

Thursday 14th May 2020

Swimming WA COVID-19 Update for Clubs

Please find below an **IMPORTANT update** from Swimming WA with regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Swimming WA will continue to update our website and Facebook as necessary and we welcome any content you may want to share or topics you would like us to cover. We will also continue the process of emailing Presidents and / or Members directly with updated information as we progress through the pandemic. Please if you require any further detail or need to chat about how COVID-19 is affecting your club contact Luke Gavin or Grace Schmidt at our office – (08) 9328 4599

First and foremost, in all our minds must be – HEALTH & SAFETY.

To date we have had a great response from the swimming community to participate to their best ability in ensuring a healthy West Australian population moving forward and I hope this will continue to occur. If you are undertaking or contemplating an activity either in the water, as a physical group or social interaction via technology, please consider Health & Safety above Sport.

Swimming WA has been working with various government agencies (both State and Federal) to ensure we have the correct and clear information to provide to Clubs with recent updates pertaining to COVID-19 restrictions. We are providing you with an update today based upon the current information as at 14th May 2020. Whilst we are closely monitoring all government information delivery avenues to keep you all up to date, Swimming WA requests you to ensure that you regularly check the WA Government Website for any changes to legislation.

You can find the directives here - <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

You may be aware that in the last week there have been some changes to the current status of swimming pools in Western Australia. This may be causing confusion for some Clubs as this now means a different status for swimming pools in Western Australia versus other States and Territories. It is important to note that when the Prime Minister makes recommendations and public statements to the States about restriction guidelines relating to COVID-19, each State must then consider how those recommendations will be applied. They are not enforceable in West Australia until the Premier Mark McGowan, enacts a Direction and/or provides an exception.

The Western Australian Directions apply to everyone living in, and entering, Western Australia.

What are the regulations and What has changed?

In their own way each of the following Emergency Declaration and WA Directions are relevant to swimming and should be considered by anyone organising or participating:

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- Emergency Declaration
- Closure of non-essential business and other activities
- Cross-border travel
- Gatherings
- Isolation following diagnosis or close contact
- Overseas travel self-quarantine

You can review the directives here - <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

With specific reference to the Closure of non-essential business and other activities directive, the following timeline exists in relation to swimming venues:

- Indoor Sporting Venues to be closed – Federal Direction (23 March 2020)
- Swimming Pools to be closed – Federal Direction (25 March 2020)
- Public Swimming Pools to be closed - WA Direction (25 March 2020)
- Roadmap to ease COVID-19 Restrictions- Federal Direction (10 May 2020)

How does this affect my Club?

The current exception to the direction provides for a limited return for registered swimming Club training which is a function of most Clubs and something Committees must now form an opinion on and provide clear direction to Members with regards to what is appropriate for the situation of their Club.

Swimming WA will continue to obtain clarity around this and you will be notified of any further changes to the exception. **In the meantime, please commence your planning and preparation for a limited return to training.**

What are Swimming WA's directions?

Swimming WA's objective is to guide and support SWA Clubs, but our role is to;

- Confirm your Club has considered the reasons for a return to training (or not); and is prepared to;
- Will monitor and review the social isolation directions / rules; and
- Will include in the clubs return to training operational plan such measures and conditions as necessary to create and monitor a safe environment
- Return the attached 'National Guidelines for Restarting Club Environments' checklist with a copy of the clubs return to training operational plan.

All clubs must return the Checklist – even if they will **NOT be returning to training.**

What things should my Club consider when planning and preparing?

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- Who is providing the training? Exception is specific with regards to this - training must be linked to or conducted by a SWA
 - Why return (not) to training – This is a personal decision and each Member opinion is valid and should be respected. See below for some additional information
 - Health and safety – For participants and wider community must be the number one priority for any decision. What can we as a Club implement and monitor?
 - Take your time – Notify Club Members that a planning process is underway by the Coach and Committee. 18th May is the earliest (not latest) time Swimming WA is recommending you could be ready to return
 - Seek Member input – You may wish to determine how many Members are interested (or not) in returning to training at this time.
 - Discuss options with relevant parties – Venue Management, Coach, Committee, Council/School, ect
 - Own your decision – Each Club will have different reasons for returning (or not) to training. Your decision is ok and made with the best interests of your members. As the Club President/ Committee, it is ok to be different to another Club.

Clubs must NOT return to pool training prior to 18th May 2020 and must be able to demonstrate to Swimming WA's satisfaction how the club:

If I have questions who do I talk to?

Once again, I remind you that the above information and advice is Swimming WA has from the relevant authorities and provide it to you for information and determination of your actions. You may obtain further advice from these sources:

- COVID-19 Hotline - 1800 253 787 <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/health-advice/call-centres-and-information-lines>

Lastly let me thankyou again for the role you are undertaking at your club and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Grace or myself.

- Luke Gavin- (08)9328 4599 or luke.gavin@wa.swimming.org.au
- Grace Schmidt- (08) 9328 4599 or grace.schmidt92@wa.swimming.org.au

Regards,



Darren Beazley
Chief Executive Officer

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