



SWIMMING CANADA ANNOUNCE REVISED OLYMPIC PROGRAM PLANS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

John Atkinson Swimming Canada High Performance Director and National Coach has announced the revised Swimming Canada plans leading into the rescheduled 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

John stated that he and the Olympic program national staff coaches (Mark Perry, Ken McKinnon, Martyn Wilby and Iain McDonald) have been looking at what can be done in order to get the national swimming program and teams moving again. He went on to say that of course while we continue to be under government mandates and restrictions, we all felt it was really important to get the plans for the future developed, and all these plans will be conditional to when the current mandates and restrictions will be lifted and that would lead to a return to training in the future under whatever the new normal will be. John stated Swimming Canada received great feedback from different consultation meetings that have taken place with swimmer's and coaches over the last few weeks in order to seek comment and also understand, so that these plans for the future could be developed. The swimmer's and coaches agreed that the plans will provide a focus point for all and should they change we will all be adaptable to what that may mean.

All planning is subject to change based on qualification processes or calendar confirmations from FINA, International Olympic Committee (IOC) etc.

Senior Invitational Camp (Pool and Open Water) (25-29 August 2020)

As we begin to build back into some sort of normality, we believe it is really important to bring the identified Senior Team swimmers together for an **Invitational Camp**, to be conducted in Canada from **25-29 August 2020**, the venue is being determined and discussed. Of course, the situation will be evaluated closer to the time and with regard to any requirements that may still be in place for this camp from a health and wellbeing perspective. This camp will totally focus on getting the group together and building a sense of targeting the future together as we embark on the next Olympic year of 2021. This camp will be for the Pool and Open Water invited swimmers and we will ask all to block this date out in their revised plans.

Back to Training September to December 2020

After the senior invitational camp we see that the swimmer's will going back to their home programs, in Canada and in the USA (should this be permitted), also at our Swimming Canada High Performance Centres, Clubs and or University programs to build back into a normal training program with their home coaches.

National Camps and Competitions September 2020 to February 2021

There will be other Development team and Open Water team camps and competitions moved into the 'Fall' of 2020 and early 2021 and information will follow on these.

FINA World (25m) Championships (9-21 December 2020)

A selected Team will then come together to race at the **FINA World (25m) Championships to take place in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 16-20 December 2020**. We will be rewriting the selection criteria to



select from rankings and of course we need the qualification process from FINA and then we can finalize the criteria. This will be an important competition for the potential Canadian Olympic Pool Team swimmers to get competing again at a World level and as a national team. Our intention is now to take a full sized team, departing Canada on around the 9th of December, should the competition continue and that is still in FINA's plans.

Swimming Canada Carded Coaches meeting

The postponed 2020 Carded Coaches meeting will be scheduled to take place in January 2021, with details to be communicated to the Coaches directly.

Swimming Canada Eastern and Western Championships 2021

With regard to the **Swimming Canada Eastern and Western Pool Championships in 2021**, Swimming Canada recognises the strain on clubs and families in the year getting back into swimming, and therefore we will allow all athletes and clubs to focus on the Provincial Championships at the **end of February and through March**, and a window for performances will be established for a virtual Eastern and Western Championships to be conducted, more details will follow on this. A high-level overview would be as follows; use Provincial Championship results and possibly U Sports (if in a 50m pool configuration) from 25 February to 28 March 2021; and create a virtual meet with banners and team awards for a scored championship.

FINA Open Water World Series and Competitions January to March 2021

With the targeted Open Water swimmers, we recognise racing will be important, and we will consider competition opportunities in January and through to March 2021, and look at events that can give our swimmers racing opportunities, more details will follow.

Olympic and Paralympic Trials (7-11 April 2021)

The focus then becomes the **Olympic and Paralympic pool Trials** and we have established dates of **7-11 April 2021 in Toronto**, and while this is a shorter program of five days, it has been carefully constructed to avoid event clashes. The nomination criteria for the Olympic Games will now be developed with the Canadian Olympic Committee and then published. We will consider the planned national team relay time trials for the men's 4 x 100 FS and 4 x 200 FS teams once we know the revised qualification process for the Olympic Games. There will be **1 day of Team meetings** for the Olympic team following the trials on the **12 April 2021**.

Open Water Trials (17 & 18 April 2021)

From an Open Water Marathon Swimming standpoint, we will conduct our **Open Water Swimming Trials in the Cayman Islands** on the **17th and 18th April 2021**. We look forward to working with our friends in Cayman to establish our open water trials that will serve as the selection point for the final two positions (a male and a female) to attend the **Final Olympic Games Marathon Swimming qualification event**, that is likely to be moved forward one year to the **end of May 2021**, dates to be confirmed by the IOC and FINA. The two Canadian athletes selected at the Open Water Trials will, along with our two swimmer's already qualified following the 2019 FINA World Championships in Korea from the results 10K swim, then aim to qualify from the final Olympic Open Water Marathon Swim qualifier to the Olympic Games Marathon swim.



The 2020 FINA World Junior Open Water Championships have been postponed (dates to be confirmed by FINA) and we will look to rewrite the selection criteria and then select the team at our Open Water Trials, 17 & 18 April 2021 if the dates all fit.

Olympic Pool Team Camp (16-22 May 2021)

An Olympic pool team camp will take place from the 16-22 May 2021, as was planned in May 2020. This will be the final time the team comes together before the Games in Tokyo.

Canadian Junior and Canadian Swimming Championships (26 July to 2 August 2021)

In the summer of 2021 Swimming Canada will conduct a combined Canadian Junior and Canadian Championships as is also in the plan in 2022 and 2024. The competition would include Junior, Senior and Para athletes.

As mentioned in the virtual Eastern and Western Championship's, the intent with that and this combined event is a way to help clubs and families manage the financial obligations of the sport after a challenging 2020 season. Less travel will provide some relief and allow swimmers, coaches and families to remain closer to home for longer stretches, and a training focus be paramount to all swimmers across the country.

Canada Games (5-13 August 2021)

Canada Games will take place in the Niagara Region of Ontario, with competition beginning on 6 August 2021 running through to 12 August 2021. Pre-event training will take place on 5 August 2021 with the Open Water event on 12 August 2021 (rain date 13 August).

FINA World Junior Open Water Championships

In the summer of 2021 FINA plan to hold a World Junior Swimming Championships and at this stage there is not published venue/host. Once more details are available from FINA, Swimming Canada's selection criteria will be developed, which will be based on performances from the Swimming Canada Trials 7-11 April 2021.

Team Planner Documents

The Senior team planner document will be updated with these changes and will show the exact dates for staging camps for the Olympic Games in Japan for both the Pool and Open Water teams. The Development team and Open Water team planners will also be revised and circulated.

Nomination and selection criteria

The nomination and selection criteria for all teams will be updated and published. With regard to the Olympic Games for both pool and open water, this will be completed when the revised Olympic Qualification process has been published and then that detail can be included the revised criteria.

Beyond the Summer of 2021



All plans for beyond the summer of 2021 will be reviewed and finalised when the decisions regarding the 2021 FINA World Championships, Fukuoka, Japan, originally planned for the summer of 2021 have been made and communicated by FINA.