



August 8, 2019

## Program and Registration Questions and Answers

These Updated Q&As are provided as additional following MSO's Registration Notice.

### Q: 2019-2020 Fees

On May 23, 2019 your MSO Board reviewed the budget for the coming year and approved a modest fee increase for 2019-2020. MSO has consciously operated on deficit budgets since 2012-2013 when it absorbed MSC's fee increases. In spite of deep cuts in operational spending, the deficit persisted. Your current Board has decided that it is time to aim for more balanced budgets.

Club Affiliation fee (unchanged)	\$45.00
Swimmer fee	\$12.00 (increase of \$2)
Coach fee (unchanged)	No Fee

#### Single Event Registration Fees

Single day event	\$ 6.00 (increase of \$1)
Provincials	\$12.00 (increase of \$2)

**Note:** About half of the swimmer fees goes towards insurance while the remainder is used for operating expenses, especially website and IT systems. Full financial statements are published annually at the time of the [Annual General Meeting](#).

### Q: What does “*independent of Swim Canada*” mean?

Since September 1, 2017 MSO has not been affiliated in any way with Masters Swimming Canada (MSC), Swim Canada or Swim Ontario.

### Q: How does Swim Canada's May 29th letter impact MSO?

**There is no impact on MSO or its operations!**

On [May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Swim Canada](#) announced that it was ending its relationship with MSC. The action was well-planned, well-coordinated with the SNC provincial sections, and announced just 3 days after MSC's nationals so that none of the 750+ attendees could discuss the impact. With no reliable source of funds, it is not clear if MSC can continue operating in spite of their announcements over the summer.



For over 40 years, MSO has lead and supported masters swimming. MSO has operated on its own since MSC's and SNC's 2017 joint decision to end our longstanding relationship. Therefore, there was no relationship with MSO that SNC's May 29<sup>th</sup> letter that could be impacted.

MSO has repeatedly reached out to MSC to assist in its desire to operate as an independent swimming entity. There has been only silence in response.

As a result, MSO has partnered with [Canadian Independent Masters Swimming](#) (CIMS) and will welcome the affiliation of any clubs and swimmers from other provinces wishing to operate independently of Swim Canada.

**Q: What is the benefit of MSO's alternative Masters program?**

- MSO is a Masters organization, run by Masters for Masters. It serves **only** Masters clubs and swimmers. You are the one and only priority for MSO.
- All MSO-affiliated Masters clubs have a voice at MSO's AGMs.
- MSO provides access to some 40 years of masters swimming history both in Ontario and nationally
- MSO's member clubs are not viewed as a source of revenue. They are MSO's partners in delivering services to Masters swimmers, which is why our club affiliation fee is simple and low.
- Competitive or non-competitive, all swimmers are treated equally. MSO does not have different rules or different fees. All swimmers are welcome to attend all MSO-sanctioned events for the same low membership fee.
- MSO does not impose additional costs on clubs for coach registration; there are no fees to register coaches.

**Q: What does "fully insured" adult swim league mean?**

A: MSO has been self-insured for more than 20 years.

All registered swimmers and coaches are insured under MSO's policy while participating in any MSO approved activity (training, competition, "after practice meals", OWS, club and provincial meetings).

Insurance also extends to volunteers working under the direction of MSO or MSO-affiliated club, for example during a swim meet.

MSO's Policy also provides *Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance* to the executive of affiliated club.



MSO swim meets are open to all participants. Swimmers not registered with MSO pay an additional *Single-Event Registration*, which provides them insurance coverage for the event.

**Q: Does a club have to register all of its members with MSO?**

A: MSO encourages full registration. MSO needs a solid membership to support its operations. A vibrant and engaged membership also ensures that Masters swimmers have a voice as we move into the future.

Registration with MSO provides insurance coverage. Clubs must assess their structure and administration to ensure that club organized activities for members, staff and volunteers have insurance coverage from a single source acting as an umbrella.

Anyone attending MSO-sanctioned events must be covered by MSO insurance via MSO membership.

The MSO registrar can assist with any questions.

**Q: My club is affiliating with SO. Will I be allowed to join MSO as well?**

A: **Absolutely yes.** In fact your club and all of its swimmers may join MSO irrespective of membership with any other organization. If your club chooses not to affiliate with MSO, then swimmers can still join MSO as "[independent swimmers](#)".

Better still, we recommend that clubs affiliate with MSO whether or not they affiliate and register their swimmers with SO. This allows their swimmers to compete at MSO events under their club name and maintain club spirit and identity.

**Q: May I swim under my club code at MSO meets?**

If your club has affiliated with MSO, then you may use the club code when registering for MSO-sanctioned meets. If your club has decided not to affiliate with MSO, then the club's name and code is not available to you. You may register as an MSO independent swimmer and enter meets under the TOMS provincial club. TOMS registrants may also enter relays.

**Q: What competition can I access with an MSO membership?**

MSO membership lets you compete at any MSO-approved meets offered by MSO-affiliated clubs.



In each of the last two years, there were 14 MSO-approved meets in Ontario, including successful provincials with more than 450 swimmers. MSO offered more meets than any other provincial organization in Canada.

For 2019-2020, MSO has partnered with [Canadian Independent Masters Swimming](#) to welcome the affiliation of clubs and swimmers from other provinces. This invitation is the result of [SNC's May 29, 2019](#) to take over masters swimming. Any meets offered by MSO-affiliated clubs in other provinces will also be available to MSO members. Check the Meet List on the MSO website to be sure.

To compete in non-MSO meets, e.g., those sanctioned by a SNC province like SO, you must be registered with SO or one of the SNC provincial sections (e.g. Swim Alberta, Swim Nova Scotia etc.) or a FINA federation (e.g., USMS). Being a registrant of Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) is no longer relevant for Masters competition.

**Q: Will my results at an MSO-approved meet be added to the MSC results database?**

A: No. Unfortunately, independent means independent. Results from MSO-approved meets will be loaded into the MSO system only. However, all swims will be reviewed by Christian Berger, who maintains the top Canadian swims. Berger's fastest swims in Canada are recorded in the MSO database after he approves them. All of Berger's recordkeeping is available from the [MSO website](#).

**Q: What will happen to my previous meet results?**

A: To the extent that MSC will survive past 2019, any results and any records up until August 31, 2017 will remain on the MSC system since you were a *Registrant* of MSC when it was achieved. The MSC results database goes back only to 2005. Historical Ontario records and results are still on the MSO website for Ontario swimmers. Christian Berger's Canadian records are entered into the MSO database making it the most complete source in Canada. And of course, all of Christian Berger's historical records and rankings are accessible from [the MSO site](#).

Nobody knows what will happen to the wealth of historical masters information now held by MSC, should that organization fail. MSC has not been open or transparent about its current situation and has not welcomed any collaboration with MSO or CIMS.