



SWIM FLASH

FIFTH UPDATE on 2020 Season

June 12, 2020

We are excited that Baltimore City **may** enter Phase 2 next week, perhaps next weekend. If so, we will be ready to open the swim club. For several weeks, Claire and a small group of guards have readied the pool (now crystal clear!), cut the grass and tidied the grounds, and prepped the locker rooms and office.

Before we open, you will receive information regarding our hours, a reservation system, and rules under which we will operate and, as a result of the shortened season and the restrictions, the reduced Annual Dues. You will also receive information about our new "MemberSplash" sign-in and reservation system and be invited to upload photos so that all members have photos in the system. When arriving at the swim club, you will not sign in with a pen; you will tell the guard at the front desk who you are and she or he will confirm your membership and note the time of your arrival.

In the meantime, please review the State's most recent guidelines for swimming pools which can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/June-10-2020-State-Guidelines>

FOURTH UPDATE on 2020 Season

May 21, 2020

We're a few days away from what would have been Opening Day for our 2020 Season and, even though we do not have clearance to open or know under what conditions we would open, we are beginning to ready the pool and the rest of the swim club for a delayed opening. The forecast for this weekend includes rain, but we know that many of you would have been at the swim club any way, celebrating the start of summer.

We have developed a tentative plan for operations, which we will share first with the Pool Advisory Board and then with you, although the plan will be driven by whatever restrictions may be imposed by the Governor and the Mayor. The Assistant City Health Commissioner who oversees swimming pools has advised us that she awaits the State's Guidelines (i.e., the City will not be issuing its own guidelines for swim clubs), but the question will be whether the Mayor continues to move the "phase" reopening more slowly than the State and how that is done.

We have studied the CDC guidelines (see <https://tinyurl.com/PoolsCDC-Guidelines>), restrictions that have been imposed by other States, guidance from The Johns Hopkins University and USA Swimming, and what other swim clubs are planning. As mentioned previously, we are conferring with other swim clubs in the Baltimore area. Prior to the recent CDC reopening guidelines, the CDC has gone on record to say that there is no

evidence of getting COVID-19 from a pool, because of the chlorine (see <https://tinyurl.com/PoolsCDC-Chlorine> - 3rd point).

Looking at other states, Ohio and South Carolina have provided guidance for opening pools (see <https://tinyurl.com/Pools-OH> and <https://tinyurl.com/Pools-SC>). Delaware is opening their pools this weekend under the following guidance (see <https://tinyurl.com/Pools-DE>). If you review these guidelines, you will see that there is an emerging consensus regarding how to open pools safely. Currently there is no similar plan in place for Maryland, but we anticipate that guidelines will be released within the next two weeks.

Here's how we intend to address Annual Dues: Once we know when we will open and under what restrictions (including, almost certainly, a rationing of pool attendance time, through a reservation system), we will reset Annual Dues for Families, Couples, and Individuals. At that time, if you have not yet renewed, you will decide whether to join or to pay the \$50 Non-Renewal Fee. If you have already renewed and paid your Annual Dues, you will have the same choice and, if you decide to sit out the summer, you will receive a refund, less the Non-Renewal Fee. We recognize that no matter how hard we try, the 2020 Season will be a less than satisfactory experience, so we will set the Annual Dues accordingly. We anticipate that the swim club will take a substantial loss this year; however, the Dues will be set with an eye to the Season we are delivering, not trying to break even. Again, if you have not yet paid your Annual Dues, please do NOT now pay.

Thank you for your support and encouragement!

If you have any questions or suggestions,
please contact us at manager@otterbeinswim.com

THIRD UPDATE on 2020 Season

May 5, 2020

This past weekend at the Otterbein Swim Club (when the Blue Angels flew right overhead!), the grass was cut, the pirate ship was stained, and a few odd chores were tackled, but – sadly – the pool cover remains on the pool, the furniture remains in the building, and no lifeguards have gathered.

The more we plan for our 2020 season, the more questions we have. Presently, we anticipate a delayed opening and, once we open, that there will be State requirements, CDC guidelines, best practices, and new rules that will impact our members and staff.

We are keeping a watchful eye on Governor Hogan's three-stage lifting of his "Stay-Home" Order, particularly whether outdoor swim clubs will be regarded as Low Risk (Phase One) or Medium Risk (Phase Two). A group of swim club presidents and owners that we have joined anticipate that swim clubs will be in Phase One (along with "limited outdoor gym and fitness classes" and golf, tennis, and limited outdoor religious gatherings), but that there may be limits upon numbers who may attend at any one time. We also note that The Johns Hopkins University's *Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors* characterizes swim clubs as having "Medium" Contact Intensity, "Low" Number of Contacts, and "High" Modification Potential, which bodes well for being toward the earlier part of the reopening.

