**Safe Return & Riptide Re-Entry Q&A**

**Safety:**

**How will we return safely?** USA Swimming and Michigan Swimming have been advocating for our athletes and putting together plans for a “Safe Return” for swim clubs to use when pools reopen. The USA governing body for the Olympic/Paralympic Sports have put together protocols and guidance. These guidelines have been adopted internationally, as well as by the National Federation of High Schools to train administrators and coaches.

**What is the club doing to ensure safety in the pool?**  We will have Swimmer Safe Return protocols which will be distributed and outline pre-swim, arrival/drop off, on deck practice and exit guidelines. (see attached)

**Why is swimming classified as a Level I “Low Risk Sport?”** Swimming is classified as “low risk” as there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID 19 can be spread to people through the water and pools. Disinfectants such as chlorine and bromine in these facilities inactivate the virus in the water. Additionally, because swimmers exhale “into the water” the likelihood aspiration of particulates from swimmers who are training is exceptionally low.

**How can swimmers protect themselves and others?** Swimmers should continue to protect themselves and others at swimming pools both in and out of the water by practicing physical distancing and good hand hygiene. There will also be monitoring of gatherings during breaks and numbers in rest rooms.

**How will they ensure meets will be safe?** Michigan swimming will share guidance on new formats for swim meets once we have more guidance from the CDC and other governing bodies.

**Registration**

**How is re-entry registration going to work?** We will be taking a week by week approach to registration. Fees to follow once we know how many swimmers opt-in for summer programming and group assignment. Similar to Virtual Dryland registration, swimmers will be charged for summer swim week by week. This approach allows us to include more of our swimmers as facilities reopen. Our goal is to get our swimmers safely back in the water!

**LCM Season:**

**Will we have summer LCM meets?** At this time, we do not know if we will have meets. USA Swimming has instructed all LSC’s to hold off on meets through June and to not to approve meets in July until we have a better feel for social and physical distancing guidelines. Furthermore, with athlete safety in mind, coaches will focus on a safe return to training knowing many swimmers have had a considerable break from training.

**Will we have LCM Championship meets?** In accordance with the recommendations of USA Swimming, Michigan Swimming canceled all approved meets for July including State Championships.

**Junior Riptide:**

**Is Junior Riptide returning this summer?** We will be sending out a communication to our Junior Riptide swimmers that based on safe return guidelines, we will unfortunately not be able to get the Juniors back into the pool this summer. Based on USA Swimming and USA Swim school recommendation on physical distancing and numbers in lanes, these groups do not allow for a safe enough format at this time. These groups require much higher coach to swimmer interaction for both training and pool safety.

**How about recreational programs?** We understand that sign-ups are starting to happen in community recreational programs. We are not aware of swim programs beginning at this time, but please check directly with community ed.

**How about pre-registration for the fall?** We value all our swimmers and very much want to see them in the pool, safely and as soon as possible. We hope you come back to Riptide in the fall and we will be opening Fall Pre-Registration shortly.

**HS Conditioning:**

**Should HS Conditioning swimmers sign up for Week 1 of Riptide?** If you are a HS Swimmer or incoming 9th grader who swims off-season with Riptide, we would welcome you to register for Week 1 of the program as further details are determined on approach.