

SWA Bulletin: 18 March 2020 at 7am

re: Member Update

Please read through carefully the comprehensive list of Q & A's below.

Putting the health and safety of all participants, volunteers and the wider community first, Swimming WA decided to cancel the final two (2) Meets of the 2020 SunSmart Long Course season – March Madness and the 2020 Hancock Prospecting Junior Championships.

Why have we made this decision?

Our number one priority is to the swimming communities that we lead and serve, as well as their families. We all need to do our part to protect swimmers, Coaches, volunteers, staff and officials at all levels of Western Australian swimming during the global coronavirus pandemic. We acknowledge that most Club programmes are reaching their exciting pinnacle, and any decision to cancel State Championships will disappoint many people. However, this recommendation has been made to ensure that Swimming WA is doing everything it can to contribute to the global effort to slow, and eventually stop, the spread of coronavirus.

What should we do if someone within our Club or centre tests positive for coronavirus?

For up-to-date information about the coronavirus from a public health perspective, please visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

Should SWA Clubs and Regional Associations hold end-of-season functions and awards nights?

Swimming WA recommends all SWA Clubs and Regional Associations consult with their Committee, Head Coach and Members and consider the cancellation or postponement of any end-of-season functions in the current public health environment.

How will SWA Clubs decide champions for the 2019/20 Long Course Season?

Each Club will have their own means for determining how to award a champion in their respective situation.

Will the 2020 Short Course Season get underway on time?

The first SWA Meet of the 2020 Short Course Season is set for **May 23rd and 24th at HBF Stadium**. The coronavirus outbreak is an evolving issue and decisions on starting or recommencing swimming competitions will be made carefully in line with the latest government advice and WA Health Department over the coming weeks and months.

How about the 2020 Westpac Swimmer of the Year?

The 2020 Westpac Swimmer of the Year Awards are scheduled for **Saturday May 16th at the Pan Pacific Hotel**. As stated in the point above, the coronavirus outbreak is an evolving issue and decisions on holding large gatherings such as 2020 Westpac Swimmer of the Year Awards will be made carefully in line with the latest government advice and WA Health Department over the coming days.

How as a Club can we help prevent infection?

In short, the following recommendations are as follows.

- Email to all participants advising them not to attend if they have been overseas in the past 14 days or are feeling unwell
- Implementing social distancing regimes and no physical contact (hand-shakes) rules for all
- Specific signage in all public areas reinforcing the basic hygiene measures of washing hands, coughing into elbow and staying away if unwell (if acceptable)
- Specific mention of these same hygiene measures at the commencement of programs
- Training group number decreased to allow social distancing (if acceptable)
- Modifications to training times to allow competitors who are at risk to train individually (if acceptable).
- Short Membership events restricted to a maximum of 50 participants (considering space to allow for effective social distancing), alternatively postponing events.
- Modification of training activities to ensure minimal contact or close interaction for extended periods
- Hand sanitizers available in public areas
- Taking direction from the facility management on closures, and restrictions to access.
- Ultimately if you are feeling unwell, as advised by the Department of Health it would be best for you and your communities' best interest, too stay home.