

February 9, 2021

Dear Club President and Head Coaches,
(this information can be shared with club membership and coaches)

Swim Alberta Update – Step 1 Changes – Children and Youth Sport Activities – CMOH 02-2021

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we worked through creating a better understanding of “what” can occur as well as “how” swimming can proceed under the CMOH 02-2021. I know you are all eager to return to training and have swimmers back in the water.

Attached you will find the full Swim Alberta Requirements Document to better help you understand what can occur as part of the return to training in Step 1 of the Government of Alberta’s path forward announced several days ago.

A couple highlights and requirements to be aware of:

- 3 m of physically distancing is required between athletes and coach(s).
- Several options to maximize the pool space while adhering to the 3 m of physical distancing have been provided to support clubs to returning with more athletes and facilities to increase their capacity to support a safe return to swimming under the current restrictions.
- Cohorts are no longer permitted. Therefore, physically distancing must be observed at all times, except as outlined in the Order.
- Only those athletes 18 years and under may train in groups of up to ten (10) individuals including coaches while physically distanced; any athletes 19 years and older may participate in one-on-one training as outlined in the attached document and CMOH 02-2021. Training must be provided by a certified and registered Swim Alberta coach.
- Athletes and Facilities approved through the High Performance Exemption may follow the High Performance Exemption Requirements of Swim Alberta and the Exemption Order from Alberta Health.

Further it is our understanding from the confirmation we have received through the Sport Physical Activity and Recreation Branch from Alberta Health that a facility can create more than a single space to accommodate the training groups of 10. You will see examples of this in the attached document. Please work closely with your facility who can provide details on how the space can be utilized. Key to this is that the groups cannot have the same coach nor can the groups interact with each other.

Again, I would ask clubs to give facility operators a chance to determine their next steps. Some facilities may still choose not to open due to the costs to operate under these conditions, as the general public is still not permitted to access facilities. Pool facilities need time to recall staff and re-train staff if they have decided to pursue a re-opening.

Swim Alberta was hopeful that we would be able to provide a multi-swimmer per lane scenario for clubs to utilize and have worked with the Government of Alberta on this, however at this point Alberta Health is requiring the 3 m of distancing at all times. Continued work with the Government of Alberta and specifically Alberta Health will be pursued in the future to demonstrate how safe the sport of swimming is and can be. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Swim Alberta will be hosting a townhall meeting with head coaches on Wednesday February 10th at 12 noon. A separate email will be sent out shortly. The purpose of the townhall will be to review the various training scenarios and answer any questions coaches may have. Please reach out with any questions.

Kind regards,
Cheryl Humphrey, Executive Director