

PNS Anti-Racism Statement

At the PNS House of Delegates meeting on June 27, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Committee presented a motion that PNS publicly and actively support the elimination of racism. The HOD tabled that motion and referred the question to a task force to create a revised statement for Board approval.

The Committee convened a task force of some 25+ PNS members who have met multiple times (virtually) and created a revised statement for Board approval. The Board reviewed and as of July 27, accepted the anti-racism statement for PNS.

The DE&I Committee has continued to meet to define proposals for efforts to educate and to improve PNS. Volunteers to assist in that effort are welcome.

The PNS statement against racism is:

All people need to be accepted regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

We mourn with those who have lost loved ones in the fight against racism, and we recognize those in our community who have and continue to stand against racial injustice. What we have seen in the deaths of George Floyd, Charleena Lyles, Manuel Ellis, Mi'Chance Dunlap-Gittens, Breonna Taylor and more Black lives lost is a reflection of the racism that permeates our everyday society.

To all Black people of Western Washington: we stand by you and are committed to working with you in the fight against racism. This is a systemic human rights issue. We acknowledge that we are not innocent in the history of racial injustice. We are committed to educating ourselves and our communities to become active voices against racism. To be silent is to be part of the problem.

We want to expand access to and participation in swimming, especially in the Black community. There is a lack of diversity in our sport and we are committed to change by learning how to create a more welcoming environment for every athlete. We want our swimmers to be self-reflective, inclusive, caring, diligently anti-racist and personally aware of their actions on others. Eventually our impact will match our intent.

Please join us in our efforts to be uncomfortable, to push our limits, to acknowledge how we may be part of the problem and be a part of the solution.

Black lives matter.