



Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Open letter #3 to Swim Ontario Masters Swimmers

More Progress!

Well we had our second Swim Ontario Masters Committee meeting on October 23rd and we have more news to share this week.

1. **New Non-competitive Swimmer Category \$14.96**

Swim Ontario has created a new Non-Competitive Swimmer Category for all those just getting into the sport for the first time. We know that there are over 70,000 fitness swimmers in Canada and we want to welcome them into our swimming family. The fee for this year is \$14.96 cents. That gets you access to Master Swim Canada's million metre challenge program, eligibility to participate in one Swim Ontario Masters sanctioned competitive event (excluding the Ontario Masters Provincial Swimming Championships and Canadian Masters Swimming Champs); access to the Swimming Canada learning tools and insurance protection for qualifying clubs.

- a. To register simply review and follow the steps in the Masters only club registration manual [HERE](#).
- b. If you are an Age group club delivering Masters programming simply review and follow the steps in the Masters programming for age group club manual [HERE](#).

2. **Alleviated the requirement for Masters only clubs to incorporate**

Swim Ontario, realizing that in many instances Masters only clubs are not incorporated and operate as organized community training groups, has alleviated the requirement to incorporate as a club. These qualifying Masters only clubs will simply require a letter from their aquatic facility provider stating that they are an organized training group that rents pool time and runs organized programs observing all facility risk management policies.

3. **2018 Swim Ontario Masters Provincial Championships**

Swim Ontario is seeking expressions of interest from Swim Ontario member clubs (masters & age group) to host the Masters Provincial championships. We are considering several potential weekends within the March/April time frame. We would like to respect other scheduled events and if possible to help extend the competitive season leading into the MSC National Championships in Calgary May 19, 20, 21. While it is challenging to find facilities available during the time frame, we are optimistic that we will be announcing the final date and location very soon.

SWIM ONTARIO

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With our momentum building, we are planning another meeting on October 30th.

- discuss independent swimmers registration/participation
- Continue to improve efficiencies in the club administration process
- Increase communication flow and build awareness
- Working with Swimming Canada to create efficiencies in the competition registration/signup procedure for meet entries
- Identify and facilitate value added ideas for our members

The committee is working hard to gain your trust and set up Masters swimming within Swim Ontario that identifies the uniqueness of the community while respecting the systems and processes that our current age group clubs live under. As you can imagine it's not easy but we are confident that working together we can create a Win, Win for the entire swimming community.

We do need the communities help, specifically we need Masters Clubs to sign up and register their swimmers. We realize that many clubs have been waiting and we respectfully hope we are gaining your confidence each week. We will be hosting a provincial championship which we realize was important to everyone. We will have created a Non-competitive category which over time we firmly believe will increase registration and allow us to grow the love of swimming in Ontario. So please, if you are the club administrator go online to the SO [Masters webpage](#) and sign up or call the Swim Ontario office for assistance.

Also we want to hear from you as we continue to improve the systems and processes that please feel free to email us at: masters@swimontario.com.

Yours in embracing the joy of Swimming,

The Swim Ontario Masters Committee

The committee members are:

- Dan Thompson (chair)
- Ralph Ades
- Jack So
- Jocelyn Jay
- Bud Seawright
- Katie Osborne
- Andy Ritchie
- Dave Wilkin
- Duane Jones
- John Vadeika
- Brian Ward
- Lindsay Taylor