

# Ballymoney Amateur Swimming Club

## Gradual reopening of BASC

Firstly, we hope everyone within the club, as well as your families & friends, continue to keep safe and well.

At long last, the committee are pleased to report that the CC&G council area have finally given the green light to partially reopen leisure centres and pools in our council area, albeit in a highly restricted and controlled manner. The pool facilities will start to open from Wed 26<sup>th</sup> August.

As everyone knows the resumption of sport in general continues to be difficult, but swimming in particular has been very badly hit due to the supposedly higher risk of Covid infection. The period that we have spent out of the water due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, on top of the pool's closure due to the roof issue, has been unprecedented in the 30 year plus history of the club.

With this in mind, the committee are pleased to announce the following phased return to swimming for BASC.

At the outset, let us apologise to those who will be left initially disappointed and without access to the pool at this early stage. This is currently the best we can offer with the strict restrictions we must adhere to. If it was a perfect world, we would have everyone back now, but that is currently just not possible.

Therefore, the club will return in phases, and part phases within.

In line with CC&G council and Swim Ireland protocols, Phase 1 will be those swimmers who are TUESDAY NIGHT ATTENDEES ONLY and will be subdivided as follows

### **Phase 1 return, starting immediately (Wednesday 26 Aug)**

#### **Group A**

Swimmers who are current Swim Ireland/Ulster Qualifying swimmers ONLY, for season 19/20

**This group will be contacted directly by the club and told when they should attend.**

#### **Phase 1- Group B**

Swimmers who are older age, past qualifying group swimmers ONLY and subject to coaches being comfortable bringing more swimmers back

**This group will be contacted directly by the club when we are able to bring you back, with details of when you should attend.**

#### **Phase 1 Group C**

Remainder of returning Tuesday evening swimmers and subject to coaches being comfortable bringing more swimmers back

**This group will be contacted directly by the club when we are able to bring you back, with details of when you should attend.**

**CAN WE STRESS THAT NO SWIMMER WILL BE GRANTED ACCESS TO THEIR SESSIONS, WITHOUT HAVING FIRST COMPLETED ALL RELEVANT PAPERWORK REQUESTED BY THE CLUB SECRETARY AND**

**LEAD COVID-19 OFFICER. THIS IS MANDATORY. After this, entry to every session is reliant on the Self Report Screening form (online) being completed for that date.**

Before commencing swimming, all swimmers will be required to pay their Swim Ireland & Swim Ulster Fees for season 20/21 (£57.50). Because of the huge uncertainty surrounding swimming and sport in general, at this stage we do not feel it is possible nor right, to set an annual fee, rather swimmers will be asked to pay on an ongoing basis. The cost will reflect the number of weeks for which you are eligible to swim and will be paid on a weekly basis for Phase 1. The finance committee will review the situation prior to Phase 2.

**Phase 2 - return date unknown as yet, as dependant on success of Phase 1 and pool capacity.**

**This will be previous Monday evening Main Pool swimmers and will also be phased in, based on competency, pool capacity and subject to coaches being comfortable bringing more swimmers back**

**Phase 3 (return date unknown as yet as dependant of minor pool reopening /capacity issues).**

Due to multiple complexities surrounding social distancing, the minor pool remains closed to all members of the public (be they club members or not) at this stage, with no reopening date set as yet.

We will contact all Minor pool swimmers when we are able to offer a date to restart these children, but unfortunately we have no idea when this will be.

**At this time there is no plan to accept new member applications (including siblings of existing members) because our priority is to get existing members back into the pool.**

Whilst acknowledging that this return to swimming is far from perfect, **we MUST** put the safety of our swimmers, their families, our coaches and the centre staff, front and centre of all we do. For those returning to swim over the first few weeks, lots of things will seem a little strange at outset, from arriving at the pool, being in the water and leaving after your session. Please remember, we are all learning together but your safety is paramount to us. As we have noted before unfortunately we live in a very different world now, and therefore there are significant changes we must all embrace to protect each other.

Finally, there has been a colossal amount of work done by the committee and from the council to even get to this stage. There is a lot more required before we get the club back to some degree of normality. We believe that this phased return ensures that we can ultimately control our risks and offer as safe an environment to you all, in these strange times. The safety of our members is and always will be, the priority of the club.

Finally, as we noted a couple of weeks ago, the committee is fully aware that a substantial number of members, particularly our least experienced younger swimmers, got little if indeed any, real swimming last season. Can I assure you we are continuing to look at ways which we can help rectify this in a number of ways moving forward.

We look forward to seeing everyone back swimming as soon as safely possible,

Gary, BASC Chairperson on behalf of the Committee