

June 22, 2021



Hello Club Presidents and Head Coaches;

RE: Competitions, Regional and Provincial Championships

Last week's announcement by the Government of Alberta to further loosen and possibly remove health restrictions has caused excitement, optimism for some and hesitation for others. As mentioned at the townhall meeting the ASSA board of directors met to discuss a path forward and the future of the Regional and Provincial Championships for the 2021 Swim Season.

Path Forward

Clubs should expect that as affiliated members with Swim Alberta and ASSA they will be required to follow all Swim Alberta and Alberta Summer Swimming posted and printed guidelines and all Alberta Health Services restrictions regardless of what we might hear in the media. Having said that, as we move through the summer and not unlike what we have already experienced with the season start up, parents should NOT expect a normal meet experience or even the same amount and level of meets. As we approach stage 3 it is hard to determine what that will look like until official guidance documents have been received so clubs should plan based on restrictions as what they are today.

In many cases we could see a whole region back to normal and some that feel training only is appropriate. Within a region one club may choose to host a single club meet and another may hold a multi-club meet on the same weekend, while others abstain. All these scenarios are acceptable, most of all each club should make the best decision possible for their club and membership. Decisions around competitions are the decision of each club or person.

That is not to say there will not be opportunities to achieve swim times, it just may mean it will be done locally and without travel. We would like to encourage families in ASSA to focus on achieving personal bests and get comfortable with a new racing format without the focus of medals and placings. The ASSA respects the various thoughts and comfort levels around the province as they relate to the pandemic and competitions and asks that your club shares in this support.

We acknowledge there may be some disappointment regarding some decisions made to date and going forward, however in working within the confines of the pandemic some decisions are

11759 GROAT ROAD, EDMONTON ALBERTA, CANADA T5M 3K6

beyond the clubs or the ASSA's control. We ask clubs to not look for loopholes or interpret information to change the context of the guidance documents in place.

As you can imagine it promotes some creative thinking to reimagine things so that we can return to some normal activity. If you come up with a different idea, please share it with me, I would love to hear about it and provide support where we can.

Regional and Provincial Championships

After reviewing the costs and current registration numbers, the ASSA Board of Directors regrettably announces the cancellation of the 2021 ASSA Regional and Provincial Championships in the traditional form. The ASSA board believes every swimmer should have the opportunity to swim and compete if they so choose and will work to provide alternatives or share ideas that will help clubs achieve this goal.

Clubs can look forward to possibly seeing events like:

1. Virtual Racing Series
2. Single Club or Multi Club Meets (in your region if a club is interested in hosting).
3. Summer Festival Option
4. Regional Engagement Activities (virtual)

Summer Festival Option

Over the next week regions will be connecting with club presidents, to get your thoughts and feelings on a summer festival option in your region.

There are numerous way regions can host a summer festival:

- Outdoor facility with entire region
 - Facility must have the capacity for the region
- Multi-location on a single weekend
 - Virtual competition
 - Results combined to produce regional results
- Multi-location during a Competition Window (example – any date in August)
 - Virtual competition
 - Results combined to produce regional results
- Results from Virtual Racing Series ranked by region
 - Ranking can include provincial & regional results

11759 GROAT ROAD, EDMONTON ALBERTA, CANADA T5M 3K6

Stage 3 Restrictions:

Swim Alberta is committed to getting information out to clubs as quickly as possible so you can better understand what is permitted in the Stage 3 plan.

In the meantime, if you have any questions on what is permitted in the GOA plan, please reach out to Cheryl Humphrey or Kevin Dennis.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our club members for the phone calls, emails and comments to not only myself but to region reps when they reached out in preparation of the meeting. We appreciate your honesty and candor on the matter. The insights from your own club perspective allowed us the opportunity to truly make a decision that was already in the hearts and minds of our membership.

I would also like to acknowledge the swimmers. We have seen you build skills and mindsets that will help you thrive as swimmers. You learned to set goals, focus, and find ways to deal with stress. We have seen your effort, motivation, and confidence soar. We continue to be amazed by your own courage as you returned to practice or stepped on the block for the first time. You came alive during practices and it warmed souls to hear the laughter and see those smiles. When we transitioned to being shut down again, you continued to develop, learn, and grow in new ways. You learned how to create a workspace that works best for you and persevere. You developed skills and strategies; you'll use to further your successes not only in the pool but out. We watched your determination and resilience when times were tough. As you look back at all of these accomplishments, please know that your strengths and interests are always evolving. Stay curious and committed. You are so much more than what can ever be shown in a single race or competition. Continue to connect with your friends until we can be together again. Don't let distance stop you. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, use mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.

I know it is a lot of information, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions at all

Lynnette Thoresen
President - ASSA