

ASA Families,

We hope this e mail finds you all doing well and healthy. These are certainly unprecedented times. Normally, we would all be wrapping up our first week of practice and be on our way to another great summer of swimming and fun. While we couldn't have practice this week, we are holding out hope to be on our way to another summer of swimming and fun.

Our hope is to have a summer swim season, but we will only do so if we can provide an environment that meets all guidelines established by federal, state and local health officials and the CDC. The safety, health and well-being of our swimmers and their families are our first and foremost concern. We are closely monitoring developments from all levels of government and in our sport to offer the safest environment for everyone if we are to have a swim season.

The next couple of weeks will be crucial in achieving the goal of swimming this summer. The primary hurdles to clear are the ability of pools to open and the transition to phase 2 of the guidelines provided by the federal government. Phase 2 will allow groups of 50 people to gather (while maintaining appropriate social distancing practices) and the resumption of organized youth activities. This will obviously involve more regulation and coordination to undertake practices safely, but teams are already working on details to do so.

With these goals are still yet to be achieved, we are cautiously optimistic we will reach them in time to have a swim season. The plan is to resume practices in mid to late June and then begin meets by early July. The format of the meets is very likely going to be a "virtual meet" with teams completing their events at their own pools and exchanging their results with their opponents electronically. As we all know, in person meets involve a lot of bodies in a confined space. This modified format will solve that challenge, and provide teams a flexible means to complete their meets each week, as well as limit the need for the army of volunteers normally needed to run a meet. There will still be ribbons, there will still be cheering, and there will still be fun and smiling faces.

We are currently receiving feedback from teams on their status for the season. We will continue to closely monitor developments and guidelines provided by health officials in the days and weeks to come to provide the best possible guidance for our teams. We will have a final decision on the status of the season by June 8 at the latest; but hope that we can make a call by late May if we clear the required hurdles to make the 2020 season a reality.

We thank you all so much for your continued support for ASA and the sport of swimming. I know everyone wants to get back in the water after being cooped up at home for the last several weeks. I also know that we all want to do so in the safest possible environment for our kids and our families. Keep the positive thoughts going and stay healthy and safe.