



Florida Gold Coast Coaches' Corner #4

June 8, 2020

Coaches of the Florida Gold Coast:

Here is a brief summary of our latest FGC Board of Directors meeting.

FGC Coach Mentoring Program

Hats off to Coach Rafael Lima, a part of our coaches' mentoring program. Coach Lima was given the opportunity to visit the Mission Viejo Nadadores and observe a handful of practice situations with Coach Mark Schubert's elite training group. His observations helped gain insight into how one of the most successful programs operates at the upper levels. Though access was limited to the overall program developmentally, Coach Lima gave us some insight as to Coach Schubert's style and practices during the 3 days he was on deck.

General updates from Florida Gold Coast & USA Swimming with COVID-19

- **Returning to Facilities:** As of our meeting only appx. only 20% of the FGC teams have seen some time in their facilities! This is unacceptable in our eyes as we watch beach scenes, public parks, team sports participating in municipal parks, etc. The CDC points to the fact that chlorinated pools DOES NOT transmit Corona Virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/index.html>. Several conclusions were drawn with those teams that have returned to the water have found:
 - Solid and professional relationships w/ your municipalities are essential
 - Putting forth proposals and educating those in control of your facility about our sport will help (not solve) your team's ability to return to the water
 - Using "individual sport" vs. team sport helps in wording
 - We have seen in some facilities public lap swimming 'open' and our swim teams 'sitting on the sidelines'; oftentimes with outside teams monopolizing the public lap swimming. This has happened throughout the FGC. At this point oftentimes it helps (not solves) to gather data as to revenue streams that help offset the costs of running a facility...club teams provide consistent revenues to a facility by its tax paying families/members (this helped in our proposals in Palm Beach County).
 - Propose lane setup situations (1 per side/2 per lane e.g.)
 - Propose 'no parents on deck' (every coach's dream!)
 - Propose labeling lanes and bag placement areas
 - Propose only 2 at a time in bathrooms, no locker room changing, no 'hanging out' on deck
 - Propose utilizing the 'off hours'early mornings and late afternoons/evenings.
 - Utilize USA Swimming's Program Adaptations! (more tools to help 'educate' and get back in) <https://bit.ly/2Mw97Ht>
 - Utilize USA Swimming's "SWIM AGAIN" marketing tool kit: <https://bit.ly/2XxeqN3>
 - This contains great posters and other marketing campaigns to encourage municipalities of the need to get their individuals back in the water for club swimming
 - Utilize USA Swimming's 'Waiver Templates'. This takes the responsibility out of municipalities' hands and puts the onus on individual families to do what they believe is the best for their youngsters.

- [Template waiver for athlete/participant](#)
- [Insurance company template specific to COVID-19](#)
- Utilize email campaigns and attend municipal meetings to encourage municipalities to help get us back in the water....very effective.
- Department's of Health in various our individual counties. They carry much weight in decision making, getting them on your list of influencers is important. Remember reasonable adults should be able to reason. Present your case with respect and facts.

Status of Long Course Season 2020

- The Florida Gold Coast has approved a plan for a get back to competition! The Technical Planning Committee has proposed, and the FGC BOD has approved the 30-60-90 plan of action to get into competition. We all hope as we enter July 2020 that some limited competitions will take place....we will know more as we tip toe towards July.....things are getting better no doubt.
- FGC B-C Champs Cancelled. FGC BB Championships Cancelled. FGC LCM Jr. Olympics cancelled. FGC LCM Sr. Champs have been cancelled.
- ***Want to have an 'in house' sanctioned meet*** once USAS gives us a thumbs up?
 - Pls. make sure your facility has met the competition course requirements and has been certified in accordance with 104.2.2C (4) and have your pool certified with USAS
 - If you will need officials to cover your pool for any inter squad sanction meets or virtual meets contact anyone on the officials committee.
- ***Need a background check?*** Please submit background checks as early as possible since the courts are closed in not fully functional in many areas and they are taking 6-8 weeks to process

Safe Sport Recognition & MAAPP

- More teams have now become Safe Sport recognized by USA Swimming! Remember those teams who have received FGC Grant money should be on their way to becoming SS recognized. Soon this will be a mandatory policy for all teams! Use this down time to get it done! Check it Out: <https://www.usaswimming.org/ssrp>
- MAAPP (Minor Athlete Abuse and Prevention Policy): June 23 is the deadline put out there to get your MAAPP in place. How does your team do it? <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/minor-athlete-abuse-prevention-policy>

The Soaring Eagles' Scholarship Opportunity

Soaring Eagle Scholarship apps are due June 12th. The Florida Gold Coast Board of Directors has created new Scholarship in response to the 2018 tragic school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, which included one of our own - local swimmer Nicholas Dworet - as one of the victims. In keeping with Nick's drive and determination to continue his swimming career collegiately, this scholarship is designed to encourage and support our FGC athletes who share that same drive and determination!

Recruiting

We all know with appx. 1/5 of teams returning the water that leaves a whole lot of swimmers searching for opportunities to train. With Phase 2 taking place in many parts of state, and soon to be finalized in our LSC's pools, USAS is viewing June as that transition for us back into the water. Pls. remember USAS policy on recruiting as listed below:

Article 304.3.13: Action, other than through general advertising, by a coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative, or employee of a swim club, or a USA Swimming or LSC employee, either through direct contact with an athlete or the encouragement of others, to recruit or otherwise encourage an athlete who is already a

member of a USA Swimming member swim club to leave that club, unless the acting party receives prior written approval to recruit or encourage the athlete to change affiliation from the designated club representative of the athlete's existing USA Swimming-member swim club or contact is initiated by the athlete, the athlete's parent or authorized representative.

FGC Athlete Reps

Your FGC Athlete Representatives-Chloe Hernandez, Kyle Kasztner, Benji Carey and Madelene Finks are looking for Club Representatives! Club Representatives will be two members from each club that represent gender diversity. Club Representatives will be representing their club for the Athlete Representatives. They will be the main form of communication between the Athlete Representatives and their club. The responsibilities of a Club Rep include relaying information from Athlete Reps to the members of their club, voicing the concerns from their athletes to the Athlete Reps, and helping connect all athletes in the FGC. Club Reps will not only improve communication between the FGC board and the athletes of the FGC but will also help create more of a community within the athletes.

You must meet these requirements to apply:

- You are USA swimming registered
- You are attached to a club
- You are at least a freshman in high school
- You must be able to participate locally as a Club Rep for a minimum of one year
- You are able to participate in a minimum of three USA swimming sanctioned meets within a registration year

If you meet the requirements and are interested in applying you can apply here:.

<https://forms.gle/nx5QYPVevgfRDXFm7>

Finally

You have a voice! Reach out to our Board of Directors if you have concerns & questions....don't sit on the sideline and wait for things to happen.....help make them happen as the leader of your team! Here is the list & contact info of our BOD: https://www.teamunify.com/szfgslsc/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/2020---fgc-board-1-_088770.pdf

As some teams begin to get "their toes wet" please work together locally on helping each other as far as lane space to help keep our athletes in the game! We will all be getting in the water at different times and under different conditions.

We are happy to see some teams slowly returning!

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