

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](mailto: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  
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Julie Hardt  
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Carson Tigersharks  
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Kat Matheson  
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Douglas Dolphins Swim Team  
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David Stevenson  
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Erica Phelps  
Head Coach  
Elko Swim Team  
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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  
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Sierra Nevada Masters  
Reno/Incline Village

Darlene Rogers  
Swim Coach  
Sun City Communities  
Las Vegas/Henderson

Gwynne Cunningham  
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Incline Village Parks and Recreation  
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Karin Wegner  
Team Manager  
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Sharon Weiss  
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Lakeridge Swim Team  
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Jonathan Hillmer  
Head Coach  
North Las Vegas Avengers  
North Las Vegas

Christine Aramini  
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Reno Aquatic Club  
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Dave Hoover  
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Reno High School  
Reno

John Pettibone  
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Sierra Nevada Masters  
Reno/Incline Village

Mike Richmond  
Head Coach  
Sparks Piranhas Swim Team  
Sparks

Jim Reitz  
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Team Rebel Aquatics/Team Rebel Masters  
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Lorena Diaconescu  
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Team Rebel Aquatics  
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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