

Notes from Scottish Swimming Club Update - 23rd July 2020

General Discussion

It was noted that Scottish Swimming are very reliant on the advice given from Scottish Government. They understand the frustration of members but stated that petitioning or lobbying and comments on social media were hurting the cause and not helping. They are actively meeting with Scottish Government and other relevant partners behind the scenes.

Urged Clubs and Coaches to manage expectations, specifically with regard to:

- Reduced opening times
- Phased return to training - if applicable
- Limited number of pools opened initially
- Fewer sessions available
- Pool closures may be on the horizon in some cases

Scottish Swimming said that the situation is evolving on a daily/hourly basis and they are working hard to gather information, process that information and communicate it to Clubs and members.

Any planning with regards to returning to training should be athlete focussed, coach driven and committee supported.

Also recommended that Clubs start looking at their finances and planning for different situations/outcomes.

There was also a message to work with other clubs to gain pool time, which may mean linking with another club to gain pool time or share resources.

There was discussion that the Club should approach the pool operator to determine pool time available and pricing to assist with financial planning and programme planning.

Safe supervision was discussed with a number of facility operators, with some asking the question as to whether supervision could be shared i.e. with the lifeguard present or could the coach do this.

Returning to Training

Clubs should consider ages and abilities when contemplating changes to squads and different training scenarios and layouts when the pools reopen. Clubs should also consider any cleaning or changeover to avoid too much mingling with other users but also to take into consideration the changeover time between squads. The recommended changeover time was 15 minutes to allow for cleaning of touchpoints etc. **This is something the Club is actively looking into.**

Clubs should also look for any volunteer gaps, for example, Committee Members or Coaches that may not be returning to training for a number of reasons.

COVID-19 Officers

This was the bulk of the conversation. In order for Clubs to be able to return to training they should have:

A COVID-19 Lead Officer - responsible for liaising with facility operator to determine the protocols in place and feed back to the Club and its members.

and

A COVID-19 Liaison Officer (one for each session) - responsible for overseeing that the protocols are followed by the Club and its members when training and reporting any non compliance to the Lead Officer.

As this is regulated work, both the COVID Lead Officer and COVID Liaison Officer needs to have a PVG. **Andrew Clark has taken on the role of COVID Lead Officer.** The COVID Liaison Officer cannot be a coach at the session. It was made clear that it can be a coach but when they are at training they must have their COVID Liaison Officer hat on and not coach in any capacity.

There will be training for these roles in the coming weeks however exact dates were not given.

Athletes and Coaches/Volunteers must complete a self-declaration form when returning to training - this must be completed before the first session back.

They must also complete a Health Screening Questionnaire before the first session back and then on a weekly basis thereafter or if their medical situation changes.

Test and Trace should be adhered to and the Club can help with this by ensuring that the Self-Declaration Forms and Health Screening Questionnaires are collected and that accurate registers for each session are taken. There is a **21 day** retention period on these documents. Scottish Swimming are currently discussing with Harper and Macleod (law firm) as to whether there needs to be amendments to the GDPR/Privacy Policy.

Risk Assessments - The Club should complete risk assessments, working closely with the facility operator, coaching staff and the COVID Team within the Club. Risk Assessments should be as detailed and specific as possible as in the past Scottish Swimming said that some risk assessments were too generic. They must also apply to the Club and the Facility. **A draft COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been drawn up, subject to approval by the Committee and Facility Operator.**

It was strongly recommended that Clubs start with lower lane numbers initially and scale it up over a period of a few weeks to determine what works and what needs to be adapted. An example was shown from Scottish Swimming regarding pool/lane numbers. It is believed that in a 6 x 25m pool there could be 6 swimmers in a lane to ensure adequate social distancing.

Facility operators need to do a cost analysis but they cannot do so until they know maximum bather loads etc so this is an ongoing discussion with facility operators.

It was recommended that the Club approach the Leisure Centre to begin discussions about a return to training. The Regional Swimming Development Manager will be facilitating meetings between the Club, Facility Operator and Scottish Swimming to discuss the best way forward for returning to training.