



# American Swimming Coaches Association

Serving Coaches Since 1958 | A National Member of the World Swimming Coaches Association

**“Leadership, Education, Certification”**

May 26, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the American Swimming Coaches Association, we would implore you to consider recognizing our competitive swimming coaches as experts in their field with regards to distinguishing the competitive swimming programs of this country from the area of recreational swimming. The world of competitive swimming has always been based on an incredible amount of structure and we feel we are in a great position to help usher in safe and healthy activity back into aquatic facilities all over the United States.

Our swimming professionals are prepared to implement the strict safety guidelines that have been published for keeping their swimmers safe in regard to the COVID-19 considerations. This group of professionals have a vested interest in the health and well-being of their swimmers as any illness or absence from training will result in diminishing results in competition. Rest assured that our coaches are fully committed to adhering to the recommended guidelines in an effort to allow their athletes to regain their physical conditioning as well as provide some mental health support.

We are living in a whole new world of safety concerns but rest assured that our coaching professionals in this country rank number 1 in the world and have proven their ability to create safe environments for their athletes to train. A good example of this track record was when there was an increase in aquatic-related accidents in the 1980s and much stricter safety guidelines/training requirements were mandated for our coaching community. Our coaches received their training/certifications and began to implement new procedures around the pool which resulted in the number of accidents reduced significantly. This group of professionals have demonstrated that they can adapt to a changing environment and place a high priority on the health and safety of their athletes.

Please consider that this group of professionals are unique in how they structure and operate their programs from other types of activities held at aquatic facilities and have a long history of adapting their operational plans to accommodate new safety guidelines. You will not find a more committed group of coaches with the health and safety of their athletes as their top priority in any sport in this country.

The ASCA requests that you to take all this under consideration when examining the new dynamics of health and safety at aquatic facilities and treat this unique type of programming on its own merits. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this very important matter!

Sincerely,

Steven M. Roush  
Chief Executive Officer