



Head Coach Statement (23/07)

On Wednesday 15th of July I attended a Club Update event hosted by Scottish Swimming, chaired by Moraig MacDonald (President), Euan Lowe (CEO) and other board members. The overriding message, and one which I would like to echo, is that there will be change. The pools that we were used to before lockdown will be very different and as a Club we must prepare as best as we can for our return. The Club have already begun planning for our eventual return to training once the Scottish Government, Health Protection Scotland and Scottish Swimming gives us the green light.

Scottish Swimming have been in talks with a small group of CEO's from Leisure Trusts to discuss the short and long term implications of COVID-19 and how this will affect each facilities provision moving forward. They also hosted a webinar in June with a number of pool operators to discuss how they might reopen when given the green light. Scottish Swimming stated that leisure facilities and pools see swimming clubs as the first users to be given access once they reopen. The Club are currently awaiting a meeting with Colleen Blair (Regional Development Swimming Manager) and High Life Highland to discuss how we may return to training. I will update you all as soon as I know more information.

The health and safety of our members and coaches is of paramount importance to us. Our main aim continues to be the creation of a safe training environment for you to return to and enjoy swimming once again. While the Club Committee and Coaches are meeting regularly to discuss our return we must remain flexible in our approach and make sure that all of our members understand our actions. We are currently in the process of drafting risk assessments to help facilitate our return however these are still a work in progress and subject to approval by Scottish Swimming, High Life Highland and the Club Committee. Please be patient whilst we discuss the details and put in place appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our members. As you can appreciate this is an ever changing, fluid scenario.

I completely sympathise with you and your swimmers that lockdown is beginning to drag on and we are all itching to get back to training but we must do so when it is safe to do so. We are all really excited about the prospect of getting back into the water and we will work tirelessly to enable us to do so. In the meantime, keep an eye on our Return to Training website, stay healthy and active and stay safe.

I will be attending a further Club Update tonight (23/07) to discuss the protocols, procedures and guidance we must have in place for our return and will also be hosting an Executive Committee Meeting week beginning 27/07.

Stay safe,
Andrew