

# Fox Valley Wave Swim Team

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## Important Dates

### June 15

Parent Board Meeting  
6:00 pm- Virtual

## Coaches Letter

Hello WAVE families,

As I sit at my desk I'm thinking about what the last eleven and half weeks have brought into our lives, and more importantly, what the future holds for us. It was March 12, 2020, when the swimming world, and much of the rest of the world, came crashing down. Meets were canceled, practices were canceled and pools were closed. For someone who likes "to be in the know," it certainly kicked-off a time of the unknown. The board and I thought we would have more answers by now, but the path forward seems as cloudy as it was on day one. I would like to take the time to update you on what "I think" I know, what we as a staff are currently doing, what I don't know, and where we hope to be in the future.

Here are a couple of things we do know:

- **Appleton Area School District Pools:** AASD shut down schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and the schools have been closed to any activity until June 30, 2020. Through the Wisconsin Local Swimming Committee (WI LSC) an opinion was given from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that AASD pools could be open to outside groups at some point. The decision to open to outside groups could be made by AASD after the school year has ended on Friday, June 5, 2020, or as late as June 30, 2020.
- **Neenah Joint School District Pool:** NJSD shut down schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and the schools have been closed to any activity until June 30, 2020. Through the Wisconsin Local Swimming Committee (WI LSC) an opinion was given from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that AASD pools could be open to outside groups at some point. The decision to open to outside groups could be made by NJSD after the school year has ended on Friday, June 5, 2020, or as late as June 30, 2020.
- **Appleton Park and Recreation Pools:** As many of you may know already, Appleton Park and Recreation has decided not to open community pools for the summer of 2020.
- **Neenah Park and Recreation Pool:** The Neenah outdoor pool is opening on June 12, 2020. The good news is a pool is finally opening, unfortunately the bad news is that their schedule will be changed due to COVID-19, and our normal practice time is not available.



## June Birthdays

6/1 –Emma Seibel

6/2 –Ketner Murry

6/4 –Ian Riddlehoover

6/5 –Joy Vandenberg

6/7 –Ellen Farrell

6/8 –Kaitlyn Fox, Anna  
Mulroy, Malachi  
Dobberstein

6/16 –Akhil Maheshwari

6/17 –Morgan Bernhardt

6/22 –Finn Lettau

6/29 –Alexandra  
Summers

- **Other City Pools:** Some are opening and some are not, we are trying to keep up with this information as it changes daily.
- **Swim Meets:** All USA Swimming sanctioned competitions have been suspended through June 30, 2020. USA Swimming hopes the swimming community can return to small competitions such as sanctioned intra-squad meets, virtual meets, and potentially community-based dual meets in July. USA Swimming staff continues to plan for a regionally based series of non-championship meets in August for athletes at the sectional level and above.

Wisconsin Swimming has canceled all end-of-season championship meets, including Open Water, Regional Championships, 12 & Under State and 13 & Over State. Wisconsin Swimming will follow guidance from USA Swimming for future meet sanctions.

- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Recommendation:** At this time, the Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that all public pools, splash pads, and waterparks remain closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Pool administrators are taking guidance from the DHS, and some are adhering to this guidance, and some are making their own decisions.

With all of that being said, where are we going from here? A few action items the WAVE is currently working on are listed below:

- **Appleton Area School District Pools:** We will be submitting a WAVE ‘Return to Practice Plan’, to Appleton North requesting the use of their pool. Please refer to our attached WAVE ‘Return to Practice Plan’. We will be starting our conversation with a current administrator with whom we have a good relationship.
- **Neenah Joint School District Pool:** We will be submitting a WAVE ‘Return to Practice Plan’, to Neenah Pool requesting the use of their pool. Please refer to our attached WAVE ‘Return to Practice Plan’. We will be starting our conversation with a current administrator with whom we have a good relationship.
- **Appleton Park and Recreation Pools:** We have been informed that Erb Pool is filled with water and will be “run” even though the pool is closed. We are teaming up with two local USA registered swim teams to present a similar ‘Return to Practice Plan’ to Erb Pool. We will request special consideration as a private team because of our individual insurance policies. We plan to control the number of swimmers and the usage of the facility. We will operate in a manner that reduces the risks to anyone as much as possible. We have also requested the help of Knight Public Affairs, a lobbying group hired by the WI LSC who has worked throughout the state on pool issues, to assist in our request.

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- **Neenah Park and Recreation Pool:** We are working with the pool manager and Park and Rec to determine a time that the pool could be utilized by the WAVE. We will present the same 'Return to Practice Plan'. The times may be off hours and minimal, but we believe some pool time is better than nothing at this point.
  - **Other City Pools:** We will be sending our 'Return to Practice Plan' to other city pools that have lanes marked on the bottom of the pool.
  - **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Recommendation:** The WI LSC is taking the lead on this issue. A letter is being sent to Governor Evers supporting his efforts to keep residents as-safe-as-possible and outlining why swimming pools should be viewed differently than splash pads and waterparks. In addition, the letter will outline how the use of a pool by a swim team is much different than open swim and even swim lessons. The LSC is also asking several teams from around the state to send similar letters. These initial steps will be completed this week with the request for the DHS to modify its recommendation for pools and specifically their use by swim teams.

Even with the list of things we know, and our plans for moving forward, there is still so much we do not know. We do not know when most pools will reopen, we do not know if our plans are sufficient to reduce risk to an acceptable level or are too restrictive. We do not know if we will continue to see normalcy in the future months. Everything is fluid right now. We want you as parents to know that we will continue to seek guidance from our national and local swimming organizations. We will continue to utilize health and safety guidance from the CDC, WI DHS, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Red Cross and other pertinent agencies to keep our swimmers as safe as possible.

As a staff we will continue to interact and add content to the WAVE Facebook groups and Instagram. As a reminder, these groups are private and are administered by WAVE coaches. Only WAVE swimmers and parents who request to join will be accepted. We will also continue to work with our Parent Board, all parents, and swimmers to serve our WAVE family.

I don't know when, but I am confident we will be back in the pool. As a team we will be here when pools open. We will be here when you and your swimmers are ready. We will be here when our rhythm of life returns. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone on the pool deck again soon.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,  
Coach Curt

## Sponsor Thank You

Thank you to our 2020 sponsors. We appreciate your continued support of our youth on the Fox Valley Wave Swim Team.



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