



This Framework is based on:

-Swimming Canada Best Practices and Recommendations for Officials in Return to Competition

### **Overview:**

Safety is a key priority with all aspects of the return to competition. The focus of the framework is a safe return to competition that adheres to the overarching health and safety considerations.

Clubs will need to adhere to municipal, provincial and national regulations regarding large gatherings. Clubs must also follow their Provincial Section and facility requirements. This may impact the number of swimmers at a competition, the officials and volunteers required and the attendance of spectators. The competitive environment (training and competition venues) should be continually assessed to ensure precautions are taken to minimize risk to the swimmers, coaches, officials, volunteers and those attending events as spectators (where and when permissible).

It is recognized that each situation will vary from location to location, but the principles included in the framework below should be applied when developing a meet package. All meets packages must adhere to the local public health information and guidelines, provincial section requirements and facility specific procedures.

### **resumption of competitions**

The resumption of competitions will be a multi-phased approach. Swim New Brunswick will run a second and a third Virtual Swim Meet in November and December 2020.

#### **PHASE 1 –15<sup>th</sup> Oct/ 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020 – IN-HOUSE COMPETITIONS:**

- Clubs may host a-house competitions (Time Trials).
- These are single Club events; multiple teams cannot compete against each other at this time
- Only one session is allowed for the meet.
- A debrief/feedback after the competition would be beneficial in helping plan for future meets.
- We encourage the teams and their official's coordinators to establish contact with the NB officials committee prior and after the meet.

## **Pre-Meet**

- Identify a Safety Coordinator (possibly also the Meet Manager) who will coordinate and/or delegate the safety measures to be put into place for the competition.
- Meet Manager will work with the facility to confirm all logistics and expectations.
- Meet Manager and Competition Coordinator/Meet Referee will work together to create a plan that outlines all expectations including entry and exit, movement and location of all officials, coaches, and swimmers, based on the facility requirements. Best practice would be to create a pool diagram that details where all will be located and the flow of traffic on the deck.
- Disinfection protocols should be established and published before the beginning of the meet by the Safety Coordinator and built into the session timelines for the competition.
- No Senior Officials Briefing or General Officials Briefing. This should be completed via email ahead of the competition.
- Conduct coaches meeting virtually before arrival or send information via email.
- All officials should be recruited and assigned to positions ahead of time.
- Provide direction to officials/volunteers on what they need to bring with them, for example their own mask/face covering, hand sanitizer, pre-filled water bottle, pencil, clipboard as appropriate.
- Officials should arrive at the pool, at a pre-designated time and location, dressed in their uniform, bringing their deck shoes and follow any directions they were given upon arrival.
- All equipment, such as Starters equipment, buttons/plungers, stop watches, clip boards should all be cleaned and disinfected prior to and following every session.
- Competition Coordinator/Meet Referee could also act as the Session Referee for the competition, as appropriate.

## **Physical Distancing and Safety Precautions**

- Warm-up scheduling may need to be reviewed and amended to maintain physical distancing. Split warm-ups by time, club, age may be considered in order to manage the #s in the pool at any one time.
- For Time Trials and In-house competitions where electronic timing is in use and has been tested, consider using only electronic timing with no Timekeepers. This will help reduce the number of officials needed and potentially allow for more swimmers. Should there be a light touch, or electronic timing malfunction, there would need to be a re-swim. This procedure to be communicated to the attending coaches.
- Use minimum number of officials. Use qualified Inspectors of Turns officials as Timekeepers to have 1 official per lane. Where not all Timekeepers are also Inspector of Turns qualified, the Referee, Starter and Judges of Stroke will support.
- Decide on which side of the blocks all Timekeepers/Inspectors of Turns will stand so officials can be in position and still maintain safe distances. Ensure this is communicated in advance.
- Where possible, the Referee and Starter should be on opposite sides of the pool deck.
- The use of walkie-talkies should be considered when available. Disinfecting will be required between users.

- Judges of Stroke to support Inspector of Turns at turn end, maintaining physical distancing.
- In the short-term, it is recommended that backstroke ledges are not used, in order to reduce the number of potential people touching and manipulating the ledges.
- Officials should follow Provincial and facility regulations and consider wearing masks while on deck.
- Coaches and swimmers should also follow Provincial and facility regulations and consider wearing masks while on deck. Swimmers should be encouraged to wear masks at all times, up until the time they are to dive in for their heat or getting in and out of water following their heat and in and out of warm-up.
- Consider when possible the use of every second lane for competition, for example, lanes 1, 3, 5 and 7. This will reduce the # of officials required, maintain physical distancing and also for in-house competitions and time trials, lengthen the sessions to allow for swimmer recovery between events.
- Consideration on whether spectators are permitted, may also be required. The normal spectator stands, may need to be used for clubs, and athletes. This should be clearly communicated to all participating in advance of the competition or in the meet information package if possible.

