



PO Box 321 Orillia ON, L3V 6J6

Swim Club

www.orilliachannelcats.ca

June 4, 2020

Hello all members. We hope this letter finds you well during these difficult times.

We wanted to let you know that due to the uncertainty of when pools will reopen and the unknown date when swim clubs can get back in the water, we will NOT be holding an early registration this month.

Swim Canada has sent out their Return to Swimming Guidelines document to all members and it has been posted on Swim Ontario's website here: [COVID-19 Return to Swimming Resource Document](#) and Swim Ontario sent out the Return to Sport Announcement here: [Swim Ontario Return to Sport](#). Once facilities/pools receive the green light from Public Health, Provincial Government and individual municipalities, swimming will be introduced in phases or steps. Each step will last three weeks, then if all goes well the next step can be introduced. Much like the stages of how the Province is re-opening. We have been told Swim Canada will be updating this document approximately every three weeks, so parts of it may very well change. Please take a look at what the Return to Swimming Framework could look like. It is Swim Canada/Swim Ontario and our clubs' hope that competitive swimmers will be allowed in the pool prior to opening for the general public.

We will keep you updated throughout this process, and if you have questions please send them our way. We will do our best to answer. Our Return to Sport Committee consists of Meredith Thompson-Edwards (Head Coach), Todd Nie (President), Margaret Burghardt (Health Professional, Dr of Sport Medicine), Kathy Rogers (Board Member), Kerry Heckendorn (Board Member).

With regards to group placement/movement: The coaching staff has agreed that any group movement from Sr Novice and above will take place in October of 2020 (assuming these groups will have been in the water to some extent). Jr Novice and Channel Kittens group movement will occur for Session 2 (Jan 2021). Swimmers will begin the season in their current training groups. We understand this can affect scheduling of other activities swimmers may be involved in, however with the lost training time we feel it is important to re-assess our swimmers this September. We want to make informed decisions with regards to group placement. Also the unknown of when pools will re-open and what that will mean in terms of physical distancing will affect the number of swimmers we have in the pool at one time. Therefore we will have to adapt our schedule to follow the set guidelines. This is not an ideal situation for anyone, and we are hopeful you can understand our views from a coaching perspective.

We encourage all athletes to stay active this summer, enjoy time with family and take this time to 'smell the roses'. We all miss our swim family and are excited to be planning for returning to swim

- we are not there yet, but planning for it, is a hopeful step forward. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding with the process as we strive to reopen in a safe and responsible way.

Thank-you to all of our wonderful loyal families for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

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