

## **Club Chairs Event 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **Update from Scottish Swimming CEO Euan Lowe, Chairman of the Board Graeme Marchbank and Scottish Swimming President Moraig MacDonald**

Welcome the news that pools will be able to reopen from 31<sup>st</sup> August however reiterated that this will be a challenging time ahead - but we need to work together to overcome those challenges.

Urged Clubs to work in partnership with their local leisure trusts.

Scottish Swimming have deliberately avoided a public campaign similar to that of Swim England in order to maintain their positive relationship with leisure trusts.

It was stressed that the Scottish Government are the ultimate decision makers in all of this and the decisions regarding easing (or reimposing) of restrictions is the responsibility of the Government.

SASA are very mindful of facility/pool operators as they are in a difficult situation and may struggle to viably open their facilities. Some leisure facilities have a number staff still have on furlough.

It was also stressed that Clubs and Members are aware that not many pools will reopen immediately on 31<sup>st</sup> August. It will take time for some facilities to reopen. Clubs should manage expectations for their Clubs. The 31<sup>st</sup> August doesn't mean all Clubs will automatically get back in.

The Guidance Documents are as yet unpublished as they need some refinements/changes before they are sent back to the Scottish Government and sportScotland for approval.

CEO Euan Lowe believes they will be approved Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Scottish Swimming know what pools will open and when/where. It was commented by an attendee that pools operated by the Fife Sport and Leisure Trust will not be opening until the 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Euan Lowe gave an update on why SASA have not furloughed their staff. They have been able to do a lot of work to prepare for a return because of full staffing. Scottish Swimming were not eligible for furlough as they receive approximately £1.3M per year from sportScotland who stated they must use their funding to keep the company going.

Euan Lowe also gave an update on Membership Free Refunds. Scottish Swimming do not know their financial future but are thankful for the support from members who have paid their membership fees. These fees have allowed all services to continue such as CPD courses, land training opportunities, SS Connect sessions and Level 2 Coaching Courses. Euan Lowe also stated that membership fees do not go to getting people in the pool.

Scottish Swimming are currently working and preparing different milestones regarding their financial future and once they have better picture of finances they will make a decision regarding refunds.

The SASA AGM is due to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and will be hosted virtually. Annual Business Document to be issued on 5<sup>th</sup> September and In House Annual Report to be issued at AGM.

### **Back to Water Route Map - Sharon MacDonald**

The Return to Water guidance is being updated as they are still waiting for physical distancing guidelines and ages/ratios which should be through tomorrow from sportScotland.

Many pools are still working on the 14<sup>th</sup> September for reopening.

Each pool will have their own guidance that Clubs needs to be aware of when making their plans.

Clubs should be reminded that most facilities have staff training requirements that must be completed before opening - particularly around their Learn to Swim programme.

Scottish Swimming still want Clubs to be a priority - then public sessions and LTS before moving onto face to face delivery of Level 1 and 2 Coaching courses.

### ***Upcoming Courses***

There will be a Level 1 Coaching Aquatics course delivered virtually soon.

### ***General Guidance for Clubs***

People who feel unwell should stay home.

Clubs should work on modified squad structures based on Scottish Swimming and Public Health Guidance.

Clubs should have now had communication with their Regional Development Swimming Manager regarding accessing pool time and should have also met with pool providers. For those Clubs who have still not contacted Clubs, Scottish Swimming will be contacting them and urging them to be in touch with their Clubs as soon as possible.

## **Pools Opening as at 12 August 2020**

Scottish Swimming shared an infographic detailing pools that will be reopening, as follows:

Of 276 pools (over 17m and open to public) - there are other pools however this is the criteria that the following statistics are based on

- 36% should open on or near to 14<sup>th</sup> September
- 49% phase 2 - mid/end October including 29% which are school pools
- 10.5% still to confirm
- 4% still unsure

Scottish Swimming will have more information regarding physical distancing in the next couple of days however it was brought up by a number of attendees that if schools are back with no social distancing is there any requirement for swimmers to do so. Guidance on this will be issued soon.

### **Update from Ally Whike (Director of Performance)**

The focus in the initial stages of training restarting should be on enjoyment and fun. This aspect is important on return. However it was noted that naturally, once swimmers begin to train they will want to start racing immediately. Small competitions (in training) such as racing over short distances are permitted during the initial return.

There will be no formal competitions soon with the exception of the Scottish National Short Course in December but a decision will be made in September regarding this.

Scottish Swimming will release a Return to Competition Timeline in the next week which will detail when they expect competition may return.

It is expected that formal competitions will not return until early 2021.

There will be a survey issued shortly for parents, kids, clubs and coaches to get some feedback on what the long term normal looks like. It was noted that we are likely to be well into next year until we are into the new normal.

### **Q&A**

Turn around time for PVGs is 3 weeks (roughly)

COVID Officers should be put to Clubs Wellbeing and Protection Officers and then onto Scottish Swimming who will give top priority to.

Compliance is the biggest concern

COVID Officer is highly recommended but still no mention of mandatory, however it is best practice. Some attendees noted that other sports have returned without the need for COVID Officers.