

May 12, 2020  
To Ohio Swimming Members and Families,

I hope that all of you are in good health. I wanted to provide an update on where we stand with swimming as of today.

USA Swimming has extended the freeze on issuing new sanctions for competitions until the end of May. In addition, the Governor has not lifted the restrictions on youth sports and swimming facilities. Unfortunately, this will mean that there will not be a makeup for the short course Junior Olympic meet.

The Age Group and Senior Committees have been working hard on developing a meet that will fit into new social distancing guidelines and provide the majority of swimmers in Ohio Swimming an opportunity for a championship type meet later in the summer. As the state releases details and updates on guidelines as it pertains to youth sports then Ohio Swimming will announce specific dates and details on this meet as well as any other meets that we may be able to hold.

While it will be great to offer competitions for the athletes, we must first get back into the water for practices. Ohio Swimming, along with Lake Erie Swimming, sent a proposal to Governor DeWine last Friday on how teams can safely start back to practices. The goal is to get approval at the state level to start phasing in practices for swim teams prior to pools opening to the public, which may not happen until later this summer.

Ohio Swimming is running virtual "Town Hall" meetings on Fridays for the head coaches of each club. Representatives from USA Swimming have been providing updates at the meetings. In addition, there have been guest speakers who have provided educational opportunities on various topics along with any updates from Ohio Swimming.

A new version of the Ohio Swimming website has been launched. We hope that this site will be more user friendly and a valuable resource for all of our members to use.

Finally, the board of directors for Ohio Swimming approved emergency funding assistance for the clubs in the LSC. In order to receive funding, teams must complete an application and meet specific criteria. The goal is to help as many teams as possible stay viable through the pandemic and be able to start up when the time comes

The COVID-19 situation continues to be fluid and more swimming updates will be provided as details are released by the state.

Thank you and stay healthy.

Todd Billhimer  
Ohio Swimming General Chair