

June 23, 2021

RE: Swim Alberta Update: Stage 3 Information AND Olympic Bonus/Sanction Fees

Hello Club Presidents and Head Coaches;

Clubs are eager to plan and begin to organize club programs and services, including competitions for July/August and beyond, understanding any recommendations in Stage 3 of Alberta's Open for Summer Plan. Swim Alberta, like all of you, wants to see athletes training and racing, with a continued focus on safety, and resembling more of what these activities looked like prior to March of 2020. Swim Alberta, from the start of the pandemic, has been committed to following and aligning with the guidance and recommendations of Alberta Health without putting in additional restrictions and requirements for clubs to follow outside of typical governing type activities such as registration, coach compliance, sanctioning etc. This philosophy will guide us through Stage 3 and any remaining plans outlined by the Government of Alberta as it relates to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Stage 3 Update

Swim Alberta's initial understanding from Alberta Health is that although legislation (health orders) will not be in place commencing July 1, 2021; we can still expect to have sector guidance and recommendations provided by Alberta Health to assist us in supporting safer environments for individuals in all sectors and types of business, including sport.

What we currently do not know is what Guidance/Recommendations Alberta Health may encourage in Stage 3 as it relates to:

- Individuals who are unable to be vaccinated due to age (11 and under) – for example if cohorts will be recommended;
- Individuals who may be fully vaccinated – for example will different guidance be provided;
- Distancing outside of the training/playing field (swimming pool) – for example in other areas of the facility such as change rooms or sitting/interacting with teammates outside of sport activity;
- Administrative activities such as daily health checks and/or contact tracing;
- Or other guidance/recommendations.

Swim Alberta will continue to work with clubs and provide guidance through the Swim Alberta Return to Swimming Requirements document with protocols and guidance for each transition from one stage to the next, including Stage 3. We are committed to help guide and support clubs in offering your programs and services with safety a key priority.

Olympic Bonus (Year Round) and Sanction Fees (Summer)

Swim Alberta recognizes the importance and value to our athletes to be able to race and compete. To encourage clubs to offer sanctioned racing opportunities for their athletes, Swim Alberta will not be collecting Olympic Bonus and Sanction Fees for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Season to minimize additional costs to clubs and their families. These fees will be covered by Swim Alberta. Commencing September 1, 2021 and for the 2021-2022 competitive season, full Olympic Bonus (Year Round) and Sanction Fees (Summer) will apply.

You have my continued commitment to provide information to you as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to either myself or Kevin Dennis.

Kind regards,
Cheryl Humphrey - Executive Director, Swim Alberta