

A message to Swimming Pools, Facilities, Swim Schools, Swimming Teachers and Swim Ireland Associate Members Thank you....We are with you



Swim Ireland's plans and aspirations for 2020 changed completely on the 18th March when lockdown was announced, with the shut-down of life as we knew it. The enforced global closure of Swimming Pools and Leisure Facilities has had, what can only be described as an unparalleled impact on our aquatic community. The cessation of operations for our **Swimming Pools, Leisure Facilities, Swim Schools, Swimming Teachers and Associate Members**, has impacted in many ways, but many more that we don't yet fully understand. For many of you this has been the longest time you have been out of the water, off the pool deck or not delivering your aquatic activities. For your customers and members', it has been a time of frustration and uncertainty. For you and for the hundreds of thousands of children who attend your **swimming lessons** each week, as well as the 290,000 adults taking recreational dips, we certainly hope that this is something that is experienced only once in a lifetime.

As we begin to emerge from lockdown and navigate the new normal brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Swim Ireland would like to **thank you** for your **determination** and **resilience** during this time. We know it is frustrating with no clear exit route at the moment – but we want you to know that **we stand with you**, and we are working hard to **ensure your voice is heard**.

We recognise that our efforts may not have been particularly clear over the last year, however, we have been lobbying, writing submissions, meeting with Expert Groups and creating and adjusting robust documentation to **highlight the highest levels of health and safety** that Swimming Pools, Leisure Facilities, Swim Schools and Swimming Teachers follow. You might not be aware that;

- We have been pushing for the immediate resumption of swimming lessons once pools are re-opened, with our CEO Sarah Keane featuring on [RTE Radio One's This Week](#) programme on 14th March and our Chairman, Peter Conway appearing in a segment on [RTE news](#) on 24th March, highlighting Swim Ireland's concern for swimming lessons
- Our CEO, **Sarah Keane**, and members of the Senior Leadership Team meet regularly with the Minister for Sport as well as the Department of Sport and we have significant input into the COVID-19 Sports Monitoring Group
- Our Chairman, **Peter Conway** attended the Joint Oireachtas Committee Hearing in October 2020 to outline our concerns for our sport

Please see Appendix for a comprehensive list of what Swim Ireland have done to try to reopen pools

Working alongside industry experts across the five nations of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, we have provided you with cutting edge guidance and recommendations for your **Return to the Water**. Our series of frameworks for the Aquatic



Industry, supporting Facilities and Operators, Swimming Pool Users and Swimming Lesson Providers, in both the public and private sectors map out a **safe and effective** Return to Water, ensuring the highest standards are maintained across our industry.

Having delivered over 350 webinars, online CPD, training and coffee chats with just under 9000 of you joining us, we know and understand the challenges you face and together we know you will get through this. **We stand beside you, we will swim again and pools will become the centre of our communities once more.**

Swim Ireland will continue to support you on your journey of Returning to Water and Getting Ireland Swimming again.

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Head of Swim Ireland Education

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Appendix

Meetings and Submissions by Swim Ireland

April 2020	Minister & CEOs Meeting
	Letter to the Minister of State and Department of Sport
May 2020	Minister & CEOs Meeting
June 2020	Sports Monitoring Group Meeting
	Sports Monitoring Group Meeting
July 2020	Letter to Officials, Department of Sport
September 2020	Joint Letter with Ireland Active to An Taoiseach
	Meeting with Department of Sport Officials
	Sports Monitoring Group Meeting
October 2020	Meeting with the Minister of State at the Department of Sport
	Joint Oireachtas Committee Meeting
	Letter to the Minister of State and Department of Sport
	Letters to Sport Ireland x 3
	Joint letter with Ireland Active to An Taoiseach
	Joint letter with Ireland Active to John Treacy, CEO Sport Ireland
	Launch of the Swimming Pool Grant – Swim Ireland and Ireland Active
November 2020	Sports Leadership Group Meeting including the Minister of the Department of Sport Meeting
	Sports Monitoring Group Meeting including the Minister of the Department of Sport
	Joint letter with Ireland Active to John Treacy, CEO Sport Ireland
January 2021	Sports Monitoring Group Meeting including the Minister of the Department of Sport
	Detailed sector consultation submission in conjunction with Ireland Active and Sport Ireland, outlining needs and concerns for all elements of aquatic sports
February 2021	Further boost to Swimming Pool Grant Confirmed – Swim Ireland and Ireland Active
March 2021	Letter to the Minister of State and Department of Sport
	Letter to Expert Advisory Group, Department of Sport
	Submission of proposed timeline of return to swimming to Minister of State, Jack Chambers

**SWIM
IRELAND**



Virtual webinars delivered to Facilities and Swimming Teachers

Age Group Appropriate & Relevant Planning	Introduction to Core Aquatic Skills	Return to Water - Effective Observation, Analysis and Feedback
Age Group Nutrition and Lifestyle	Introduction to the Swim Ireland Learn to Swim Programme	Return to Water - Effective Teacher Communication
An Introduction to Process Focused Racing	Kick Development	Return to Water - Effective Teacher Communication from Deck
Athlete Team Building	Building ownership of the sport in a young athlete	Return to Water - Facility and Swimming Lesson Framework Overview
Return to Water - Effective Lesson Delivery with COVID-19 in Mind	Increasing Athlete Engagement	Return to Water - Framework for Pool Operators
Controlling the Controllable	Managing progressions and expectations from Age Group Swimmers	Return to Water - Framework for Swimming Lessons
Creating a Sustainable Club / Coaching Programme – Inside Out	Managing the Effort Levels of a Team in a Winning and Losing Environment	Return to Water - Objective, Strategy, Tactic
Damian Ball - My Story and Coaching Philosophy	Maximising Pool Space in a Learn To Swim Programme	Return to Water - Operator and Swimming Lesson Provider Framework Updates
Developing a Basic Athlete Monitoring Tool	Tips and Tricks to Maintaining Your Mental Health	Return to Water - Rebuilding Swimming Lessons
Developing Aerobic Capacity in Age Group Swimmers	Optimising Swim Performance Through Nutrition	Return to Water - Teaching from the Deck
Developing and Refining IM Skills	Physical Activity for Health	Return to Water - Teaching in Deep Water
Keeping Your Family Safe Around Open Water	Pick the Brains of Rudd & Higson	Return to Water - The Reality of Swimming Lessons Post COVID
Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Children's Water Confidence at Home	Program Planning, Periodisation and Building Appropriate Plans	Sports Science and Sports Medicine Q&A
Educating Your Swimmers on Beach Water Safety	Return to Water - Effective Communication on Deck	Strength Training for Aquatic Athletes

Engaging Your Swimmers During Drowning Prevention Week	If you always do what you have always done...	Strength Training for Aquatic Sports
Essential Biomechanics in Competitive Diving	Retention Tips and Tricks for Swim Schools	Strength Training for Swimmers - What do you want to know?
Framework for Community Swimming and Instructor Led Activity	Return to Training - Considerations for Injury Risk Reduction	The Triangle of Trust – How It Works and Key Points for Person and Athlete Development
How to Improve Your Adult Learn to Swim Offering	Return to Water - Consumer Confidence in swimming lessons	The Importance of Engaging Parents in the Journey
How to Keep Your Swimmers Engaged Whilst Out of The Water	Return to Water - Effective Coach Communication from Deck	