



HAWAIIAN SWIMMING



April 17, 2021

Aloha Hawaiian Swimming members and family,

Hawaiian Swimming Board (LSC) has been working across the state to facilitate getting our swimmers in the pool and return to competition.

Swim associations on each island worked with their respective counties, advocating to restart swim training and competition. Kauai and the Big Island Swimming have successfully obtained written permission from their respective county departments to hold swim competitions and have had sanctions approved by the LSC. The County of In Honolulu (COH) rules under Tier 3 did not allow organized team sports for both public and private venues. The State exempted educational institutions from the regulations allowing sport activities as part of institutes' educational curricula.

The LSC communicated with the Covid-19 Response Team (CRT) on behalf of athletes on O'ahu to inquire if swim training and competitions could be approved with the application of health organization and USA Swimming (USAS) safety protocols. The CRT responded that this was not allowed for COH. The LSC continued to encourage restarting competitive swimming by participating in both the Safe Sports Hawai'i (three webinars) and the Department of Parks and Recreation webinar. The LSC contributed testimony and submitted comments to reiterate the safety of swimming compared to other sports and exercise activities. Recently, the mayor's announcement on March 25 stated that youth sports teams would be allowed to return to practice with appropriate protocols and restricted competition events starting April 12. The LSC submitted two additional inquiries to the CRT regarding swim meets to allow all teams on O'ahu to participate rather than just two teams at a time and both requests were denied.

The LSC contacted USAS, who was provided access to the Tier 3 requirements, and asked if the LSC could sanction a swim meet with multiple teams. USAS responded that sanction requirements require the LSC must comply with local, state and federal public health guidelines and that granting a sanction would be in violation to the Affiliation Agreement with USAS and would invalidate our LSC's insurance. The violation could also remove the LSC's authority to grant future sanctions. Both USAS and the LSC provided suggested dual meet formats to run meets that would be compliant with modified COH Tier 3 rules.

Recently, The LSC approved four (4) meets that meet the COH dual team format requirements and are schedule April 23-25, 2021.

Going forward the LSC hopes all associations will continue working with their respective counties to support the return of all teams to the pool and to allow competition statewide. The LSC encourages everyone to support social distancing, wearing face coverings, participate in the Covid-19 vaccine program, and stay safe.

Thank you,
Hawaiian Swimming, Inc.