous resiliency and understanding. We are committed to keeping our community healthy and safe during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. It is with a heavy heart that the Alberta Summer Swim Association (ASSA) has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 competitive swim season in alignment with the direction of Swim Alberta and Swimming Canada. This was a difficult decision to make, but the socially responsible one given the times we are in.

Since first communicating with our members about COVID-19, we have received ample feedback, much of it focused on the safety measures being recommended.

To that end the Alberta Summer Swimming Board of Directors have the following statements to share:

CLUB AFFILIATION: The Alberta Summer Swim Association will be postponing all club affiliations for the 2020 swim season and refund all club affiliation fees already processed.

CLUB TRAINING: Clubs will **not** be permitted to engage in training activities. However, in a commitment to promote the sport of swimming and to encourage a healthy active lifestyle, training options may be considered for the summer season on a case by case basis as facilities begin to open and restrictions from Alberta Health begin to lessen. All decisions will be considered in accordance with all regulations and restrictions in place by Alberta Health and the local municipality, as well as policies of Swim Alberta and Alberta Summer Swimming Association.

Out of season training guidelines will be followed as described in the ASSA Rules and Regulations – approved March 14, 2020.

Detailed requests can be submitted in writing to ASSA President Andre Harpe (albertasummerswimming@gmail.com)

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SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS AND TIME TRIALS: There will be no competition sanctions or approvals issued for the 2020 summer swim season, **including the ASSA Provincial and Regional Competitions scheduled for August 2020.**

COACH TRAINING: The coach focused training session with Jackie Cool, Sport Development Director scheduled for May 5th will continue for any previously registered coaches from the 2019 season who would still like to attend.

COACH CERTIFICATION: Due to cancellation of the summer season coaches can complete their certification for the next season prior to the June 1, 2021 deadline. Specific Coach compliance questions can be directed to Val Carr, Member Services Manager (val@swimalberta.ca).

INFORMATION: A page has been established on the Swim Alberta website where we will continue to post updates sent to the membership concerning COVID-19 for both year-round and summer clubs. As the new ASSA website is launched later in April, we will also post/link all updates to the ASSA website. At this time, information can be found here: [LINK TO UPDATES](#)

It is our hope and intention to keep our athletes involved with our organization. We will be utilizing our social media platforms to create social engagement activities that will allow clubs, athletes and coaches to stay connected during a time when we must isolate. We encourage all clubs to participate and promote the social engagement opportunities, while practicing physical distancing and other safety measures as put in place by Alberta Health and the local municipality.

We empathize that forced cancellations this summer takes away opportunities for both our athletes and clubs. We encourage you to continue to reach out to any member of Alberta Summer Swim Association to share what is most important to you, and to keep our lines of communication open. Thank you to everyone for supporting one another with empathy and understanding – our swimming community never ceases to amaze me.

Until then, we look forward to the 2021 season when the summer swimming community can come back together better and stronger than ever. Our thoughts are with you and your family, and we hope you are staying safe and healthy, as we also try to do that with ours.

We are one family.

Sincerely yours,

Andre Harpe
President – ASSA

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