



## ONTARIO ARTISTIC SWIMMING UPDATE ON COVID-19

On behalf of Ontario Artistic Swimming, I wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to our Member Clubs and all participants for their support, compliance and patience during the tumultuous last few days of the Leslie Taylor Ontario Cup. Numerous changes were being made by the hour affecting all involved, as we endeavored to provide opportunity to our athletes who needed the event to qualify to national level competitions while also focussing on following recommended guidelines to contain attendance to fewer than 250 people. We worked earnestly with the Markham Pan Am Centre, Canada Artistic Swimming and the organizing committee while following all directives issued by relevant governing bodies and the experts at Public Health Ontario. We could not have achieved a successful outcome without the determination and support of our awesome officials, athletes, their families, coaches and volunteers. We are most grateful to Toronto Synchro and their incredible volunteer contingent who sacrificed their time and energies throughout and stepped up to deliver a positive and memorable event.

The past several weeks has been extraordinarily challenging and will no doubt continue to be, as we navigate through the new uncharted territory of COVID-19. News headlines and evolving changes are happening at lightning speed, heightening levels of stress, anxiety, anger and disappointments, which we felt, understood and respected over the recent days. Regular communications through our clubs reiterate OAS' high priority on the safety of our athletes and we will continue to monitor this rapidly-changing situation closely, following any further guidance/directives from CAS, Public Health Ontario and newly emerging information from municipalities/community facilities.

To this end, with the most recent announcement from CAS on the cancellation of the National Qualifier and the ongoing updates from Public Health Ontario and numerous municipalities, ***effective immediately and until further notice, upcoming scheduled, sanctioned Ontario Artistic Swimming competitions are hereby postponed and/or cancelled if rescheduling is not viable.*** This is a heartbreaking decision, recognizing the significant work efforts that our athletes and coaches have been passionately undertaking in preparation for the remaining season's events and championships and we will continue to update you on social media and our website with communications received from our various sources as this situation continues to unfold.

The OAS office staff may be mobile working in the coming weeks but we all have phone and email access for uninterrupted support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email or at 647-567-7962.

I thank our committed OAS staff and board for their incredible support and guidance and extend appreciation to each of you as we work through these unprecedented difficult times. As much as the clouds may look dark today, there are sure to be brighter days ahead when we continue to stand and work together.

Best Regards,

Mary Dwyer, Executive Director