

**Swimmers and Parents**

I hope everyone is doing well as the pandemic continues to cause us some challenges to getting back to a level of training we would like to see.

We just received word that the City is not prepared to let rental groups in to the Outdoor pools when they open as of July 13th as they are expanding the times for public swimmers and so we would be shut out. This is very disappointing news as we had hoped to increase our numbers and groups training in the water. The only good news is that our members should try to get in these pools as much as they are able to get back to swimming on their own to start. I am not sure if you need reservations at the outdoor pools for laps or not.

We also have not heard when VAC might reopen to see if we had any chance in getting back to training there. CDSC has been in the Vancouver Aquatic Centre since it opened. We are the main rental group out of this facility and have put millions of dollars in to rentals over the 40 + years. We have also rented Second Beach pool in the summers ever since it opened. As well as renting the facility, we have partnered with VAC to help in the following areas; new lane ropes, timing booth, scoreboard, pace clocks on walls, starting blocks, touch pads, backstroke flags, chin up bar and a room under the timing booth that stores equipment to mention a few.

Khosro has been searching the city for space and we have heard back from Vancouver Lawn and Tennis (no); North Shore Winter Club (no), Pinnacle Hotel in NV (no); City of Vancouver outdoor pools (no) and Four Seasons Hotel (no). We are currently waiting to hear back from three of the Y pools and then hoping that maybe VAC will open earlier than usual so we might be able to get back in there. The JCC has us renting from there at the moment, but this might be only until mid July when their members start to open up more of their own programs. Khosro has even gone as far to send out a tweet to the Prime Minister to ask if the federal government could step in as monies for recreation is sometimes portioned out to the provinces and cities for the development of these facilities.

There are still some reservations due to the messages that Swim Canada and Swim BC are sending. We have to be cautious in our return or else, we may be put back to the position of having NO pool to work out of if something does go wrong. We are following the protocol that SNC has sent out, in that at the moment, we are testing what is possible and what is allowed in order for us to see if this works and we remain safe.

As we go forward and try to get more pool space, we would work on returning all swimmers from the following groups first; YNG, Elite 2 Sr., Elite 2 Jr.; then we would be looking at Elite 1 Jr., Elite 1 Sr., Red 2, Red 1, Blue groups,. Younger swimmers would probably take longer due to the constraints, maturity and area that we have to train in. Once restrictions ease more and space opens up, then we would look for space for Masters and Fitness groups, again depending on what restrictions are put on us for space.

I believe that one of the things that could help is if parents write to the Parks Board, City, Mayor, MLA’s and MP’s and even the TV and newspaper columnists in order to help sport get back and running. I am not sure if city run hockey arenas, baseball diamonds, soccer fields and tracks have closed their doors to rental groups and just allow public in, but if they are allowing rentals, then it is NOT really fair to our sport. We are currently drafting a letter from CDSC so that you may use it to send individually to your representatives in order to get things moving. This seems to be the only thing that works. The more letters, the better.

We just want to emphasize that we are still working hard trying to get swimmers back in to training but we are running in to some roadblocks put up by the city at this time. We look forward to seeing most of our swimmers returning as soon as we are given the green light by the city. We are working hard to find different pools so that we are able to bring swimmers back and we appreciate your patience. Please continue doing the dryland online so that you are keeping in touch and getting something out of it. Swim Canada has emphasized that even their top swimmers will have to modify types of workouts until normalization gets back. They are doing less water work, adding in more dry land and yoga work in order to stay on top.

Thank you.