

May 19, 2020

Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Request to open public and private swimming pools in Phase 2 for supervised swim practice.

Dear Governor Sisolak,

We are writing on behalf of more than 20 non-profit youth, adult, and university swim teams based in Nevada. Over 2,000 families across the state are members of these USA Swimming and United States Masters registered teams. We are requesting that pools in Nevada be open as part of Phase 2 of the Nevada United Roadmap to Recovery for **supervised swim practice** in both public and private facilities.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful leadership during these unprecedented times. You have relied on science and data to guide your decision making. USA Swimming, US Masters Swimming, and the teams across Nevada strongly believe we can return to the pool in a safe manner. The science and practical rationale behind our request are as follows:

- Both the CDC and NIH are comfortable that the disease cannot be spread in properly maintained chlorinated water. All teams in Nevada use facilities that are overseen by the local health department and follow strict chlorine guidelines.
- Swimming is inherently a “solo” sport even in a structured team setting. This easily lends itself to practicing and adhering to all social distancing guidelines. Supervised swim practice allows for constant monitoring of the athlete by the coach to ensure safety protocols are always met.
- The physical and mental health of Nevadans is crucial during this challenging time. By allowing structured swim practice to return our team members will once again have access to an activity that provides countless benefits for their overall physical and mental well-being.
- Swim teams, which are accustomed to running structured practices overseen by nationally certified coaches, will work closely with each facility director to create a site-specific plan that prioritizes safety of all participants.
- Some examples of safety measures that can be implemented include:
 - A significantly reduced capacity to allow for proper social distancing.

- Swimmers will come and leave the pool with their swimsuits on and not use the locker room facilities.
- A detailed arrival and exit plan to prevent any congregation of swimmers.
- No equipment will be allowed to be shared among the swimmers.
- Drinking fountains and other public areas will be off limits to the swimmers thereby dramatically minimizing any level of “high touch” surfaces. The minimal surfaces that are touched will be disinfected after each use.

These are just a few examples of why we believe pools should be reopened and used in a safe manner. USA Swimming has produced a detailed guide to reopen pools (please see attached). Each team will implement the USA Swimming plan and work with the facility, health district, cities, and counties across the state to create a more site-specific plan based on each unique facility. In addition, at least 16 states across the country have successfully opened pools or have set a reopen date prior to June 1.

We are confident that we can keep our athletes and the public safe as they return to the water. The Silver State has a rich swimming history. Our families and swimmers are anxious to return to the pool in a safe and appropriate manner. We ask that you include pools for **supervised swim practice** in Nevada’s next reopening phase.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ryan Evans (775 287-6883 and/or evansrenoac@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Bob Hommel
Head Coach
BlueFin Aquatics
Henderson

Michial Polk
Head Coach and President
Boulder City Henderson Swim Team
Boulder City

Mike Freeman
Recreation Program Manager, Aquatics
Carson Aquatic Facility
Carson City

Julie Hardt
Head Coach
Carson Tigersharks
Carson City

Kat Matheson
Head Coach
Douglas Dolphins Swim Team
Minden/Gardnerville

David Stevenson
President
Douglas Dolphins Swim Team
Minden/Gardnerville

Erica Phelps
Head Coach
Elko Swim Team
Elko

Bree O’Neill
Head Coach
Fallon Barracuda Swim Team
Fallon

Devonee McCary
Head Coach
Henderson Aquatics
Henderson

Vic Hecker
Head Coach
Las Vegas Masters Swim Team
Las Vegas

Peter Mavro
Head Coach
Las Vegas Swim Club
Las Vegas

Erik Scalise
Head Coach
Northern Nevada Aquatics
Reno/Incline Village/Winnemucca

Jim Morefield
Chair
Pacific Swimming Zone 4
Minden

Ryan Evans
Head Coach
Reno Aquatic Club
Reno

Ron Aitken
Head Coach
Sandpipers of Nevada
Las Vegas

Steve Lintz
Head Coach
Sierra Nevada Masters
Reno/Incline Village

Darlene Rogers
Swim Coach
Sun City Communities
Las Vegas/Henderson

Gwynne Cunningham
Recreation Supervisor, Aquatics
Incline Village Parks and Recreation
Incline Village

Karin Wegner
Team Manager
Las Vegas Masters Swim Team
Las Vegas

Sharon Weiss
Head Coach
Lakeridge Swim Team
Reno

Jonathan Hillmer
Head Coach
North Las Vegas Avengers
North Las Vegas

Christine Aramini
President
Reno Aquatic Club
Reno

Dave Hoover
Head Coach
Reno High School
Reno

John Pettibone
President
Sierra Nevada Masters
Reno/Incline Village

Mike Richmond
Head Coach
Sparks Piranhas Swim Team
Sparks

Jim Reitz
President
Team Rebel Aquatics/Team Rebel Masters
Las Vegas

Lorena Diaconescu
Head Coach
Team Rebel Aquatics
Las Vegas

Ben Loorz
Head Coach
UNLV
Las Vegas

Larry Phippen
Head Coach
Tahoe Swim Club
South Lake Tahoe

Brendon Bray
Head Coach
University of Nevada
Reno

Cc:

Marilyn Kirkpatrick, LEAP Chair, Urban Counties
J.J. Goicoechea, LEAP Chair, Rural Counties
Sean Redmond, Western Zone Director, USA Swimming
Joel Schoenfeld, Managing Director of Sports Development, USA Swimming

Attachments:

USA Swimming's "Facility Reopening Messaging and Planning" Guide