



Greetings Iowa Swimmers, Officials and Parents

My name is Bobby Kelley and I have volunteered to serve you as Iowa Swimming's General Chair. I want to reach out to you as we all struggle with the consequences of dealing with COVID-19 and the world pandemic. This world health emergency has impacted everyone in so many ways and each of us feel its impact with swimming too.

The Impact of COVID-19 and Swimming in Iowa

Here are some updates when it comes to the impact of COVID-19 and swimming in Iowa:

- The Olympics have been postponed until August 2021 and the US Olympic Trials are also delayed until next June.
- Open Water Nationals and Open Water Junior Nationals were postponed.
- To date, USA Swimming cancelled all sanctioned meets from mid-March through the month of April which included the Sectional meet in Wisconsin that many Iowa swimmers were scheduled to compete.
 - Additionally, leaders of USA Swimming have announced that it will likely extend this period of not permitting sanctioned meets through the month of May.
 - Leaders of USA Swimming have also indicated that sanctioned meets might not be permitted again until all LSC's can safely run meets.
- The governor of Iowa has closed all public pools within the state until further notice effectively suspending the ability for swim clubs in Iowa to hold practices.
- Additionally, last week the Central Zone cancelled this summer's Open Water Championship and the Age Group Zone Championships.

Swimming will be back!

I write you not necessarily to tell what has been cancelled; I know many of you are already aware of these cancellations. The real purpose of the email to let you know what is happening and to assure you that ***swimming will be back!***

- ✓ USA Swimming continues to work with the LSC's with the goal to have swimming starting again as soon as possible. For example, USA Swimming supports clubs begin practicing again once facilities have reopened and local governments' rules and regulations permit these types of activities.
- ✓ Representatives from USA Swimming have also communicated that with the return of sanctioned meets, it is best for meets to be locally planned. USA Swimming recognizes that city and state governments throughout the country will likely develop differing rules about how to manage social distancing.
 - Iowa will be permitted to run meets that best work with the regulations set forth by Iowa's state health department and government.
 - Iowa will not be restricted to rules and regulations that impact other states and other areas of the country.



- ✓ With the cancellation of the Central Zone Age Group Championships, USA Swimming has empowered Iowa to plan for what is best for Iowa when it comes to the summer competitive schedule. With the late start to competitions, if our LSC chooses, Iowa can extend this summer's long course season into the middle or even late part of August.
- ✓ Iowa Swimming's governing body is working on ways that the LSC can financially support its members and swim clubs. Recognizing that there have been many financial strains, IASI wants all of our clubs and athletes to be able to stay solvent and start back when we are permitted to swim again. Although the methods about how the LSC will provide this financial support has not been finalized, please know that many ideas are being considered. Once more is known, it will be communicated to all.

Moving Forward

We are all missing swimming and it will be back. As we move forward, please know that both USA Swimming and the Iowa Swimming's Board of Directors are working for you. Life will get back to normal and swimming will start back again.

If you have any questions or suggestions for IASI's board of directors, please contact the IASI office or me directly.

Stay safe and continue to practice social distancing.

Sincerely,

Bobby Kelley

Iowa Swimming Board of Directors - General Chair

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