

June 22, 2020



Greetings Club Presidents and Members;

Re: Return to Sport

Please feel free to circulate with your members

On June 12th, the Government of Alberta approved the province would begin Stage 2 of the Alberta Re-Launch Strategy. Recreation Facilities, including pools were moved into businesses allowed to operate in Stage 2. In addition, guidance documents were released as it relates to permitted activities for [Sport Physical Activity and Recreation – Stage 2](#); and [Swimming Pools and Whirlpools for Stage 2](#). On June 15th, Swim Alberta released Version 3 of the [Return to Swimming Requirements Document](#), that aligned with the guidance provided by Alberta Health Services for permitted activities. The Alberta Summer Swimming (ASSA) has met with Swim Alberta to fully understand the Return to Swimming Requirements and discuss the opportunity for the ASSA to participate in the 2020 summer season.

The ASSA, in partnership with Swim Alberta, are looking forward to beginning to allow affiliated clubs to train for the 2020 swim season. The season will be different than in previous years, but we are confident we will make the best out of the challenges created by COVID-19. The ASSA is excited to welcome swimmers back to the pool who were previously registered, have an understanding of training, understand the physical distancing guidelines and meet age requirements.

The health and safety of our entire swimming community is a top priority and we will adhere to all recommendations from the Government of Alberta and its Chief Medical Officer as well as the requirements set out by Swim Alberta.

In order for clubs to make a decision on next steps, we want to share some important information with you as it relates to Return to Swimming Training:

2020 Season Training and Competitions – Training only will be permitted for the 2020 summer season. We know that many of you are looking forward to the challenge and excitement competitions bring. We also understand that some of you, by circumstance or preference, will want the ability to compete. ***Due to mass gathering restrictions this is not possible, all competitions will continue to be suspended until 2021.*** We are excited to inform you that the final day of the 2020 ASSA Summer Season will be August 30th. Meaning you are eligible to train for an additional two weeks.

Safety - For those of you eager to return to the pool there are some changes to ensure your safety and the safety of everyone involved in with your club. In addition to requirements of Alberta Health

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Services, Swim Alberta have established Return to In-person Training and Swimming Requirements that all clubs must adhere to. Part of these requirements include the following:

- All Club Presidents or designates as part of affiliation **MUST** attend a mandatory webinar that will go into full details of the Return to Swimming requirements (see below for more information).
- Clubs must sign a club declaration form, indicating they understand and agree to abide by all health regulations and Swim Alberta requirements, as well as any local/municipal requirements.
- All Athletes and Coaches must be registered and must sign an Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Form and submit to Swim Alberta prior to the commencement of any training.
- Clubs are permitted to have cohorts of up to 50 individuals (swimmers and coaches), and must maintain the same cohorts through the training period and where required, maintain physical distancing.
- Clubs must have confirmation of facility opening dates prior to completing the registration process. Clubs are expected to work with their facility to confirm a return to swimming plan.

Fees - Swimmer fees will remain unchanged from the 2019 swim season and there will be no additional costs and all refund policies will remain consistent as in previous years.

Club Affiliation \$75.00 (for those clubs returning to swimming)

Swimmer Fees:

Swimming Canada	\$2.25
Swim Alberta	\$26.00
ASSA	\$23.00
Total	\$51.25

Coach Fees:

Swimming Canada	\$27.00
Swim Alberta	\$42.00
CSCA	\$40.00
Total	\$109.00

** There will not be \$15 ASSA Coach fee for the 2020 season.

Swimmer Eligibility - We are hard at work exploring safe and responsible ways to return to training, therefore only swimmers that were previously registered or registered in 2019 will be eligible for our current 2020 training only season. Eligible swimmers will have a year of birth of 2011 or earlier. Any additional eligibility requirements will be provided to clubs at the mandatory webinar. Swimmers wishing to train with a year round club up until August 30th are welcome to do so without the worry of any impact to their 2021 eligibility. Swimmers choosing to train with a year round club, must be fully registered with the club, Swim Alberta and Swimming Canada.

Coach Registration and Minimum Requirements – The Swim Alberta Coach Registration and Minimum Requirements Policy will be in effect for the Summer 2020 Training Season. It is strongly recommended that coaches have previous coaching experience and have completed Fundamentals Coach certification.

Return to Swimming Mandatory Webinar for Club Boards – Registration is required.
Thursday, June 25th at 7:00 pm

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Maximum of 2 individuals per club. Only clubs planning to Return to Swimming Training in 2020 need to attend. Registration deadline is Wednesday, June 24th at 4 pm. Please register here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4834078>

Supporting our Athletes and Clubs - The ASSA is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our swimmers. Physical activity has been shown to have a strong and positive influence on mental wellbeing and some mental illnesses. Participation in regular physical activity can increase self-esteem and reduce stress and anxiety.

We recognize that there is a heightened level of uncertainty in our world and there are different levels of comfort when it comes to Covid-19. Facilities across our province will begin opening at different times, if at all. It is with all this in mind that we understand and realize that this might not be an option for your family or club, but our board of directors feel that the decision must rest in the hands of our membership as to whether or not to proceed with opening.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the pool to experience all of the great things Alberta Summer Swimming has to offer. We'll be keeping you updated throughout the summer as things unfold. If you have questions or concerns, you can always email us at albertasummerswimming@gmail.com.

In addition, you may also reach out to Swim Alberta staff:

Cheryl Humphrey, Executive Director – chumphrey@swimalberta.ca

Val Carr, Manager Membership Services - val@swimalberta.ca

Kevin Dennis, Sport Development Director – kevin@swimalberta.ca

Best regards,

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