

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this email is to provide our members with an update regarding the status of our 'Return to Swimming' plans as there have been some positive developments over the past two weeks.

Since our last practice on March 12, our Head Coach, Robert Pettifer has been in constant contact with the City of Richmond Aquatics management, gathering information regarding a return to the pools. On May 29th, Swimming Canada published it's "[Return to Swimming](#)" framework. This document provided a national guideline for each Provincial Swimming Organization to develop its Return to Swimming plan following its Provincial Government and Health Authorities Return to Sport guidelines and protocols. On Friday, June 12th, [Swim BC published their Return to Swimming document](#) that provided all the Swim BC clubs such as ours a comprehensive guideline to create our Return to Swimming plan.

For any swimming to begin, the following steps need to be taken:

1. Each Club is required to create their own "Return to Swimming" plan that adheres to all protocols & guidelines required by the Provincial Health Authority, Via Sport, Swim BC and its own municipality's requirements.
2. Have the Club's Board of Directors approve the plan.
3. Have Swim BC review and support the project.
4. Club's educate all members of their plan and have members sign waiver forms confirming understanding of protocols.

Once the Swim BC plan was published on Friday, the Rapids senior coaching staff has been developing the Rapids Return to Swimming plan. On Sunday night, The Rapids Board of Directors held a meeting and approved this plan. This morning, our plan was sent to Swim BC for final approval. Earlier this afternoon, Swim BC approved it!

This week, the City of Richmond Aquatics management will be seeking approval from City Council to re-open the pools. Re-opening of facilities will begin with the outdoor pools this summer and the indoor pools in September if all continues to go well. This includes the new Minoru pool!

The opening Steveston pool will be a slow opening, and our space will be minimal early on. Our plan, following Swimming Canada & Swim BC's guidelines, will be a phased-in approach for programming. This week the coaching staff will begin working on programming for the summer based on the positive information we are hoping to receive from Richmond Aquatics. Over the next two to three weeks, we will send out more information as soon as it is ready.

Please understand that any programming available this summer is simply a start and will not be open to all levels as a result of current restrictions and available pool space. Things can change week to week, so we encourage everyone to continue to do their part to social distance and stay healthy. We appreciate everyone's patience, and please know that the Rapids are committed to returning to the pool safely and responsibly.

In the meantime, we ask that you read through The Rapids Return to Swimming Plan that is attached. This is a "live" document meaning that changes may be made according to developments with the Covid-19 pandemic. Do not send in any of the waiver forms at this time. Further instructions will be provided once programming is confirmed.

After reading the "Rapids Return to Swimming Plan" that is attached, please participate in our [Return to Swimming Declaration of Interest Survey](#). This survey is simply to aid the coaching staff in our program planning and not an actual commitment to participating at this time.

Thank you,

Dennis Silva
SRP Coach/ Office manager
Richmond Rapids Swim Club