



# CRAWL, WALK, RACE!

## USA SWIMMING RETURN TO COMPETITION

**The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Each club should contact its attorney to obtain advice with respect to any legal matter. Each club should not act or refrain from acting on the basis of information in this document without first seeking legal advice from counsel in the relevant jurisdiction.**

### RETURN TO COMPETITION PLAN

Every club planning to host or attend competition must develop a Return to Competition plan. The plan must address the key considerations above and include the elements listed in the sections below.

Return to competition can only occur when and if your local authorities have deemed it safe to return to competition. USA Swimming in no way endorses conducting practice or competition in violation of any local, state, or federal guidelines. In creating a Return to Competition plan, clubs are encouraged to consider the following:

- When to return, including an ability to add restrictions (move backward in phases) if there are additional waves of infection in your area.
- What operating adjustments your organization will make in hosting and attending competitions.
- A communications plan for all stakeholders.
- A designation of a point person or team responsible for the Return to Competition plan.
- An ability to monitor the outcomes of what is happening as you return to competition so that you can make needed adjustments.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

**All plans must comply with facility, local, state, and federal public health requirements.**

- If there is an ambiguity between recommended guidelines, the most stringent should apply or local counsel should be consulted to provide guidance to follow.
- Each club should have a COVID-19 liaison/committee responsible for staying up to date on community and state recommendations and any associated changes.
- Each club should have a point person responsible for the club's Return to Competition plan.
- Mandated capacity limits must be followed.
- Until further notice, eliminate or reduce use of low ventilated spaces as well as rooms that prevent social distancing, (e.g., locker rooms and small dryland rooms) to the extent feasible.
- Until further notice, ingress to facility must include health screening questions and should include temperature screening either at the facility or prior to arrival, no person shall be admitted with a temperature over 100.4 F or in accordance with CDC or local health department recommendations.



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- Until further notice, athletes should arrive in their suits and depart in suits if possible. Locker rooms use should be minimized.
- Until further notice, coaches, officials, spectators (parents), should wear masks.
- All expectations for the aforementioned protocols should be communicated ahead of time in the meet announcement, event communication, and posted throughout the venue to ensure that all participants and observers are clearly aware of the requirements.

### SAFE SPORT

- The [USA Swimming Code of Conduct](#) and the [SafeSport Code](#) for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements continue to apply in full.
- The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) continues to apply in full.
- USA Swimming Safe Sport Best Practice Guidelines state that parents should be encouraged to appropriately support their child(ren)'s swimming experience and that all swimming practices should be open to observation by parents. This also applies to meet participation.

### RESOURCE DOCUMENTS FOR BUILDING YOUR RETURN TO COMPETITION PLAN

National Council of Youth Sports Return to Play Considerations (Editable template to assist creating your return to competition plan)

- [USOPC Coronavirus Resources](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [CDC – Consideration for Youth Sports](#)
- [CDC – Workplace Decision Tree](#)
- [CDC – Activities and Initiatives Supporting the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again](#)
- [NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities](#)
- [USA Swimming Open Water Resource Page](#)

### APPLYING FOR A MEET SANCTION

Applications for a meet sanction in August 2020, will be evaluated for the following:

1. All participating athletes and clubs must be registered within the sanctioning LSC\*.
2. The meet must be pre-seeded, and no deck entries will be allowed.
3. A supplement document to the meet sanction request must include:
  - a. A statement of the local protocols and requirements;
  - b. The plan for spectator ingress and egress;
  - c. The planned number of individuals gathering in the spaces: pool, deck, spectator seating, etc.;
  - d. Safe Sport considerations to ensure parents have access to and/or the opportunity to observe their child; and
  - e. An attestation statement in which the meet host attests that the conduct of the meet will adhere to local jurisdictional guidelines. Suggested language:

*In applying for this sanction(ed event), the Host, \_\_\_\_\_ (specifically named Club or other entity) agrees to comply and to enforce all health and safety mandates and guidelines of USA Swimming, \_\_\_\_\_ (LSC), the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (local jurisdiction).*

4. Assumption of risk disclaimer language must be included in the meet information, announcements, and heat sheets. The following is assumption of risk disclaimer language posted by Disney prior to the reopening of Disney Springs. This language is provided as an example only. The meet host should provide its own language reviewed by local counsel:

*"We have taken enhanced health and safety measures – for you, our other guests, and cast members. You must follow all posted instructions while visiting Walt Disney World Resort. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Walt Disney World Resort, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19."*

5. The meet information, meet announcement and heat sheets must contain the following language:

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and individuals with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

USA Swimming, Inc., cannot prevent you (or your child(ren)) from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in USA Swimming sanctioned events. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned event, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, YOU VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AND FOREVER RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS USA SWIMMING AND [INSERT THE LSC] AND EACH OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY LIABILITY OR CLAIMS INCLUDING FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, DEATH, DISEASE OR PROPERTY LOSSES, OR ANY OTHER LOSS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE AND GIVE UP ANY CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE TO SEEK DAMAGES, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, FORESEEN OR UNFORESEEN, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

*(\*A club, geographically isolated within their LSC, may be granted the opportunity to compete in an adjacent LSC with permission from both the club's LSC and the adjacent LSC.)*