

Guidance for Outdoor Swimming Pools reopening under the Covid-19 Resilience and Recovery Plan 2021.

This document should be read in conjunction with the follow framework documents provided by Swim Ireland:

- [Framework for Outdoor Swimming Pool Operators](#)
- [Framework for Swimming Lessons](#)
- [Framework for Outdoor Community Swimming and Instructor Led Activity](#)
- [Framework for Outdoor Pool Users](#)

Outdoor activity in pods of 15 can recommence for all exercise activities from 26th April 2021 (ROI). This document is not exhaustive but will provide guidance for facilities wishing to operate an Outdoor Pool offering an aquatic programme to its community and clubs.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons are permitted outdoors in the Republic of Ireland. Facilities wishing to deliver Swimming Lessons in an outdoor facility should refer to the Swim Ireland [Framework for Swimming Lessons](#) for specific details on managing COVID-19 and lesson delivery. Please also refer to [Guidance for Swimming Lesson Providers Returning to Swimming Lesson Delivery \(3rd June\)](#) which can be found [here](#).

Please also note that all lessons should be taught from the pool deck and facilities and teachers should adhere to protocols for lessons outlined in the Level 2 Qualification.

Family Sessions

Participants from the same household are not required to socially distance from each other but will be required to maintain the required social distance from others once at the pool. To support the delivery of family swim sessions in a safe way and adhering to social distancing guidelines, you should consider configuring the pool so that a household is able to book their own section or area of pool space.

Lane Swimming

Outdoor facilities wishing to offer lane swimming to its members and wider community should refer to the Swim Ireland [Framework for Outdoor Swimming Pool Operators](#) and the [Framework for Outdoor Community Swimming and Instructor Led Activity](#).

It is recommended that a double lane format is used where possible with all swimmers following a clockwise direction (based on 25m x 12.5m pool – 6 lanes – up to 10 per lane). Number of swimmers per lane must be risk assessed based on ability and speed etc. This should be adapted for pools of differing dimensions and lane numbers.

When, following government guidance, social distancing reduces to 1m or less or where Outdoor Pool Operators deem a session to be low risk (for example Lane Swimming), Pool Operators may consider the return to a single lane format with all swimmers following a clockwise direction. Number of swimmers per lane must be risk assessed based on ability, speed, stroke etc.

Where a facility operates and outdoor pool, it is recommended that lane occupancies should not exceed the following:

- 50m Pool – up to 12 individual swimmers per lane
- 25m Pool – up to 10 individual swimmers per lane
- 20m Pool – up to 8 individual swimmers per lane

The number of swimmers per lane is increased slightly outdoors, however there is still a requirement to ensure swimmers remain socially distanced when resting. Facilities may risk assess these numbers based on the level of swimmers within a session, however it is recommended that numbers do not go above the numbers detailed above.

Aquatic Fitness Classes

Aquatic Fitness Classes are permitted to take place in outdoor pools with a maximum of 15 participants. Facilities wishing to offer Aquatic Fitness should refer to Swim Irelands [Framework for Outdoor Community Swimming and Instructor Led Activity](#).

Sessions should be delivered in line with social distancing requirements and Instructors should deliver the session from the pool deck. Instructors will need to consider the safety and management of the group in accordance with the pool space available and the number of participants and this should be reflected in the session plan.

Outdoor Showers

If outdoor showers are in use, avoid queuing/congregation. Even in outdoor settings, interaction should be limited as much as possible.

Educational Courses

Lifeguard Training

In light of the need for pool lifeguards to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared for the return of swimming participants on the 7th June, and to ensure the safety of participants on their return, the Department of Sport has confirmed that pool lifeguards can return to the workplace for training and preparation purposes in advance of 7th June. Swim Ireland will be resuming all practical and assessment aspects of the National Pool Lifeguard qualification.

Swim Ireland Education Courses

In preparation for Swimming Lessons and Club sessions returning, Swim Ireland will be resuming some practical courses for Swimming Teachers and Swimming Coaches. Initial courses can be delivered in outdoor facilities with a maximum of 12 learners to 1 tutor. All learners must maintain social distancing throughout their time within the facility.

For further information and guidance, please contact Bethan Laker National Pool Partnerships & Programming Manager Swim Ireland bethanlaker@swimireland.ie