



Flatland Sport Services

Common Questions and Answers

How do I become an official?

Thanks for your interest in becoming a volunteer! Visit the Swim Sask website at: <https://www.swimsask.ca/how-to-get-started> . There are step by step instructions about how to register, complete your training, how to sign up for competitions and more.

I have questions about how FSSI and Flatland Swimming work. Who do I talk with?

All members are welcome to contact Sara Toth (flatlandsportservices@outlook.com or info@flatlandswimming.ca) if you want more information. If your question is related to your child's swimming program, you may be directed to their coach or to the Flatland Swimming administrator, Angela Schnell.

I have an idea about how FSSI can support Flatland Swimming families. How do I bring it forward?

Send an email with your idea and/or talk to a board member or the Executive Director any time. If they can't get to it right away, the board will aim to meet and will discuss your idea. We'll go from there!

Consider putting it on the Flatland Parents Facebook group to garner some support and generate more ideas. The more ideas and activities offered, the more support the membership can generate for the Flatland athletes and their families.

I don't have time or the desire to fundraise and I am all volunteered-out. My kid just wants to swim and aims to race. Do we have to be part of FSSI?

Yes. Membership with FSSI is not optional. FSSI is more than just fundraising and signing up to help out. FSSI is the registered entity that makes it possible for your child to access the spaces that Flatland Swimming operates in. FSSI is also the registered entity with Swim Saskatchewan and Swim Canada and we are required to register all participants in order to remain in good standing.

Why aren't the coaches or the FSSI board organizing fundraisers and activities for us?

At Flatland Swimming, we let the coaches do what they do best – and that is coach swimming. They are not required to be involved in activities outside the scope of program planning, training, coaching and competitions.

FSSI fundraisers and activities are coordinated, organized and implemented by members, not the board. The board will continue to monitor the activities and finances of the organization.

Why does 5% come off the top of the profits of some fundraisers?

The 5% that comes off the top of each Shift, Sales or Small Group Fundraiser goes into the FSSI bank to be managed by the board.

In its first few months of activity, the board soon realized that membership fees alone were not going to cover the operating costs needed to carry out the activities.

The organization also needs to generate some revenue and create a positive cash flow situation so that we have funds to start up fundraising activities and to ensure we can cover any losses if, for example, a raffle's ticket sales flop and we have to pay out a prize. The money has to come from a reserve in order to honor our license agreements, prize payouts, etc. One way to build that reserve is for it to be a collective membership effort.

Our estimate is that a 5% tithe on fundraising along with the membership fee structure in place will need to be reviewed, as the organization develops over time.

What else will the 5% go towards?

In addition to making sure we have a reserve and operating funds (over and above membership fees), the board may identify special projects such as:

- generating self-help for exciting partnership projects that will enhance training environments for all Flatland Swimming members
- Program costs such as facility rental, competition or training camp expenses
- providing scholarships to post-secondary students who decide to stay in the Regina area for their schooling while still training and competing with Flatland
- providing a subsidy to a family so they can attend a major championship to watch their son or daughter compete
- providing seminars and support to families who may be navigating a sport world they're unfamiliar with

I am working hard for my fundraising credits, so why do I have to support other families who don't want to fundraise?"

The objectives set out for the FSSI, as well as Flatland Swimming are grounded in the True Sport principles. With your membership and efforts, not only are you able to raise your own dollars to pay for sport programming, you're agreeing to Include Everyone and Give Back – living out 2 of the principles of True Sport. For information about True Sport, please check out their website <http://truesportpur.ca/true-sport-principles>

Ok, I understand helping the larger Flatland family out, but why a percentage off everything instead of a flat fee for everyone?

While families that are more active in fundraising will be paying a relatively higher amount, the percentage is consistent for all. The rationale for this funding model is that those doing a greater volume of fundraising are making use of a greater proportion of the resources of the organization. In addition, the board felt that generating the revenue to support operations through high member fees or a flat rate off each activity was not in keeping with providing opportunities for supporting all athletes and their families.

Will any of the 5% retained profits that members generate go to the coaches or directors?

The funds accumulated by FSSI are for operations of the not-for-profit and for investing in athletes and their families. It would be a very rare occurrence for these funds to be sent directly to a coach or director at Flatland Swimming for an unspecified reason.

I worked a bottle drive last weekend. Why hasn't the payment shown up on my Flatland account yet?

FSSI has to receive the payment from the fundraising activity, confirm with the Coordinator the amount of credit each member family receives and then transfer the money to Flatland Swimming. Then the Flatland Swimming financial administrator has to receive the funds and can apply the payment to your account.

Some fundraising activities, like Bingos, don't result in a payment to FSSI for 8 or more weeks after you've worked. FSSI can't transfer what they don't have. Depending on the activity, it may be a while before the credit shows up on your account. FSSI will aim to transfer funds within 10 days of receiving the fundraising payments.

The fundraising amount applied to my account looks wrong. What do I do?

If you think something has been missed or have questions about the amounts you're getting, please email info@flatlandswimming.ca . You can also check with the Coordinator of that activity directly or with Sara Toth at flatlandsportservices@outlook.com.

I have an idea for a social activity. What do I do?

Get your hands on a sanction request form, fill it out and send it to the Executive Director. Or send an email to the general email address with some details. The board will consider it and let you know if it is possible and what should happen next.