

1st July 2020

Dear Presidents, coaches and members of SNB,

The 2019-20 season has obviously been unlike anything we have ever seen and, as we move towards the 2020-21 season, there is both good and bad on the horizon. Covid-19 is being controlled, pools are reopening, some swimmers are training and we are confident that we can run competitions. However, continuing restrictions will require a “new normal” in training and in competitions. While we are lucky that no members of our swimming community have lost their lives during this crisis, some clubs have suffered financially, and many families have faced economic difficulties. This will impact what clubs and families can do in 2020-21.

But crises also offer opportunities, and we should be looking for these. We know that swimming is safer than many other sports and the announcement that school sports will not be resuming in September (although I hope this will change) may lead to kids and parents looking to other sports. Seizing opportunities like these will require some extra effort from club boards and coaches, and SNB will do what we can to help you.

Coach training. Guidelines for Covid-19 may require changes in group size for training, while new swimmers could mean a need for more coaches. Coach training courses are now available on-line, and we encourage you to look at training extra coaches. We have funds for coach development and expect to be able to subsidize training costs. Please contact the Executive Director if you are interested in this.

Pool rules and scheduling. Rules for pools are set by local authorities and vary around the province. We encourage you to discuss rules and schedules with your managers. If you consider that these are too restrictive, then we may be able to help you show your managers what is happening in other pools.

Recruitment. While clubs do their own recruitment, Swimming Canada is planning some nation-wide programs and we will work to make these effective for NB. If your club has good ideas and practices for finding new swimmers, we ask you to share these. We will be providing information from Swim Canada when it is available, but if you would like to be involved in this, please contact the Executive Director.

Finances. Covid-19 has cut into club income in various ways. Government programs are available to support sporting organizations and the Executive Director can help you with these. We thank those clubs that responded to our survey on club finances as this information can help us get the support that clubs need. If your club has not done this survey, PLEASE do so.

Summer is usually a slow period for our clubs and for SNB, but our 2019-20 season did not finish as we would have liked. Hence it is important that we make some extra efforts during summer to ensure that our next season will be as good as, or even better than 2018-19. SNB member clubs are the foundation for successful swimming in our province and the SNB Board and ED are available to support your efforts. Please contact the Executive Director with your needs, ideas and skills so that we can make sure that our next season is better than the last.

Stephen Wyatt, SNB President