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Subject: Alderwood Masters response to MSC/Swim Canada issue

Doug,

I took the time to fill out the electronic survey you sent out, but I feel it was far too limited to be functional for the current situation. While I absolutely do not support having our club and swimmers directly represented by Swim Canada, an organization that has shown tremendous disregard for Masters Swimming, I also do not feel that MSC has acted appropriately over the past few years.

For the past two swim seasons the Alderwood team elected to remain affiliated with Masters Swimming Ontario rather than buy in to the problematic relationship that MSC established with Swim Canada. And, unless MSC intends to honour the wishes of the clubs and swimmers that stuck with MSO, I see no reason for any affiliation with MSC going forward.

The situation may be very different in the other provinces, but in Ontario MSC must learn to work with MSO if it is going to have any role to play with Alderwood and other clubs that chose not to follow MSC into the abusive relationship with Masters Swimming that Swim Canada has attempted to impose on the athletes it supposedly wants to represent.

Swim Canada's bullying tactics and complete disregard for the wishes and well-being of Ontario's Masters Swimming community has been very disturbing to witness. And the cooperation with Swim Canada that MSC exhibited, created a rift in Ontario Masters Swimming. This rift can only be mended if MSC chooses to adopt the policies and processes that MSO has put in place in order to keep Masters Swimming functioning in Ontario for the majority of clubs and swimmers that were willing to stand up to Swim Canada and refuse to acquiesce to their unreasonable demands and prohibitive costs.

There was no opportunity to express this sentiment in the overly simplistic survey MSC decided to present. And so, while I answered that I did not wish MSC to close up shop. I also need to express that I, and the Alderwood team, do not want to return to the acrimonious relationship that MSC has had with MSO for nearly as long as I can recall.

At this point our club and swimmers are functioning perfectly well without MSC's involvement. I do recognize that there are things that MSC, as a national organization, could offer us. But these need to be offered on terms that are acceptable to the clubs and swimmers who chose to remain with MSO through the past two seasons.

Thanks,

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Gregg Thurlbeck