

COVID-19 Update: 29 April 2020

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic creates uncertainty for Catalina Channel swimming. The State of California's stay-home order continues and prohibits nonessential travel.

Beaches and pools in Los Angeles County remain closed.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health order dated 10 April 2020 remains in effect until at least 15 May 2020. The order may be extended by subsequent directives.

The CCSF has not yet determined that it is necessary to cancel swims scheduled for June onward, although cancellations may become necessary.

If you choose to postpone or cancel a swim application, please see the instructions in the announcement dated 9 April 2020.

It is the responsibility of the swimmer to coordinate postponements or cancellations with their escort pilots, support crews, and the CCSF.

Thank you for your continuing patience and understanding as we all work to stay safe in these challenging times. We will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Stay safe!

Catalina Channel Swimming Federation

COVID-19 Update: 9 April 2020

The ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus situation continues to create uncertainty for Catalina Channel swimming. The CCSF has not yet determined that it is necessary to cancel swims scheduled for June onward, although cancellations may well become necessary.

Those who have already completed swim applications may choose to:

- 1) postpone their swims until later in the 2020 season, at no additional cost, or
- 2) postpone their swims until the 2021 season, at no additional cost (a new medical certificate for 2021 will be required), or
- 3) cancel their applications and have their application fees refunded. The usual \$250 cancellation fee will be waived, but \$50 will be withheld to cover PayPal fees.

It is the responsibility of the swimmer to coordinate any postponements or cancellations with their escort pilots, support crews, and the CCSF.

To postpone a completed application, the swimmer must notify the CCSF at least 45 days in advance of their attempt. New swim applications must be completed at least 45 days in advance of the attempt.

All swimmers who wish to postpone or cancel their completed applications should notify the CCSF by sending an email to info@swimcatalina.org. If you choose to do this, explain which of the options listed above you prefer.

For a postponement, please specify the following for the new swim date:

- 1) the year (2020 or 2021)
- 2) the date to meet at the escort boat
- 3) the time to meet at the escort boat
- 4) the swim type (single crossing, double crossing, triple crossing, or swim around Catalina)
- 5) where the swim will start (Catalina or mainland)
- 6) the name of the escort boat.

This information will be used by the CCSF to modify the application in the CCSF Portal.

In view of this unprecedented situation, the early application discount fee will apply throughout the entire 2020 season.

Please keep in mind that the situation remains unpredictable, and may very well require swim cancellations as the season progresses. We will resume normal activities when health authorities determine that it is safe to do so.

There are currently no plans to hold observer or paddler training classes. Any swims that do occur will be observed by experienced observers. If the situation changes enough to allow for training classes, we will schedule and announce that as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continuing patience and understanding as we all work to stay safe in these challenging times. We will provide updated information as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Update: 2 April 2020

The Catalina Channel Swimming Federation (CCSF) is monitoring the COVID-19 coronavirus situation and following the procedures recommended by the Governor of California's emergency order and public health authorities. We have not been notified of any cases associated with the CCSF.

While we are acutely aware of the considerable investment of time, training, and funds made by swimmers, support crew, and observers, we must make decisions based on the health and safety of the athletes, their families and friends, and the community.

It is not possible to maintain the recommended social distancing practices to prevent the spread of the virus on a Catalina Channel swim. While we very much hope to be able to resume Catalina Channel swims as soon as possible, we are compelled to cancel the one swim that was planned for May. The next planned swims are in late June and we will assess those swims as more information becomes available.

The situation is unpredictable, and may very well require additional cancellations in successive months. We will resume normal activities when health authorities determine that it is safe to do so.

Details about the procedures for postponing or cancelling swims and for observer training are being worked out and more information will be forthcoming soon.

It is the responsibility of the swimmer to coordinate any postponements or cancellations with their escort pilots, support crews, and the CCSF.

This is a difficult, frustrating situation, with uncertainties that make planning very difficult. We request your patience and understanding, and will update this information as soon as possible.

Stay safe!

Catalina Channel Swimming Federation