



MEMORANDUM

To: Club Presidents, Registrars and Head Coaches
From: Ruth Belcher, President
Date: March 5, 2020
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

IMPORTANT: Please forward to all coaches and athletes and their families for the broadest possible circulation.

Ontario Artistic Swimming (OAS) and its host clubs continue to prepare for all 2020 competitions including the Leslie Taylor Ontario Cup, which will be held at the Markham Pan Am Centre March 12-15. We defer to the expertise of Public Health Ontario, which has assessed the risk to Ontarians associated with COVID-19 as low. As of now, OAS competitions will be held as planned in what is a very busy time of year in our calendar.

Attached is a message circulated by Canada Artistic Swimming (CAS) yesterday that is intended to guide provincial and territorial sport organizations (PTSOs) in decisions related to travel to competitions. The message includes a joint advisory from the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Sport Institute Network and Own The Podium that gives important general information about the Coronavirus including recommendations on prevention. There is also guidance on the hosting of sporting events in Canada. In particular, the message notes:

“There have been very few cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in Canada. There is currently no indication for event organizers to delay or postpone sporting events in Canada.”

Prevention

OAS has developed a one-pager with Coronavirus prevention tips. We encourage you to share this document with your athletes. Good hand-washing and other protective hygiene practices will help prevent the transmission of viruses and ultimately assist in keeping all participants in artistic swimming activity healthy throughout the competitive season.

Illness

Clubs have the primary responsibility for monitoring illness among their athletes. Athletes should be encouraged to self-report if they feel unwell, and parents or guardians directed to keep their children away from the swim environment including competitions if they are showing even mild, flu-like symptoms.

The [OAS Bye Request Form](#) should be completed for any athlete that is showing flu-like symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 and, as a result, is unable to participate in a mandatory or qualifying event. OAS recognizes that healthcare providers and medical facilities are very busy at present and may not be able to provide medical notes in a timely way. As such, we are prepared to extend the seven-day requirement for submission of supporting documents and will consider waiving the requirement for a medical note for any athlete that is showing symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19.

More Information

For more information on the coronavirus, visit the [Government of Canada COVID-19 webpage](#) and [Ontario's COVID-19 webpage](#). Ontario's webpage is updated every weekday at 10:30am ET with the most up-to-date information on the status of cases in Ontario.

The health and safety of our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff is always OAS's main concern. We will continue to monitor this rapidly-changing situation very closely and will follow guidance on cancellations from Public Health Ontario.

Kind regards,

Ruth Belcher
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