

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing you on behalf of more than 40,000 athletes and 440 small business owners with 3400 employees in California that are registered members of USA Swimming. We represent a monthly \$10 million loss of small business wages, and the facilities across our state are losing \$2.5 million monthly in revenue from our not being able to swim. We are requesting that you allow us to return to lap swimming and supervised swimming practices in private, public, and school facilities across this state.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful leadership through this coronavirus pandemic. You have saved so many lives and are focused on making good business decisions using science and data. USA Swimming and the impacted athletes, business owners or teams, and employees truly believe that we can safely return to the pool now without jeopardizing the “new” normal live that all Californians want and deserve.

The scientific and practical rationale behind our request is as follows:

- Both the CDC and NIH are comfortable that the disease cannot be spread in properly maintained chlorinated water.
- Scientific studies have shown that the virus will not live outside for more than a few minutes at the temperatures that the outdoor California pools experience; thus further minimizing the risk to the athletes and coaches.
- Swimming is inherently a “solo” sport and easily lends itself to physical distancing.
- Teams would return in reduced size, fixed groups with a maximum density of 25-30% of traditional levels; changes to team practice groups would only be modified in accordance with your future phased directives.
- Swimmers do not need to share equipment during a practice, which helps ensure the virus does not spread while being active.
- Coaches will enforce physical distancing amongst the swimmers while they are at practice.
- Coaches will physically distance themselves from swimmers and wear appropriate PPE to avoid group to group transmission.
- The coach / swimmer ratio in a pool facility that is established by public health guidelines will ensure that the swimmers maintain physical distance at all times.
- For general safety, pool facilities always have more than one entrance / exit point allowing athletes to enter and exit the facility at different egress points, further supporting the physical distancing required of any business.
- Restroom facilities can be limited to use for one athlete at a time; this will allow surfaces to be wiped down after each and every use.

We firmly believe that pools across the state can be used now for lap swimming and by supervised groups of USA swimming members in a safe manner. Operating in the current phase of the

reopening of California's business communities will further support your objective of supporting businesses that can meet the needed physical distancing requirements and safe operations.

USA Swimming has put together a comprehensive plan (see attached document below) that outlines what each facility will follow for a safe opening and daily use. As you know, swimming and water sports are deeply ingrained as a California "way of life".

The Signators on this letter, representing the small business community and young athletes associated with competitive swimming, respectfully request that you allow pools to open for lap swimming and competitive swim practice during the current phase.

Respectfully,



**Mark Brown, General Chair Sierra Nevada Swimming**



**Mike Carpenter, General Chair Central California Swimming**



**David Cottam, General Chair Pacific Swimming**



**Terry Stoddard, General Chair, Southern California Swimming**



**Sally Taggart, General Chair San Diego Imperial Swimming**

Cc:

Sean Redmond, Western Zone Director USA Swimming

Joel Shinofield, Managing Director of Sport Development USA Swimming



USA Swimming  
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