As for what a 2020 season may look like for the Otterbein Swim Club, we anticipate (at least for the first weeks):

- A rationing of member visits, perhaps by alternating days or by two or three-hour slots
- Only half of the tables and chairs being on the deck
- Physical distancing requirements
- Limitations on bringing guests
- No large parties
- Face masks required when not swimming or eating (making for interesting tan lines!)
- Increased chlorine levels in the pools and more frequent testing
- More regular cleaning
- Hand sanitizer and wipes being readily available
- Only staff in the office (i.e., no access to the refrigerator)
- A more controlled (and time-consuming) sign-in process at the front desk, with every member or visitor being signed in by staff
- No “Otterbein Otters” swim meets (while, depending upon interest, offering coach-led training in staggered sessions)
- No swim club-provided swim noodles or kick boards (except as a member may bring and then take home)
- Limiting use of the locker rooms, e.g., encouraging members to wear bathing suits to and from the swim club
- And, Say It Ain’t So!, no Freezie-Pops

All of this means a less enjoyable summer for our members, a greater burden on Claire and our staff, and increased costs.

Once we know when and how we will open, we will reset the 2020 Annual Dues for Families, Couples, and Individuals and we will tell you how we intend to operate (knowing that, as the summer progresses, the rules may evolve). At that time, each Member will have the opportunity to join or take this summer off. For those Members who have already renewed and paid 2020 Annual Dues (thank you), you will have the opportunity to change your mind, pay the Non-Renewal Fee, and otherwise request a full refund. For Members who have already paid and confirm that they want to participate in the shortened 2020 season, a partial refund will be provided. There will also be an acknowledgment of risk.

In the meantime, for those of you who have not yet paid your 2020 Annual Dues, please continue to hold off. However, if you know now that you will not be renewing for 2020 (for whatever reason), please let us know.

We will share that there are some swim clubs that have determined that if they are not permitted to open by June 15, July 1, or some other date, they will remain closed for 2020. **We fully intend, however, to open when and as permitted.**

We appreciate the support and suggestions that we have received from many of you.

If you have any questions or further suggestions, please let us know at manager@otterbsinswim.com

Thank you!

UPDATE on 2020 Season

April 11, 2020

As we approach mid-April, we continue to be uncertain whether and, if so, when we will be open for our 2020 Season. Presently, we do not believe that we will be opening on Saturday, May 23, although we hope that by mid-May we will have a better idea when we can open and on what conditions.

On March 18 (see below), we extended the due date for the payment of Annual Dues from April 15 to May 1 and encouraged you to hold off paying your 2020 Annual Dues.

Today, we are extending our due date again - to Saturday, May 16.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know at manager@otterbeinswim.com.

Thank you.

Our 2020 Season

March 18, 2020

As the Otterbein Swim Club approaches its 2020 season in the midst of the evolving COVID-19 situation, we are keeping an eye on government restrictions and advisories, best hygiene practices, and the best interests of our members and employees.

The situation is developing for all of us and every day there is a new normal. We anticipate that we will be open for all or part of our season, but we recognize that events and government orders and advisories will drive that decision.

If our Memorial Day weekend opening is delayed, we will either refund a pro rata portion of your Annual Dues and/or stay open beyond Labor Day. Please recognize, however, that staying open beyond Labor Day (even for one weekend) can be a challenge as our lifeguards will have returned to college or high school.

At present, we are keeping an eye on US Swimming, CDC, and other advisories for public swimming pools (e.g., more frequent testing of chlorine levels) and we have delayed any pre-season work days with our lifeguards. (Our lifeguards, home from college and school, may have time on their hands, but being together at the swim club is not "essential.")

To provide flexibility for our members, we are extending our [April 15th](#) due date for the return of renewal forms to [May 1](#) and we encourage you to hold off paying your Annual Dues until the situation becomes clear. However, if you have moved or know now that you will be sitting out this season (for whatever reason), please let us know and either send in your resignation letter or your \$50 Non-Renewal Fee, so that we can better understand our membership numbers for the coming season. Our Wait List now extends out four years and we want to be able to manage any "new member" invitations sooner rather than later.



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