



August 15, 2021

Program and Registration Questions and Answers

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

Q: 50th Anniversary of Masters Swimming in Canada

It's been 50 years since [Hud Stewart](#) formed the UofT Masters, the first official Masters Swim club in Canada. Throughout the 2021-2022 season we celebrate this 50 year milestone of lifelong adult fitness through swimming.

The celebration is not about any one swimming organization. It is a celebration of an activity that has been made possible by pioneers over the last 50 years.

Q: 2021-2022 Fees

On May 5, 2021 your MSO Board reviewed the budget in light of last year's COVID-19 reduced fees and the resulting financial losses. For 2021-2022 fees will be as follows:

Club Affiliation fee (unchanged)	\$45.00
Coach fee (unchanged)	No Fee
Swimmer fee	\$15.00

Single Event Registration Fees

Single day event	\$ 7.50
Provincials	\$15.00

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 its Provincial sections like Swim Ontario.

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

There is no impact on MSO or its operations!

On [May 29th, 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.



Incorporated in 1989, 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 29th letter that could be impacted.

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.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic, MSO has had only one priority - Masters.
- 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 fees on clubs for coach or officials.

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 a MSO membership or *Single-Event Registration*.

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, MSO's modest fees enable clubs to 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.

Except for COVID-19 shutdowns, there has been a full slate of MSO-approved meets in Ontario, including successful provincials with more than 450 swimmers. We are working hard to offer the 2022 Provincial championship next spring.

In 2019-2020, MSO partnered with [Canadian Independent Masters Swimming \(CIMS\)](#) 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 [CIMS-affiliated](#)



clubs in other provinces are also 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.

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

A: No. Unfortunately, MSC shut down operations in June 2019 and has not updated its results. 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: MSO has become the only source of historical results and records. The MSO database goes back to 2005 and there are "paper" results dating back to 1976 in the MSO Archives.

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](#).

In 2019-2020 SNC and its provincial sections instructed its clubs not to share results files. There seems to be no avenue for collaboration.