

A Message from the Chair – COVID-19



Dear all,

Update: 17/03/20

Following the update distributed yesterday morning, UK Government advice has changed significantly and now advises against all large gatherings.

As a result, the Swim England London Board last night took the decision to cancel all regional competition events and training camps – across all of our disciplines – until the end of May, in line with Swim England’s national position (<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/events-cancelled-coronavirus/>). Any Clubs who have already paid entry fees for these regional events will receive a refund for entry fees, and we ask that you contact london@swimming.org to request this. Where we can, we will reschedule events for later in the year, but this may not always be viable.

We know this will be hugely disappointing to the athletes who have been training so hard for these events, however we hope our members will understand that the health and wellbeing of our swimming community is at the heart of this decision.

We understand clubs will have concerns about their response to the coronavirus outbreak, and we continue to recommend that you check the FAQs that we have compiled, as well as consulting Swim England’s website and guidance. The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) advice has not changed, and we understand from this advice that the virus is inactivated by the chlorine levels in swimming pools, and so, like Swim England, we do not see any reason why clubs cannot continue with their own training programmes (in consultation with their pool operators), but we follow Swim England’s recommendation that training camps with members from different clubs should not take place. Additionally, whilst we cannot instruct clubs how to operate, we **strongly recommend** that clubs follow Government advice and review their own event calendars to understand the implications of the Government’s advice against large gatherings.

Finally, Sport England have published an article on their plans to support the sector during this period of uncertainty (<https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector/>), and Swim England’s Club Development team will be working with clubs within the Region to establish what support may be required during this time.

We will continue to follow guidance and advice from the UK Government and update regularly.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please direct them to london@swimming.org and we will do our best to answer them on our updates to our FAQs document.

With very best wishes,



Alex Harrison
Chair
Swim England London

