



Sierra Nevada Swimming Members-

As we move towards a close of 2020, I wanted to take the opportunity to reach out to the Sierra Nevada membership.

I would like to extend thanks on behalf of Sierra Nevada Swimming to all of our members, including swimmers, coaches, officials and parents for their resilience throughout the challenges due to COVID. This has undoubtedly been a difficult and challenging year for all of us...both in and out of the pool.

Throughout the last nine months, it has been more than inspiring to see the ability of our swimmers and coaches to adapt and find ways to train and connect with their teammates as well as their colleagues throughout our LSC. Teams have shown an unparalleled amount of dedication throughout COVID shutdowns and limitations to connect virtually as well as in-person practices and meets.

We are far from over from the effects of COVID. The Sierra Nevada Board will continue to monitor as well as discuss any regional, county and state guidelines to communicate to our member clubs. These include various areas of Northern California as well as a portion of Nevada. Member teams are being asked to adhere to their local, regional and state guidelines. As much as we want our athletes to train and compete, we also need to ensure their safety as well as the safety of those around them at the pool and at home.

The State of California recently provided an updated guideline for Youth Sports Competitions, which specifically addresses swimming as well as youth competitions. Sierra Nevada Swimming has been working with an advocacy group to educate our regional and state leaders about how practices and small meets can be conducted safely. In the most recent info from the state, swimming was recognized as a low-risk activity. This is a big win for our teams and our sport.

We have put a "pause" on issuing sanctions for meets to start the New Year. The SN Swimming Board will be meeting on January 7th to review information presented as well as any regional and state updates and follow up with an update to our member teams.

*Some things to look forward to in 2021:*

We will hold a Virtual Awards Banquet in late January or early February. A committee is currently collecting pictures, swimmer info and videos to put together this fun and interactive event for our swimmers.

We will be offering a Virtual Championships this spring. This will include a defined period of time to capture and update times held at any sanctioned meet in Sierra Nevada Swimming. This will take the place of our spring Short Course 14 and under championships meet. We are hoping to hold an in-person meet later this spring if we are able to do so. This meet could range from a single site to multiple sites.

Our Athlete Committee has done an outstanding job in providing feedback and leadership on behalf of the Sierra Nevada Swimmers to the Board of Directors. They will be working in partnership with the Age Group Committee to organize the spring championships and contribute to the excitement of the event.

Finally, we are working on improved communication to all members of Sierra Nevada Swimming. This will include a monthly news email, website improvements and updates as well as virtual town hall events in January. We look forward to connecting with our membership as well as receiving feedback to ensure the safety as well as the physical and mental wellness of our athletes.

We hope to see you at one or more of the Sierra Nevada Swimming events in 2021. Have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Ricky Silva

General Chair

Sierra Nevada Swimming

