



General Chair's Report to the Potomac Valley House of Delegates

July 11, 2021

Sixteen months ago, competitive swimming in Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) came to an abrupt halt. First, our Junior Olympics meet was cancelled two days before it was scheduled to begin. Then, three days later, USA Swimming cancelled all competitions. And, several weeks after that, we went to local stay at home directives.

We've come a long way since then. Clubs started getting back in the water for practices last summer. Last fall, small competitions were able to be held in PVS subject to (sometimes extreme) capacity limits. Through it all, PVS clubs survived. The PVS Board provided last year a registration rebate to clubs totaling approx. \$165,000 and grants totalling \$26,000 were also provided to clubs.

This year, the PVS Board continued its support of PVS clubs, adding \$125,000 in registration rebates and grants to the over \$190,000 the PVS Board provided in early 2020.

PVS continued to support championship swimming, hosting meets in December 2020 (as part of the USA Swimming Virtual 18&U Championships), in March 2021, and in July, PVS will conclude the season by running three long course (LC) championship meets. In addition, there have been more than 100 club-hosted meets in PVS during the 2020-2021 season.

I would like to recognize the clubs that hosted PVS meets this year under the COVID restrictions:

- 18&U Championships - SNOW Swimming
- SC Wave I - Nation's Capital Swim Club & Arlington Aquatic Club
- SC Wave II - Occoquan Swimming
- SC Wave III - Machine Aquatics & the FISH
- SC Wave IV - Occoquan Swimming
- LC Senior Championships - SNOW Swimming
- LC Junior Championships - Arlington Aquatic Club
- LC Age Group Championships - Nation's Capital Swim Club

PVS Mission Statement

PVS supports and promotes excellence for all through competition, education, inclusion, and leadership in a safe, equitable environment.

PVS Vision Statement

PVS aims to achieve excellence in and out of the pool as a diverse community grounded in a shared love of competitive swimming.



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Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, four new clubs joined PVS since last March. I'd like to welcome these clubs to Potomac Valley.

APAC - APACC (Ailynn Park Aquatic Club & Clinic) - Head Coach: Ailynn Park

FAA - Fairfax Area Aquatics - Head Coach: Drew Killian

RWST - Royal Waves Swim Team - Head Coach: Margaret Williams

CSC - Centreville Swim Club - Head Coach: Russ Ramey

Forty Four clubs are now registered in Potomac Valley Swimming for 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on PVS registration numbers. Here is a comparison to last year (as of July 1, 2021).

	Premium	Flex	Outreach	Seasonal	Total
2020	7,557	1,624	2	45	9,228
2021	11,340	1,223	22	15	12,600

While the decrease in membership of athletes 13 years and older was 15%, the decrease of athletes 12 years and younger was 40%. It will take some time to come back to our pre-pandemic numbers. But, with most COVID-19 restrictions lifted, summer leagues in full swing this summer, and the postponed Olympic Games happening this month, we are optimistic that we will see an increase in 2022 registrations.

PVS can be proud of the fact that more than half (25 out of 44) of our clubs have completed the Safe Sport Club Recognition Program. It is one of the highest percentages in USA Swimming among the 59 LSCs. However, that means that 19 PVS clubs have not completed the program. All PVS clubs should strive to complete this program to help educate our athletes and parents in ways to support the safety of our athletes.

The 2020-2021 season began with small competitions navigating COVID-19 restrictions. As restrictions have lifted, we are slowly returning to larger capacity meets. Here are some statistics from the last three years for sanctioned meets. Note this does not include observed and approved meets and there are still some meets to be held this month in PVS.

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	# Meets	# Splashes	Avg # Athletes	Avg # Splashes
2019	126	265,100	512	2,155
2020	87	185,238	504	2,129
2021	116	106,722	202	858

As you can see, while we have been able to have a fair number of meets this year, the size of the meets has been much smaller. This has strained meet budgets and volunteers to staff all these meets.

The high school swimming season this year was shortened in some jurisdictions and did not take place in other jurisdictions. In 2020, before the pandemic, PVS was able to observe 25 HS championship meets resulting in 10,480 times being loaded into SWIMS. This year, PVS was only able to observe seven HS championship meets and load only 1,643 times into SWIMS.

Potomac Valley had dozens of athletes compete in the two waves of the US Olympic Team Trials in June and three current PVS athletes and two former PVS athletes will be competing in Tokyo this month at the Olympic Games representing the United States. Congratulations to Phoebe Bacon, Torri Huske, Katie Ledecky, Andrew Seliskar, and Andrew Wilson. PVS athletes Rebecca Meyers and Larry Sapp will be representing the United States at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo in late August.

PVS had seven officials invited to participate in the Wave I and Wave II Olympic Team Trials. And, former PVS official, Denice Wepasnick will be an official in Tokyo at the Olympic Games.

Earlier this year, PVS completed the biannual renewal of the LSC Evaluation and Achievement Program (LEAP). This program requires LSCs to review their governance structure, program offerings, and communications structure. I want to thank the PVS Governance Committee, led by Morgon Henderson Kunz for putting the submission together for PVS. While PVS is doing well overall, this process has identified several areas where we could improve. The PVS Board will begin to address these areas during the coming season.

In September of 2020 I enrolled PVS in Google G-Suite. As a non-profit, we receive this service free of charge. It provides PVS board members, committee chairs, and employees with @pvs swim.org email addresses. Each

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email address includes storage space on Google Drive. This storage space allows PVS to maintain our business documents on cloud storage controlled by PVS. Previously documents were stored on board member's personal accounts, personal computers and in filing cabinets accessible to only that member. This shared cloud storage will improve the process of turning over information from outgoing board members, committee chairs, and employees to their incoming replacements. Another benefit of the PVS cloud storage is the ability to share live documents among board and committee members improving collaboration.

The pandemic and the early stay at home orders required us to find new ways to engage with the PVS membership. In April 2020, I began weekly news updates to the PVS membership to keep all informed of what was happening locally and nationally from USA Swimming. Around the same time, I also began weekly Zoom meetings with PVS club leaders (owners, head coaches, administrators). This allowed the clubs to share ideas with one another and provided social interaction that was not taking place due to the lack of swim meets. Both of these communication initiatives have continued weekly throughout the last 14 months.

These have been trying times and PVS and our clubs have been able to maintain opportunities for competitive swimming in the DMV area. I want to thank all PVS members from athletes to clubs to volunteers for their help and support during this pandemic. We learned some new ways to run competitions and some new processes and procedures that will be able to be used during post-pandemic meets.

COVID-19 has not gone away and will not go away. But, as more of our members get vaccinated, we should be able to get back closer to pre-pandemic practices and competitions.

Tim Husson

General Chair

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