



Dear Potomac Valley Swimming Community,

The last two and a half months have been extremely challenging for our athletes, coaches, officials, and clubs. Many have been cut off from their teammates, coaches, and the sport they love seemingly overnight. Competitive opportunities, that athletes have worked for months and even years, were ripped from them with little warning. Many of our athletes are now struggling to find motivation and maintain hope for a return to the life they once knew. Many of our clubs are growing increasingly concerned about how they will survive long enough to see their beloved athletes and families again. Challenging as this current situation may be for our community members, there has long been an ongoing crisis in our society that affects us all and can no longer be ignored.

Recent events, the tragic deaths of Americans George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others, have brought back to the forefront of our thoughts and discourse the ongoing challenges and fears that have consistently plagued the daily life of far too many Black Americans. Countless Black lives and futures have been lost or derailed due to systemic racism, social injustice, and police brutality. It is long past time that we acknowledge those truths, stand with our fellow citizens, and work together towards a more equitable and prosperous future for us all.

Potomac Valley Swimming is committed to demonstrating leadership and excellence both in and out of the pool. We all have an opportunity to use this time away from swimming to make our community a safer and more inclusive space for all. We join our fellow citizens and swimming community members by declaring that **Black Lives Matter** and call for an end to systemic racism and police violence that has disproportionately impacted the lives of far too many Black Americans in our society.

To our members - We see you, we hear you, and we are listening. To create a more equitable and socially conscious future for our sport we need to hear from you. The voices of the next generation of leaders in our community are needed now more than ever to help PVS fulfill our mission: *To support and promote excellence for all through competition, education, innovation, and leadership.*

We invite our members to share your suggestions, thoughts, and ideas with our Board of Directors to help us continue to perfect our sport and our community. Together we can do this. Together we shall overcome.

Yours in service,

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