

Hello GPAC!

The coaches, staff and board hope that all is well with you and yours during this pandemic. Please feel free to reach out to Coach Greg or Coach Phil if there is something that we can assist you with during this difficult time.

Since the office is not being staffed regularly and Jordyn has Finals this week, we have been trying to keep up with calls and email but if you left a message or sent an email we will take care of the issue and get back to you, we apologize for any delay.

I wish I had an amazing update for you regarding our return to the pool, but for now we are holding our present course. As many of you are likely aware USA Swimming cancelled all meets through the end of May and they have cancelled their big meets (sectionals/futures, Nationals, etc. at the end of the summer. USA Swimming is telling their National Team swimmers to work on being ready for competition in November. While nothing is official, they are telling everyone to take competitions this summer out of their plans. This is due to the likely social distancing guidelines that will be put in place as it would be practically impossible to hold a meet with hundreds of swimmer and spectators all staying 6 feet apart.

A return to practice may look a bit different. PSC and UWF have not updated their timelines for their pools to be open but after the governor spoke yesterday, I think an update could be coming soon. It is likely that we are still a bit away from being back in the water, but USA Swimming is coming out with some best practices to help guide teams back into training. We should know more about these later this week. Every facility will come with its own set of circumstances that we will have to work with to return to practice while obeying/enforcing the guidelines set forth by our facilities, city and state as well as those best practices. We have already been working on some ideas (we have hand sanitizer, face masks and digital thermometers!) However, when we return, GPAC is committed to doing it safely and with our current swimmers in mind.

To that end we have some announcements regarding our team.

Our Spring Clinic has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled. We have cancelled our summer league program this summer – we felt that bringing in new inexperienced swimmers during this time was not best for safety or for our current swimmers (lane space, attention, etc.). Swim Lessons will be adjusted for safety and for lane space. This is an important program for us financially however we are first and foremost a competitive swim team.

You know that our Flip Flop meet, and our Tom Lalor meets are affected by USA Swimming's decisions thus far. It is likely that our Summer Finale will also be cancelled however we are keeping it on the schedule until we determine if we can host it in any form or fashion. Southeastern Swimming will also be meeting soon about the SES Championships. We will get you all the info as soon as we know more.

We will once again suspend training fees for the month of May. You will not see those fees on your May account statement. Likewise, we will not charge hospitality fees for either May meet (those would be on your June statement). *Reminder, please make a prompt payment of any past due fees so that GPAC will have a good clear picture of our financials moving forward.* The Board also voted to remove the second half of this years Team Support Points requirement; those will now reset in September. We will

also be removing all the associated incentives and will continue to put those fees paid back into the swimmers and team in accordance with the policy.

We have also added some things to the website regarding COVID-19. There are some links to the World Health Organization and The Florida Department of Health as well as links to USA Swimming. We have also added a "Swimmer Improvement" section at the bottom of the page. It includes a statement regarding liability, appearances, safety etc. as well as lots of links to ideas for self improvement during this pandemic. You will see other items posted on that page particularly as we gear up for our return to the pool.

Again, we hope all is well and please, please, please stay healthy and happy. We miss seeing the swimmer's chlorine infused selves.

The GPAC Staff and Board of Directors