

## **Adverse Weather Conditions Safety Guidelines**

Adverse weather conditions can sometimes make travel to or from an OAS sanctioned event difficult or dangerous. These guidelines advise clubs what procedures should be followed in the event of adverse weather conditions. Clubs are reminded to review this information with their coaches and athletes and their families for the 2019-20 competitive season.

It is each club's responsibility to decide if their coaches and athletes and their families should attempt to travel in adverse weather conditions. If a decision is taken not to travel, the club must notify the Executive Director, Mary Dwyer, at [mdwyer@ontarioartisticswimming.com](mailto:mdwyer@ontarioartisticswimming.com) at the earliest opportunity, with a copy to the Meet Manager.

OAS recognizes that participants will be travelling from different parts of the province, and weather and road conditions may vary. We encourage you to pay attention to Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and police warnings as well as weather forecasts and actual weather conditions before deciding to travel.

The Head Coach has the authority to recommend that an athlete who is unable to participate in an OAS sanctioned event due to adverse weather conditions be given a bye. Final authority for granting of byes rests with the Provincial Jury of Appeal. The bye process as described in the OAS Rulebook must be followed, including completion of the OAS Bye Request Form.

### **I. Event Cancellation**

Authority to cancel an OAS sanctioned event or to suspend an event that is underway lies with the Executive Director. Factors contributing to the decision include:

- a. Weather conditions (current and forecasted)
- b. Road conditions
- c. Pool facility closures
- d. Ability to access and use the pool facility safely
- e. Disadvantages of sending participants back into the weather once they have arrived at the pool facility
- f. Anticipation that conditions will worsen or roads may be closed as a result of the adverse weather, which will make travel home unusually difficult or hazardous.

OAS will always aim to make timely decisions regarding adverse weather however the situation may be fluid on the day so we ask for your understanding. The safety of our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff is OAS's primary concern.

The main means of communication of any cancellation will be by email to club Head Coaches, who are responsible for communicating with their coaches and athletes and their families.