

2020-2021 VPSC Registration Update

2020 has been an extremely challenging year for the VPSC Community and we offer a heartfelt thank you to all members for your incredible support and understanding through the process. From March 16th on, VPSC has provided programming all aimed at offering training and most importantly, keeping our community together. 4 months later we have gained limited access to pool space allowing the club to offer in water instruction through our camps which go until September 6th.

LIMITED FACILITY SPACE

September is the start of a normal swim year with VPSC working to provide in water and dryland programming for our community members. While it is the normal start of a year, that is where normal ends and the reality of the limitations upon all activities become the focus. With that in mind, VPSC will be offering in water and dryland programming with the in-water programming being limited to the total lanes and limits on how many swimmers are allowed per lane. In previous years we had no limits on swimmers per lane and are now limited to 1 per lane at 1 facility and 2 per lane at 2 others, a substantial reduction from the 5-6 previously used per lane. Per lane numbers will increase over time but when that is, we simply do not know. Facilities set the lane limits and will increase limits as they gain comfort the pandemic is easing and as important, they gain increased comfort in our members ability to follow the strict protocols around pool access and use. We thank you for your understanding, acceptance and adherence to the current rules around pool access and can state those practices will continue for some time. As mentioned in club wide emails, VPSC will mandate and insist all facility policies are followed with a zero tolerance for non-compliance, as any breach of rules by VPSC puts our access to that particular facility at risk. Our camp participants have been excellent in following protocols and we expect no different come the fall sessions.

REGISTRATION

Having already explained the fall will be different, the start of that will be with registration. More than 150 swimmers have saved their spot by submitting their annual family membership during August. The \$250.00 yearly family membership fee is consistent with past years and is refundable should programming not be available or sufficient for the family once the season starts. We encourage those who have not yet pre-registered and who intend to participate in the fall to do so as soon as possible as families who have pre-registered have priority when programming is being scheduled. Families from outside VPSC who have expressed interest in joining have been placed on a waiting list and will be accepted, subject to space, after a reasonable amount of time has been given for last year's member families to confirm intent to participate by pre-registering. Tuesday, September 1st will be considered as the end of exclusivity for last year's members to pre-register.

Normally a full registration package with explanations and sections on volunteer requirements, fundraising initiatives and officials and meet hosting would be sent but due to the fact there is

uncertainty about when events can or will be held, those items will be addressed at a later date.

Items such as Swim BC Fees and other associated costs such as equipment will be included and explained in the package.

A priority in the registration is groupings and pool access. Groupings for pools are being set based on contracted pool access and lane restrictions currently in place. The difficult process will start with the families who are currently registered followed by new registrations being added if space is available or when swimmers per lane limits are expanded. Dryland programming is not limited, with full access to all.

GROUPS AND COSTS

Groups and costs are being set and expected to be formalized by Tuesday, September 1st. Every effort is being made to include as many members as possible into contracted and allotted pool space. Time and facilities for groups will be different than last year. Facility costs have increased and swimmers per lane decreased, a financial reality for VPSC as we budget for programming. With the unknown of when an increase of swimmers per lane will occur, the club will be invoicing all members on a month by month, at the beginning of the month of services provided, based on what we know will be the costs for that month. While the family membership is annual, programming fees will be month to month until consistent and expanded pool time is in place.

With groups and pool space, the focus is on offering as much pool time as possible for as many as possible which could mean one hour of training per week or multiple hours depending on space and registered numbers. All age groups will be scheduled with a potential limit on how many per age group as a guide. In all groupings, commitment and attendance will be strictly monitored and enforced during this unique time. With pool space being limited, we ask that those registering be committed to the times scheduled so there are not empty lane spaces.

Due to your phenomenal support and participation in programming offered from March on, and due to various government subsidies and grants, VPSC is in better financial shape than many other swim clubs across the province. We are working diligently to keep costs and fees as reasonable as possible and expect to provide clarity of fees on or before September 1st.

Thank you again for your incredible support and understanding from March until now and into the coming year. We know “normal” will happen but have no idea when that will be. Until that time, we can and will, all work together to build and showcase VPSC as a strong community and an example for other clubs to follow!

Don Currie
VPSC President