

Dear Shark Families:

As you know, SAIL has decided to go ahead with a “safe and successful 2020 season.” While this is exciting, please know that things will look VERY different this year!

**Please read this document in its entirety. We cover the following information in detail and it is of utmost importance that you understand how SCR will conduct the season. By registering for SCR Swim Team, you are agreeing to the guidance, policies, and flexibility outlined here and will not hold SCR, SCR Sharks, its board members, volunteers, or coaches liable for illness incurred during the season.**

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## **I. SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

SAIL is not imposing any specific required guidance regarding social distancing. They have left this to the teams to decide based on current recommended guidelines issued by state and local authorities and also based on approval by each pool’s HOA and pool management company. SCDHEC has issued recommended guidance to all community pools. This guidance is all listed as "voluntary" and what ultimately gets put into practice is up to the pool management company in cooperation with the HOA. SAIL cannot and will not impose specific guidance because every pool is different and every HOA and pool management company is different.

The SCR Swim Board will establish some recommended basic social distancing guidelines for our practices and meets. Since SAIL has reduced the number of officials we need at a meet that will help greatly. We still want to try to make this season as fun as possible but with some basic guidelines. This could mean spacing out clerk of course benches, roping off certain areas on deck, limiting spectators to parents only, etc. We do not have a specific list at this point. Everything is still in discussion, and as you know, things change weekly! Please bear with us.

Even though we may establish some suggestions and recommendations, we want to make it clear to parents that we (the Swim Board) will not be acting as “police” in these matters. We are volunteers (just like the HOA Board) and cannot be COVID-19 compliance officers. We will NOT be monitoring or requiring that your children are 6 feet apart at all times. This is also not the job of the coaches. They will have suggested guidelines for practices, but they cannot

monitor social distancing when water safety is our top priority. We want them to spend their time coaching our swimmers. All of this may sound blunt, but we want to be as clear and honest as we can up front. Every family has to decide what they are comfortable with, and we respect everyone's decisions. If parents have certain restrictions that they want their children to follow, then parents need to enforce those with their own children. If you were hoping for a more strictly monitored social distancing environment than is described herein, then Sugar Creek Swim Team would not be a good fit for you this year. Based on this information, if you would like to cancel your registration, please let us know before May 28th. We will do that for you with no questions asked.

## **II. TECHNICAL RULE MODIFICATIONS & OFFICIALS:**

SAIL has made technical rule modifications that will allow teams to run meets in a safer way this year, such as minimal timers and other officials on deck, the use of lane sheets instead of blue cards, etc. We are working through this long list and planning accordingly. As usual, there will be online tests required for certain meet volunteers. We will notify you when these are available. We will be relying on those that were certified in previous seasons for official positions to continue with their respective positions (i.e., Stroke and Turn, Referee, Starter).

## **III. OTHER SAIL TEAMS**

For all of the reasons above, please remember that every participating SAIL team will likely be doing this differently, and that is their choice. So please keep that in mind when you hear things in the community.

Likewise, you may hear that there are some SAIL teams that have chosen not to participate this year due to various reasons, such as lack of registration interest, HOA restrictions, or a large team size that is not manageable in the current environment. Teams are not required to participate, and SAIL is not going to penalize those that don't. For these reasons, the Division standings of each team will not change at the end of this season. In other words, we will still be in the Red Division next year along with the same teams. This makes it fair for teams who do not participate this year.

## **IV. MEET SCHEDULE:**

**The first meet is targeted for June 11th.** June 18th, June 25th, June 30th, and July 9th are target dates for subsequent meets with rescheduling permitted as necessary at the discretion of teams. Divisionals will be held on July 17th & 18th. We are determining if we will stay with SAIL this summer as meets will likely be held virtually and SAIL fees present a budget issue as we aren't looking at a normal season. Please know that whether or not we participate in SAIL, we will have meets in some form.

Virtual dual meets are recommended by SAIL, but these decisions are left up to the SAIL Reps and Swim Boards for each of the teams. If two teams can agree on logistics, meet guidelines, officials, safety guidelines, etc., then they may agree to have an in-person meet. If everyone is not on board with the arrangements, then we will have virtual meets. A virtual meet basically means that we will hold our own meet at our own pool with only our swimmers and officials. Our results will then be uploaded into Swimtopia and merged with the times from our opponent team to create a scored "meet." We completely understand that the concept of virtual swim meets sounds very odd and not near as exciting as normal meets. However, for this season, we may have to take what we can get and be flexible. Nothing over the past few months has been normal, and swim season will follow suit. So, to be clear, **we may end up having ALL virtual meets or there is a chance we will have a couple of in-person meets. WE MAY END UP NOT PARTICIPATING IN SAIL AND MAY HAVE MEETS WITH JUST OUR TEAM.** We just don't know at this time, and things could change a lot over the next couple of weeks.

At this time, it is recommended that Divisionals only be held virtually across all Divisions. If we choose not to participate in SAIL, we will not hold Divisionals, but we will have our own competition, possibly with other teams.

