

Swimming is reopening again on the 21 th of may 2021, hopefully it will be before.

Dear Swimmers and Parents

Finally, we can begin to see the light for the sport of swimming.

The reopening of indoor sports is divided into several phases, with the first sports opening on 21 April, while the last sports are scheduled to open on 21 May. We are not yet informed when swimming can resume. Political negotiations are still pending between the parties to the agreement on which sports should open and when.

A CHALLENGING TIME FOR SWIMMING

It is no secret that the past year has been extremely difficult for the sport of swimming in Denmark and an even greater challenge for our swimmers.

We expect the reopening of the sport of swimming to take place with many restrictions or limitations, and infection prevention measures. This applies, among other things, to "limited opening hours, square meter requirements, requirements and recommendations on the use of masks, limitation of the total number of spectators, seated audiences, etc., and guidelines will apply regarding distance, hygiene, etc.", as stated in the political agreement text.

We know that our swimmers miss the water and the social interaction with friends at the pool. We also know that no one has been in the water since Wednesday, December 9th. Many have lost the feeling of water, and a backlog of teaching awaits. At best, we get away with four and a half months outside the swimming pools. At worst, this time around, we will be cut off from our sport and our communities for almost half a year.

We fully understand that you can be tired in virtual training. We have been banned from using Gentofte Municipality's grass areas to meet and train physical outdoors. According to the municipality, the grass is not growing enough yet to be able to cope with the load from many

groups together. And with a total of 187 teams and 2,300 members, finding solutions for everyone is a challenge. But we are fighting on, and with spring comes more opportunities.

UNEXPECTED REOPENING

In the short run, it is uncertain what the reopening will cost. We do not know if we will be limited, for example, by only having to teach in groups of a total of 10 people when we return. It will make demands on the logistics and our planning. Because we are relying on the Municipality to allow us to use the pool, we only have the water available in the swimming pool which we are given. Many clubs and public interests are fighting for pool time. But we are ready if Gentofte Municipality will give us more water time, we will be ready to offer more courses. We also do not know whether the reopening phases require special staffing with extra corona guards or other necessary measures such as increased distance and additional hygiene requirements.

THE CURRENT SITUATION & POSSIBLE COMPENSATION

And not least, we have great understanding for impatient and frustrated parents who do not feel that their children this season have received what has been paid for. In this connection, the Board of Directors has discussed various scenarios for possible partial compensation. But we are also looking into a future where for us there is uncertainty about what we will return to after the summer holidays. With such a long, involuntary break from the water, it is our concern that many of our swimmers - both children, young people and adults - have lost the spirit and desire to swim.

Unfortunately, this is a realistic scenario, which can end up being at a huge cost for the club.

In February, the National Association of Local Authorities, the Danish Sports Confederation, DGI and the Danish Corporate Sports Confederation jointly appealed to the country's municipalities to help the sports associations to extend the current season a few weeks longer than usual to correct the damaging effects of the long shutdown. We have for a long time been in dialogue with Gentofte Municipality about such an opportunity and we are still awaiting their approval.

But we are financially prepared for this disposition with necessary, extraordinary extension and early start of the season.

We have chosen to pay full salary to all our coaches throughout the corona season. Many of our young coaches are completely dependent on this salary and would have to find other part-time jobs if they lost their salaries, which would put us at risk of losing many coaches permanently. The club has lost a number of other income from rallies and swimming camps, but we have also received some salary compensation. The finances of the club are therefore still in good order.

Therefore, we have allocated extra funds for extraordinary swimming lessons before and after the summer holidays, if Gentofte Municipality allocates us the necessary water time

As compensation for the lack of teaching, we are now working on the following, which, however, is partly dependent on the municipality's goodwill:

- 1) An extension of the season - that is three weeks longer than a normal season
- 2) An earlier start to the new season
- 3) Membership for the new season is slightly reduced for our swimmers in the swimming school, who have not been activated by their coaches throughout the winter. This applies to swimmers in the swimming school and not swimmers in the competition department

In parentheses, it is noted that the membership price for the new season for the second year in a row will not be increased

When we are allowed to return to the water, we on all teams - regardless of level - will take into account that we start on a fresh start at a pace where everyone can participate. So many months away from our proper element requires time to get used to for both the mind and not least for the body.

Our hope now is that the sport of swimming will be taken seriously in the forthcoming political negotiations. We are not a contact sport. And we have proven that we have control of our swimmers

on the edge and in the water - whether we must train in groups of 10 or 25 swimmers. The Danish Swimming Union has already submitted documentation to the authorities that the sport of swimming can be opened.

Best regards

Gentofte 24/03/21

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