



January 20, 2017

NOTICE to MSO Member Clubs and Swimmers

On January 9, 2017 Swimming Canada (SNC) notified its provincial sections that the sanctions for all Masters swimming meets are void. Any **masters club** wishing to apply for a SNC event sanction must now be affiliated with a SNC provincial section, like Swim Ontario. Similarly, **masters swimmers** in Ontario must now be registered directly with Swim Ontario (SO).

This action was taken after the Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO) Board delayed in allowing the upload of swimmer registration data, including email address, to the SNC registration database. The Board was concerned about its responsibilities under privacy laws, which requires informed consent prior to transferring personal data to a 3rd party like SNC. While the Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) bylaws clearly outline the registration requirements for MSC members, there is no such clarity in the SNC-SO bylaws and policies which are not directed at independent Provincial Masters Organizations like Ontario, Manitoba and BC.

For further background, please refer to the August notice informing you of major changes for the 2016-2017 season and MSO's AGM package (<http://www.mastersswimmingontario.ca/>).

At this time, the MSO board is reviewing options and will share these and its recommendations with member clubs and swimmers.

In the meantime, MSO member clubs and swimmers need to be aware of the following:

MSO Insurance allows Swim Meets in Ontario, including Provincials, to proceed

- MSO insurance continues to apply to clubs and swimmers duly registered with MSO. It continues to apply to swim meets and its participants, i.e., host clubs, swimmers, as well as coaches, officials and volunteers.

For insurance reasons, MSO had been approving all swimming events prior to requesting an SO sanction. These approvals are now *MSO-only Sanctions*.

Meet managers should take additional care to properly have all volunteers sign in to their events; it is recommended that meet managers use the MSO meet system for officials and volunteer sign up in addition to local sign-up sheets.

- Masters swimmers from other provinces or countries (e.g., USMS) may continue to participate in *MSO-only sanctioned* meets. However, they must also register under MSO's *Single-Event Registration* which extends MSO's insurance coverage to out-of-province swimmers. This was used for the Canadian Masters OWS Championship and the MSO Board has extended it to pool events.

Meet managers may obtain *Single-Event Registration* Forms and instructions from the Competition Chair.

Ontario swimmers not eligible to swim in SNC sanctioned meets

- SNC no longer recognizes MSO (or MSC) membership. SNC will not allow MSO swimmers to compete in MSC's 2017 Canadian Masters Swimming Championship, which is sanctioned by SNC's Quebec affiliate.
- MSO members continue to be insured outside of Canada and a certificate of insurance will be issued if needed.

However, MSO members will not be eligible to compete at the FINA Masters World Championship in Budapest because SNC no longer considers them to be "affiliated with the Canadian (FINA) federation." For the same reason, SNC will not allow World FINA record applications to be forwarded to FINA.

- The World Masters Games in New Zealand are NOT impacted since the Games organization is not a FINA federation and does not require its participants to be affiliated with FINA.
- Swimmers wishing to attend USMS meets should be aware that, while they continue to be MSC members, the USMS may choose not to recognize their Canadian affiliation. For greater certainty, swimmers may wish to join USMS or swim under the *USMS One-Event Registration*.

Status of Canadian Masters Records unclear

- SNC has implied in other correspondence that it will not allow recognition of MSC National records set by MSO swimmers. At this time, MSO is seeking clarification from MSC since MSO swimmers continue to be its registrants.
- MSO will continue to recognize any results and records brought to their attention.

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Brian Sheridan at info@mastersswimmingontario.ca.