

Sanctioning Update - 7/20/2020

Ohio Swimming Members,

With the number of COVID-19 cases increasing and the limits on public gatherings still in place in both Ohio and Kentucky, we will be placing a freeze on the first half (through December 31) of the short course meet schedule as it was voted upon by the House of Delegates in June. In lieu of the traditional invitationals that we typically compete in, we will begin issuing sanctions for the following:

- Beginning August 1, 2020, OSI will grant sanctions for teams to run Intrasquad meets. The meets can be long course or short course but must meet all guidelines set forth by USA Swimming and the Governor of Ohio and/or Kentucky.
- Beginning September 1, 2020, OSI will grant sanctions for virtual dual, tri and quad meets to replace the traditional invitationals that we compete in. The meet schedule will be fluid and if at any point state restrictions are lifted, we will revert back to the original meet schedule for those teams who wish to run those meets. If you have other creative ideas about running meets, please reach out to technical planning to discuss.

By November 30, the Technical Planning Committee, along with Age Group and Senior Committees, will make a decision on the meet schedule for the second half of the year and all LSC championship meets. This will include a new date for the Senior Championships which was originally scheduled for November.

Technical Planning is also working on the details to allow granting of sanctions for Approved meets (meets run under USA Swimming Technical Rules but not all competitors are USA Swimming Members). Details on Approved Meets will come in a later communication.

The application for Sanction is available today for Intrasquad and Virtual (dual, tri and quad) meets. Later this week, there will be a meet book template that you will be required to use for your meets. All this information will be made available on the Ohio Swimming website under Info>Meets/Sanctions.

While this is not the ideal meet situation, it is the safest way to allow our athletes to compete. We have the majority of our teams back to practice and the goal is to keep everyone in the water. We feel that this direction in competitions will give us the best opportunity to do that.

Ohio Swimming is in a good situation compared to many other LSC's that have not returned to the pool yet. We applaud our teams and their staffs for following protocols and guidelines to provide safe environments for our athletes to train in. To date, there are no known COVID cases in any of our athletes. While we realize that this will probably change, if we follow the necessary steps, we should have no issues keeping people swimming throughout the year.

Thank you for your understanding and good luck as we begin competition.

Sincerely,

Todd Billhimer
General Chair – Ohio Swimming
