

Monday and Wednesday ASA Virtual Meeting Q&A Session

Below is a condensed version of questions that were asked during the sessions along with answers that should provide more info for teams.

Team Size/Interest/Google Doc:

- 1) Is there a minimum team size in this environment?
 - a. I think teams will need to have 25-30 swimmers minimum to have a chance of making this work.
- 2) Will the age up date change?
 - a. We plan on leaving that as is for this year.
- 3) How can a team respond with how many swimmers it will have on the team without knowing if there will be a season? Some teams responded by having a preliminary survey. Thoughts from the league?
 - a. Teams should survey their families to see what their status will be for the season. This will give them an idea of what their team size may be.

Virtual Meets:

- 1) Do we need to hire a referee for multiple days for a virtual meet?
 - a. Only if you want a league provided official, they will not be required for virtual meets.
- 2) Place Judges: Do we use Place Judges or just use watch times?
 - a. A place judge will be a good backup for any timing mistakes.
- 3) Will the league provide a Standard Operating Procedure for Virtual Meets, if we have a season?
 - a. We will provide steps and guidelines on how to conduct a virtual meet. These will be covered during the rules meetings in early June.
- 4) Will swimmers be able to swim more than the standard 2 individual events and 2 relays?
 - a. To keep the length of virtual meets manageable we will likely stick to 2 individual events and 2 relays. A provision for an extra event under the normal league rules may be allowed, but the maximum of extra events would be 1 event.
- 5) What about swimming up?
 - a. It is theoretically possible, but would require swimmers to attend multiple practices most likely. While possible, we don't advise teams do this unless absolutely needed.
- 6) Relays: How will we conduct relays if we have AM and PM practices with kids of the same age groups at different practices? Flat start add up times?
 - a. Teams could have swimmers compete and come up with an aggregate time from the swimmer's flat start times.
- 7) How many additional hours will Virtual Meets take? There are concerns that additional hours will impact Free Swim at the pool, and the HOA already is not used to July swim team hours.
 - a. One age group (9-10 boys and girls) can swim in about 30-40 minutes. Spacing these out over multiple days should allow teams to conduct the meets during practice hours without needing extra pool time. This should not require extra time to be done.
- 8) Meet Manager Template: Will ASA be creating a new template for Virtual Meets?
 - a. We will be creating a template and full instructions for Meet Manager.
- 9) Virtual Meets: Will virtual meets operate similar to Intrasquad Meets/Weekly Time Trials?
 - a. This is how the meets will likely work.

Supervision/COVID management:

- 1) How many parents versus kids will be on the pool deck? Does the league have thoughts on number of parent reps needed to supervise & do COVID related checks?
 - a. That will be a direct function of how many swimmers and coaches will be present for each practice and how many bodies will be allowed on the deck during practice. There will likely be room for some extra parents to be present to help with managing practices/meets and the extra steps needed to make them happen.
- 2) How will temperature checks, attendance counts be managed or safety observations at practices?
 - a. Most teams will have Parent Rep or Lifeguard handle this function. It will be up to the teams as to how they want to manage this. We advise an adult do this though.
- 3) Who will provide the Thermometers, Sanitizers, etc. to maintain CDC compliance?
 - a. That will be the responsibility of the teams/clubs.

Funding:

- 1) How will teams pay for coaches when revenue/funds will be quite different this year (fewer team sponsors, no concession revenue, potentially fewer swimmers)?
 - a. Teams will be looking at tighter budgets, as most teams will have fewer swimmers. The lack of concessions during home meets and team sponsors will provide an extra crunch. This may require salary cuts for coaches and/or fewer assistant coaches to handle this shortfall.
- 2) League Refunds: How will people received their refunds? Electronically or Check from ASA?
 - a. Teams that have their ASA fees paid directly to the league via Swimtopia/WePay and Team Unify/SE Payments can receive a direct refund to the account they paid with. To do this, the team needs to send a request to ASA including the swimmer's name and date of registration. Refunds will be for the ASA fee minus transactional costs and will be processed in about 7 business days.
 - b. Teams who collect the ASA fee and cut a check to the league can refund the ASA fee directly and just pay for the swimmers who participate this season.
- 3) Insurance: Does ASA insurance cover teams if they choose to have practice, but no meets?
 - a. Yes, but only if the team pays the ASA registration fees. We are exploring a reduced ASA fee for teams that choose to do this.
 - b. Teams/Swimmers who don't pay the league fee will not have insurance coverage.
- 4) League Fees: Is there any discussion around adjusting League Fees or partial refunds due to modified season?
 - a. Not at this time. Our expenses for the season will be roughly the same for a season with 5 meets as it would be for a season with 3 meets.
- 5) League Teamwide Refunds: If the league decides to have a season, but then the team chooses to not participate, will teams & members still receive refunds?
 - a. If an entire team does not swim this year, all of their registrations will be refunded via this same process as individual registrations.

