Hi all,

We are looking forward to seeing you all this weekend at Pan Am for the St. James Seals Invitational! This return to racing for all swimmers in Manitoba has been long awaited. This email is going to outline the different COVID-19 Precautions and Procedures that are in place to protect all who are involved this weekend. We apologize for the delay in sending this as, regardless of what your club was told, we were compiling the most up to date information that came down the pipeline. While this won’t be the same as a pre-COVID swim meet, most of the information is very similar to the August Summer Fun Fest, but there are some changes that have come through from Swim MB & the City of Winnipeg.

1. There will be no spectators
2. Livestreams will be unavailable as per the City of Winnipeg’s privacy policy
3. Masks are always mandatory for everyone until it’s the swimmers turn to swim
4. As of now – all swimmers will be entering the facility through the main entrance. The compound doors will be unavailable. Anyone 18+ will need to prove their double vaccination by having their QR Code scanned at the front desk by a City of Winnipeg Staff member.
5. Warm up will be limited to 8 swimmers per lane as per the Swim MB Return to Play document.
6. Swimmers will be distanced by Team in pre-assigned areas and masked in the Main Tank stands until they are called down to be marshalled.
7. The Blue Matted area will act as a “Ready Room” for Marshalling. Swimmers will be marshalled 2 heats in advance. 16 chairs will be placed in two rows of eight, all spaced 6 feet apart. Swimmers will be called down heat by heat and should not loiter at the bottom of the stairs by the entrance to the training tank.
8. There will be a flow path for swimmers to follow during the meet. Swimmers will exit the stands and utilize the hand sanitizer at the top of the north stairs as they head down to the training tank north entrance. Once through the entrance they will sit in their assigned marshalling chairs. Bins for swimmer’s gear at marshalling will be available for Race League Swimmers in 25m events. Swimmers must wait until they are allowed behind the block by the officials to ensure that social distancing is followed. Once a swimmer is behind the block, they can remove their masks. Once a race is completed, swimmers exit the pool, mask up, gather their belongings and have a short meet with their coaches on the East side of the tank. After the meeting, swimmers will continue to the south side of the deck, exit, and continue up the south stairs to their assigned area.
9. All surfaces will be disinfected between swimmers – including the blocks, marshalling chairs, baskets, etc.
10. Disinfecting wipes will be available at all times on deck.
11. Garbage bins will be easily accessible to dispose of masks when new ones are made available.
12. There will be 4 warm down lanes available. Each lane also has a capacity of 8 swimmers.
13. There will be no backstroke ledges available as per Swim Manitoba.
14. Additional officials will be used to ensure swimmers practice social distancing and follow the above rules.
15. Officials will have a best practices document that will be given to them. Swim MB created their own based on the Swimming Canada document. That document is attached.

We’d like to thank you all on your patience while we took the necessary steps in ensuring that this meet will run safety and smoothly. The Swim MB document, Summer Fun Fest Debrief, & Officials best practices document will also be attached for complete transparency with you all. Looking forward to seeing some racing this weekend!

Thanks,

ST. JAMES SEALS