

Following the update on Monday, 16 March 2020 from the Prime Minister and release of our statements regarding the cancellation of our National and Regional events for the foreseeable future and guidance for affiliated organisations, we have received queries from organisations around future activities and what it means for them in the short and long term.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM SWIM WALES AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS:

We will be updating this FAQ document as and when appropriate, and we are in regular dialogue with Sport Wales and our insurers.

POSTED 26/03/2020

What happens to our licensed events?

Swim Wales' recently published statement outlined guidance for clubs, including the cancellation or postponement of licensed competitions in Wales. The Events Team and the Regional Development Managers have produced a toolkit of resources to help you make this decision; the team are also on hand to support clubs including reviewing the competition calendar and licensing agreements. Please contact your Regional Development Manager or Events Team to discuss any of the above.

What happens to the license fee that we have paid if we cancel or postpone our meet?

Clubs cancelling meets can request a refund, or the payment will be held as credit, and will be used against another license application for those postponing.

What level meet should we run?

A postponed or rearrangement meet might look very different to your original plan. We encourage clubs to be flexible and creative when thinking about this e.g. what is the most effective use of pool time? Could you run short distance races to increase entries? Could you work in collaboration with another local club to combine your resources and delivery? This can be discussed with your RDM and/or the Events Team.

What support will Swim Wales be providing to the general athlete and coaching community in clubs across Wales?

The Swim Wales Performance team will be providing useful resources and advice to athletes and coaches on a weekly basis, through their membership with an affiliated club. This will be delivered primarily through the Swim Wales social media streams and website as follows:

- Every Monday will see the release of progressive levels of the skills development framework and associated land mobilisation and activation exercises. This will enable athletes to stay connected to their strokes and maintain/develop swimming specific conditioning. It will also provide coaches with a resource from which to advise the athletes they work with on a daily basis.

- Every Friday holistic support themes will be posted via social media, and this will include advice relating to lifestyle, psychology, well-being and nutrition. When content has been exhausted, repeated content will be re-posted to reinforce important messages.

Why is it important to maintain insurance cover provided through Swim Wales? Particularly in relation to non-pool based activity.

The insurance cover that affiliated clubs and their members access through Swim Wales, covers all activity agreed and recognised by individual clubs and Swim Wales. This includes activities in and out of the pool, including all authorised virtual activities. All safeguarding/welfare concerns and liability cover.

POSTED 17/03/2020

Will Swim Wales issue a statement relating to "social distancing" and what is the policy around this?

No, Swim Wales won't be issuing a statement relating to social distancing, other than to follow Government advice. As at 9am this morning (18 March 2020) we have been in contact with a number of pool providers across Wales and they remain open at the moment. We are monitoring Government guidance and local policy very closely however the situation is changing rapidly and we fully expect facilities to close, therefore our feeling is that Clubs should now make appropriate preparations including communication plans for when training is suspended.

The Government says not to go to social gatherings. Our guidance is to follow and embed these guidelines from the Government. If training is classed as a gathering, and a club still chooses to run these sessions and an incident occurs which requires a notification to be issued to the insurers, is there still cover and what are the implications for clubs if training continues?

We spoke to our insurers and received the response below:

'Thank you for your e-mail. I am sure you are getting many queries from clubs looking for guidance, at the present time we can only advise you and your clubs to follow the government advice.

Within any insurance policy there is a reasonable precautions condition and if clubs are not adhering to Government advice this may impact on the liability indemnity being available.

All clubs should record their decisions and reasons to proceed or not with their activities, and ensure that risk assessment and risk management is considered through their process.

The health and wellbeing of everyone is of primary importance as per the Government's guidance'.

What is Swim Wales' guidance with regards self-employed coaches/staff?

Clubs must check the contracts they have in place with their coaching staff. We would encourage where possible an agreement to be made around payment with coaches during this difficult time. In doing so clubs should consider how best to maintain finances in conjunction with any changes of expenditure linked to the section below on club finances.

We are not employment law professionals, so should you have any queries at all we would urge you to contact the free legal helpline on 0330 100 7901 or visit the [ACAS website](#) for professional advice. They offer a free advice helpline.

Is there any guidance/suggestions around club finances?

Each club will need to consider their own circumstances on this. Current and future expenditure needs to be considered and engaging with the facility providers for costs, parents in relation to revenues and the long term sustainability of the club. Club Management committees should lead in this matter and will be supported by Swim Wales Teams. Regular communication is key!

If we choose to cancel training will we need to continue to pay pool hire?

We have been in touch with a large number of pool providers across Wales and at this time we encourage you to contact your pool provider about this. You should also check the terms and conditions of your agreement with your provider and open a dialogue with them around what is realistically achievable. Please contact your Regional Development Manager for guidance and support on managing your programme, partnerships with providers and support on finance management.

South East - Victoria Waters – Victoria.waters@swimming.org

West - Joe Tucker – Joe.tucker@swimming.org

North - Hope Filby – Hope.filby@swimming.org

This is an ongoing and fast moving situation and as such any guidance and advice will be subject to further review and recommendations from the Government. The Government advice supersedes all guidance from Swim Wales. In the meantime please continue to follow Government advice and make use of the following online resources for up to date information about Coronavirus:

[NHS Wales website](#)

[UK Government Coronavirus guidance website](#)

[UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice website - specific to China](#)

[UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office website – for all countries](#)

The Public Health Wales [Twitter](#) , [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for public health information in Wales