

January 17, 2022

RE: Postponement of the Swim Alberta Winter Festivals

Hello Head Coaches and Club Presidents,

As you are all aware, the current omicron wave is impacting all sectors within Alberta, including schools and workplaces. Based on the current rates of infection, individuals sick and absent in both workplaces and schools, and number of members from multiple clubs who would attend, Swim Alberta has made the difficult decision to postpone the Swim Alberta Winter Festivals which were scheduled to occur January 29-30 in both Calgary and Spruce Grove.

The decision to postpone the festivals has weighed the options of both running and cancelling the competitions, which both have potentially negative outcomes. Running the festivals currently has the potential to expose a high number of members to infection, including swimmers, coaches, officials and volunteers. In addition, it is anticipated that a number of swimmers, coaches and officials would miss the event. Alternatively, cancelling the festivals would be yet another painful loss for Alberta's next generation of swimmers who have trained and qualified for the event.

The expected date for the festivals will be early March and will require the collaboration and support of the facilities, host clubs as well as the greater swimming community. A final date for the festivals will be communicated when available.

IMPORTANT – All swimmers who have qualified for the festivals will remain qualified and new qualifiers will be permitted. As several competitions have been cancelled or revised through January and early February, Swim Alberta will offer another virtual racing opportunity that may be used as a qualification opportunity for the festivals, communication regarding the virtual racing opportunity will be shared with all head coaches when available.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Kevin Dennis
Sport Development Director, Swim Alberta