Decision Dates:

- 1) What is the drop dead date for league decision on whether or not to have a season?

- a. June 8, however we are trying to have a decision by late May (or earlier) if possible.
- 2) Will the league decide on whether or not to have a season based on the number or percentage of interested teams, assuming Phase 2? Is it an 'all or nothing' decisions?
 - a. We will try to offer a season for any interested teams. This is not an all or none proposition
- 3) If some teams choose not to participate this year, but others do, will league and individual teams have open policy to accept new members?
 - a. The league will relax membership rules to allow teams to accept outside members, but it will be up to the teams as to whether or not they can accept outside members. We will do what we can to communicate with teams as to what their options may be.
- 4) Would the league consider having an "Unattached" team or County/Region team, for displaced swimmers?
 - a. This is not likely, as teams will require direct supervision for practices and coordination of meets. Swimmers without teams will be advised to join other teams in their area for the 2020 season if they don't have a team in their neighborhood.

Practices:

- 1) Are we expecting that no coaches will be able to be in the water with our younger swimmers?
 - a. This will likely be the case to maintain social distancing requirements.
- 2) How do we maintain the 'fun' elements of practices and swim meets, the items that make Summer League great, amidst the safety requirements/regulations?
 - a. Some games and other activities are possible, teams just have to avoid ones that involve direct contact of swimmers with each other.
 - b. Keep things like themes for meets in place.
 - c. Look at an altered set of events for a meet.
- 3) How do we get swimmers to follow all of these rules?
 - a. Start communicating early your exact plan and expectations and consequences for not following the rules. Make it abundantly clear that not following ALL rules will be met with quick consequences including removal from practice.
 - b. Do a required orientation session before practice starts to walk everyone through how this will work. We all know that people don't always read what they are sent. Don't let a swimmer participate until they have completed the orientation.
 - c. Have swimmers observe the older swimmers complete this process. Most of the challenges will come with the younger swimmers. Allowing them to watch this work may help.
- 4) How will new swimmers be managed in the 2020 season? We are used to the 6& unders hanging all over the coaches!
 - a. Swimmers who can't safely handle themselves in the water without direct contact with coaches will likely not be able to participate this year.
 - b. One possible solution for these swimmers will be to have older siblings or a parent be the hands on person during practices. This will be a function of how many people you can safely get on deck for a practice, but could be a good work around.

Social Distancing:

- 1) What suggestions does the league have on social distancing on deck? Similar to grocery stores?
Any additional thoughts?
 - a. Please see the suggested spacing diagram for spacing in the lanes for possible solutions.
 - b. Tape marks on the pool deck behind the lanes for when swimmers are on deck.
- 2) How do we manage kids who need help putting on swim caps, tying suits to go to the bathroom, goggles, while at practice?
 - a. This will fall on the parents and older siblings and will be a teachable moment in many cases for swimmers.
 - b. One other possibility would be a designated person at each practice for this function who is wearing protective gear (gloves, mask and possibly PPE gown) to undertake this function.

Future Years?

- 1) How do we keep kids excited for 2021 if 2020 is so different than the past?
 - a. This will not be the normal season everyone hoped for and will have some of the fun taken out of it. However, the other option at this point would be no season at all. Being able to offer something to re-connect and be active again will be a welcome change to most people's lives.
 - b. We can't guarantee anything for 2021, but the hope is that this will be a distant memory in 2021 and we will get back to the summer swim season we know and love.
- 2) Would we consider giving 18 year olds/HS seniors a 'redshirt year' if they wanted to compete next summer & in the 2021 Championship Meet?
 - a. We are very likely going to offer an opportunity for any swimmers who missed their last year of summer league to participate in 2021.

Coaches:

- 1) Are coaches personally liable if someone gets COVID at practice or meets?
 - a. There are no guarantees on this front, you would need to consult with your own attorney for a better answer on this front. However, if teams are communicate thoroughly in advance, and take all recommended steps from federal, state, and local health officials that will be a very good way to avoid this risk.