### **Timelines**

- Heats will move more slowly to allow for swimmers and Timekeepers to move behind the blocks and to allow for disinfecting of the starting block between heats, according to provincial pool regulations. Time intervals should be adjusted in Hy-tek MM or Splash, accordingly.
- Swimmers in the next heat should remain behind the Timekeeper chairs until called behind the blocks for their heat. If fly-over starts are in-place, swimmers in the water should all be instructed to stay on the same side of lanes by lane rope in order to maintain physical distancing. If the pool is cleared before next heat, swimmers of next heat should remain behind the Timekeeper chairs until called behind the blocks for their heat.
- FINA tweets (short whistle) should be used to have Timekeepers return to their chairs and swimmers in next heat to move behind the blocks. Referee would then use long whistle when heat is ready. Upon the start of the next heat, swimmers in the pool, exit as instructed, to the side or at the end, as appropriate, if fly-over starts are being used.

## Meet Administration

- Minimize the handling of DQ slips.
- If radios are available for use by Inspectors of Turns and Judges of Stroke:
  - DQ slips should not to be used.
  - DQs or other issues should be recorded on a heat sheet, and called into the Session Referee.
  - DQs should be processed once verbally approved by the Session Referee.
- If radios are unavailable:
  - DQ slips should not to be used.
  - DQs should be recorded on a heat sheet by the Inspectors of Turns or Judges of Stroke, and shown to the Session Referee at the end of the session, and then processed as a batch at the end of the session.
- It may be necessary to complete all admin/meet results following the competition to maintain physical distancing – in this case meet results including a DQ report would be provided following the competition.
- A full log of all officials/volunteers, including contact information, who have worked the session should be maintained by the Meet Manager for all sessions.
- It is recommended that there is no sale of heat sheets/meet programs for spectators. Heat sheets/meet programs should be posted online, on Meet Mobile, or other mobile applications, where possible.
- A hospitality or food room should not be made available during the competition until deemed safe in order to reduce the potential for contamination and to keep the number of volunteers required to a minimum. The distribution or sale of pre-packaged goods only may be considered as an alternative.

## Senior Officials (Referee and Starter)

- Level 3 officials who are fully certified and as such have taken the Referee clinic, may be the Referee on deck for competition opportunities as approved by the provincial sections.
- Referees should consider using an electronic whistle as traditional whistles should not be used. This will also facilitate the use of a mask on deck. For example: <https://www.fox40world.com/electronic-whistle>
- Starters are encouraged to wear a facemask at all times except when providing a verbal command to start the race.
- Where possible the Referee and Starter should be positioned on opposite sides of the pool deck.

## Timekeepers

- One per lane; one watch and button(plunger) preferred.
- Where possible, the Timekeeper should also be qualified as an Inspector of Turns and act in both roles.
- Always go to the same side of the block to maintain physical distancing, as directed in advance of the competition.
- For Time Trial or In-house competitions where electronic timing system is in use, consider no Timekeepers in place at all, as per Example 1 outlined below.
- Timekeepers or Inspector of Turns at the start end should be disinfecting the starting block, including kick plate and backstroke starting grips following every heat, as required.

## Minimum # of officials for competition and rule CSW 1.2.1

Swimming Canada Rule, CSW 1.2.1 says: *For each session there should be a minimum of the following certified officials:*

*Referee*

*2 Inspectors of Turns (at each end)*

*Chief Judge Electronics (if applicable)*

*Chief Finish Judge*

*1 Timekeeper per lane*

*2 Safety Marshals*

*Starter*

*Chief Timekeeper*

*2 Judges of Stroke*

*Clerk of Course*

*Marshal*

*Recorder-Scorer*

***Note: In some meets the officials may perform in several capacities where the duties of each position are not in conflict with one another. Not having the minimum number of officials will not nullify the results of the competition.***

This means that the number of officials on deck, for any sanctioned competition, can be dramatically reduced and still maintain the integrity of the results.