



**MMST TOWN HALL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

Question:

As the Town of Milton currently finds itself in the COVID Alert Red zone, can you share an update on how the new measures impact MMST's operations? Are we headed for a shut down? Have we had any swimmers test positive?

Meghan's Answer:

While I wish I had a crystal ball and knew if we were headed for a shut down, no one knows for sure. As an organization, we will continue to do everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community.

Due to the rapidly changing situation, please refer to the most up to date information found on the following websites:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
<https://www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Immunizations-Preventable-Disease/Diseases-Infections/New-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Information-and-Guidance>
http://swimontario.com/news_detail.php?id=3408

The [Return to Swimming and Racing Ontario Level Infographics](#) shows that Clubs currently in the Red zone can continue training as we have been. Clubs currently in the Orange or lower zones are able to move forward with running Sanctioned (official) Swim Meets for their organization. While we are in the Red zone, our Return to Racing Committee is getting everything in order to be prepared to host an official sanctioned event for our swimmers when we are able to do so.

At any level, regions or facilities may impose additional restrictions to what the Government has laid out. At this time, this is not the case in Halton or by the Town of Milton.

MMST has not had any cases of a swimmer testing positive to date. All Clubs are required to report any cases within their organization (whether transmission occurred at an aquatic facility or elsewhere in the community). As of October 29th, Swimming Canada reported zero recorded spread of COVID-19 amongst swimmers at pools.

Question:

Given the impact of COVID, there are many businesses declaring bankruptcy and many sports Clubs that haven't even been able to start operations this season. Can you share some input on the state of MMST financials?

Amie's Answer:

Fortunately, even prior to the COVID pandemic, the Board had been working hard to ensure the Club was in a secure financial position. As a not-for-profit entity, and knowing the cost to participate in competitive swimming is not insignificant, the Board had been focused on reducing unnecessary spending to help our families avoid large jumps in swim fees as pool costs increase annually. Pool time is the Club's largest expense. The recent COVID safety requirements, including the limited number of swimmers allowed per lane, and per session, have added some pressure on managing costs per swimmer, not to mention the administrative challenge to schedule practices. I have to thank Meghan for a tremendous amount of work in figuring the schedule and then shuffling as needed as Swim Ontario regulations have evolved.

Having said all that, the Club is in a solid financial position at this time. The Board and Head Coach review the Club's financial results each month, and we compare those results to budget to identify cost saving opportunities or areas of concern.

More specifically, the Club's year end is August 31 and we finished fiscal 2020 with net income of \$24K. The main reason we were able to generate income last season was due to receiving \$50K through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, which allowed us to keep our full-time coaches and part-time Club Administrator employed during the shut-down. We are continuing to apply for the wage subsidy each month to offset some of our salary costs. We also finished fiscal 2020 in a strong cash position, in part because families kept credits on file instead of asking for refunds for last year's shortened season. This helped give the Club some breathing room while the pool was closed. We also applied for and received a \$40,000 loan under the Canada Emergency Business Account.

For fiscal 2021, the Board approved budget projected a net loss of \$8K based on conservative estimates of Competitive and Academy swimmers. Currently, the number of competitive swimmers is in line with our budget. However, our Academy Fall registration numbers are lower than expected by almost 50%. We will continue to monitor and manage costs as necessary to ensure we keep the Club in a secure financial position as we weather the COVID challenges and for years ahead.

QUESTION:

Will there be any movement within squads this season? If so, how will you manage transitions between groups, given the COVID situation?

Meghan's Answer:

Yes, we have a small number of squad moves happening December 1st. At the start of the season, we were unsure if we would be able to accommodate any squad movement this season with the strict group size restrictions in place. Currently, we have space in our Senior and Novice squads. We will

only move swimmers when we feel they are ready and it is beneficial to their long-term athletic development regardless of having space. It then became a trickle-down effect. If our Senior Development athletes accepted their move into Senior, we were able to invite Juniors into Senior Development and so on and so forth. We are fortunate to have been able to facilitate these moves. Regardless of if we are able to accommodate additional moves throughout the season, the coaching staff will continue to ensure each athlete is challenged in their respective squads.

Question:

What is the likelihood that we will be able to run and/or attend swim meets this season?

Meghan's Answer:

Again, this is a rapidly evolving piece and what is true today may not be tomorrow! Currently, Clubs across the Province in Orange and below zones are able to host in house sanctioned Time Trials. To date, 15 sanctioned events took place in November in Ontario. I am hopeful the Halton region will move out of the Red zone at some point in the New Year and we will be able to host an event. No matter what competitions may occur this season, one thing we know for sure is it will not look anything like the crowded meets we were accustomed to. I am unsure if we will see a meet outside of our home pool at this point in time.

Question:

If we are not able to run swim meets in 2021, what happens to our volunteer points requirement?

Amie's Answer:

The Board's overall objective is to be fair to families in light of the number of available volunteer opportunities available.

To give some context, last year when our season was cut short, the Board and the team's Club Officials Chair reviewed the Volunteer Commitment and revised the Volunteer Points Requirement as well as the Officials Clinic requirement. As some of you may recall:

- The Officials Clinic Requirement was waived for all families.
- The Volunteer Points Requirement was waived for any new family who joined the Club after October 21, 2019, and the total Volunteer Points Requirement was reduced by 50%.

To determine this year's Volunteer Commitment, we formed a Volunteer Commitment Review Committee during the summer and reduced the Volunteer Points Requirement for this year's season based on swim meets not running until January. That's why this year's Volunteer Points Requirement is significantly lower compared to prior years. If the restrictions remain in place and the number of swim meets MMST can run is further reduced and/or eliminated, the Board will revisit the Volunteer Points Requirement and revise it if needed based on the available volunteer opportunities available.

Question:

Winter is approaching and I am concerned about my child having to wait outside in the cold with wet hair. How will we keep our swimmers safe and healthy? Also, do we know if the Parkas will be delivered before the end of the year?

Meghan's Answer:

As all swimmers across the country have been asked to "Arrive – Train - Depart" and avoid change rooms, you can image there has been quite a surge of parka orders! Our supplier contacted all those families who ordered a parka to indicate that they were on backorder. As he communicated to those families, medium and large sizes would arrive late November and small sizes would arrive in December. Please refer to the communication that came directly from Cambridge Source for Sport for specific details. Medium and Large parkas have now been delivered and will be available to be picked up on November 5th at the same time as our Poinsettia Fundraiser pick up. As soon as we have the small parkas, we will let families know.

The health and safety of our swimmers is our number one priority so the most important thing we can ask is for parents to be on time to pick up swimmers. We recognize it is unconventional to ask families to have swimmers depart in their wet suits. At this point, I am thankful we are not one of the many Clubs in more northern areas of Canada whose winter will be longer and colder than ours. Our coaches will ensure swimmers do not have to wait outside at all in their wet gear. We also ask that all swimmers come prepared with layers of warm clothes, jackets, toques etc. in case they are outside for any length of time waiting to be picked up.

Question:

I have questions about the status of my account, who should I contact for help?

Amie's Answer:

We have updated the Parent Info tab on the website in an effort to make it easier for parents to find information on the Club's operations and governance. For example, there's a Contacts page under the Parent Info tab where we have explained who you should contact for questions related to training, administrative matters and volunteering. Make sure you log into the MMST website first so all the pages under the Parent Info tab are visible to you.

I would like to highlight the fact that the Katarina, the Club's part-time Administrator/Bookkeeper, works Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for us so please be patient when waiting for a reply.

Once you have had a chance to review that section of the website, if you think we're missing please let me know if you have suggestions about additional information that should be posted, please let me know.