## **V. SCR PRACTICE SCHEDULE:**

**Practices will begin on June 1st for Sharks and June 3<sup>rd</sup> for Guppies!** We are starting with a similar schedule to last year. Again, things could change as we move along, and everything is subject to pool management/HOA restrictions which may also change. We may decide we have to alter the schedule at some point based on the number of kids attending, etc. For now, here's the schedule:

### **SHARKS (Practice begins June 1<sup>st</sup>)**

#### **Morning Practices Monday thru Friday (Friday is FUN FRIDAY!)**

9:00-9:30: 8 & Under

9:30-10:00: 9-10

10:00-10:30: 11-12

10:30-11:00: 13 & Up

#### **Afternoon Practices Monday thru Thursday (except on meet days)**

3:00-3:45: 8 & Under

3:45-4:30: 9-10

4:30-5:15: 11-12

5:15-6:00: 13 & Up

### **GUPPIES (Practice begins June 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

#### **Morning Practices Monday thru Friday**

Blue Guppies 9:00 - 9:30

Yellow Guppies 9:30 - 10:00

White Guppies 10:00 - 10:30

Green Guppies 10:30 - 11:00

Guppy Meets will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, and July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have awards after the meet on July 11<sup>th</sup>. \*There will be NO Guppy Assessments this year – your child will be placed according to last year’s status or if they are a new swimmer. As coaches work with children during the first week, they will make necessary changes to groups so that swimmers are with those of similar ability.

Because of the nature of swimming, water safety, and the teaching process, contact will sometimes occur between coaches and swimmers. This is especially true with guppies. Our coaches cannot teach the kids to swim without this contact. We will monitor our coaches to make sure they are not experiencing symptoms of illness and will keep the environment as safe as possible. There will possibly be temperature checks for Sharks, Guppies, Coaches, and Parents. Parents should recognize that contact is probable and even expected with our coaching staff.

## **VI. REGISTRATION FEES - PAY ASAP!**

If you have not registered yet, please do so ASAP!!

For those of you who have not registered, we need you to **register and pay via [SwimTopia](#) by Thursday, May 28th.** Swimmers cannot enter the water for practices until fees are paid. Also, our team has to pay our SAIL fees before practices begin, and we cannot do that until your fees and registrations are settled. Please make all checks payable to Sugar Creek Swim Team. Drop checks off in a sealed envelope to Kristen Belflower at 105 Briar Creek Road. Your registration total should be in the confirmation email you received when you registered.

Pool dues are a separate charge and must be paid directly to the Sugar Creek HOA or to [Sugar Creek Community Pools](#) (for affiliate members). You must be a member of a Sugar Creek HOA or the Sugar Creek Community Pools, in good standing, in order to swim on the team. If this is your swimmer's first year on the team, please email a copy of their birth certificate to [scrsharks@gmail.com](mailto:scrsharks@gmail.com) or drop it off to our registration chair, Kristen Belflower, at 105 Briar Creek Road.

Registration fees will remain unchanged with the exception of the concession fee (we will not be offering concessions this year). If you have registered, you will receive a refund in the amount of \$25.00 that was meant for concessions. Registration (minus concessions) is the same because we still have to pay coaches’ salaries, fees, and the many other expenses required to run a basic season without several income categories we are used to.

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE OFFERED AFTER MAY 28TH.**

## VII. MERCHANDISE

### A. TEAM SUITS & CAPS:

We are staying with the same team suits that we had last year. As you know, team suits have never been "required" but always encouraged, and most swimmers do wear them. This year, the choice is again up to you. Because this is an odd year and things may look completely different (virtual meets, etc.), you may decide that you don't want to invest in a team suit and you want to find a basic Speedo (or similar brand) suit from a local store or Amazon or use one that you already have. That is your choice and we are fine with that. Or, if you would like to order the team suit as usual, then please do! Alpine Ski Center needs the business, too, and they have been very good to us over the years! Please remember that whether you order the team suit or not, girls do need to have a one-piece, full coverage suit.

Please contact [Alpine Ski Center](#) directly if you wish to order a suit.

**Team Suit and Caps deadline is May 27th!!** There is a team order quantity minimum for the caps (but not the suits). If the team as a whole doesn't meet the minimum, then no cap orders will be completed. Alpine Ski is working hard to make sure that we have caps and suits by June 11<sup>th</sup>, but it is not guaranteed.

If you are new to this and unsure of sizing, please contact [Alpine Ski Center](#).

### B. SPIRIT WEAR

Merchandise orders will still be taken through registration. We may offer a few more spirit wear options later in the season. More info to come soon on that.

## VIII. SOCIALS & END OF SEASON AWARDS

We just aren't sure at this time! Our hope would be to do several events in a modified format!

## IX. SUMMARY

**Plans may change from week to week! Please try to remain flexible and expect change!** Right now we are focusing on starting practices June 1 and meet 1 on June 11th. After that, we don't know. This is new territory for everyone involved. By the time we get to meet number 4 or 5, things may look completely different! Due to the dynamic nature of our current environment, we cannot guarantee what lies ahead for the season. If you have read all of the above and you are not comfortable with the guidelines or the ambiguity of the season, you may request your registration to be cancelled before May 28th. Each family must do what they are comfortable with. No refunds will be offered after May 28<sup>th</sup>, even if the season is cut or changes occur.

We will do our best to have a memorable and exciting season for our Shark families!

Sugar Creek Swim Team Board