



A Message from Michael Kelly, C.O.O.

Happy November! I hope this message finds you and your families healthy and safe.

I have not written a message in a while as we were restarting our Fall programs and did not want to distract from those announcements. However, there are some topics that have been on both our minds as of late that I wanted to address.

COVID-19 Positives and Compliance

We had been proud of our record that neither Member nor Staff had tested positive for COVID-19 since we reopened. Unfortunately, we can no longer make this statement as we have had one Member and one Staff test positive. We are following the guidelines as outlined by the CDC and CT, latter has delegated to the Town of Greenwich Department of Health (whom we are in contact and have vetted our procedures.) Our approach is to evaluate the contact and householding situation to determine if action needs, to contact the impacted group (in these cases, Child Watch and aquatic team) and cancel class/practice until it is determined that it is safe to resume. We were fortunate that the impact of both instances were relatively small – one family in Child Watch and two close contacts for the aquatics team.

That said, I see continued violations of two of the basic 4 “W”s – Wearing Face Covering Properly and Watch Your Distancing (the other two are Washing Your Hands and Wiping Commonly Used Surfaces – the Y is being diligent with the latter). These are not the Y’s discretionary rules – they are set by the state and Department of Health. We are mandated to assure compliance in order to keep our doors open.

- Face Covering needs to be worn at all times with limited exception
 - In the pool
 - Vigorous exercise 12 or more feet apart.
- The face covering needs to cover the **NOSE** and mouth.
- Social Distance at least 6 feet
 - **Wearing a Face Covering does not offset the need to socially distance.**

None of the above is new nor is it unique to the Y. We have been issuing reminders and increasing our signage, all to no avail as the number of offenders – repeat and otherwise – continue to grow. While we have been on a general Membership increase trajectory, we are now losing Members as they are citing non-compliance and lack of comfort due to the above violations. I presume you come to the Y because you want to be here to use our facilities. In order for this to work for all of us, I have repeatedly asked that you comply with the above for the good of all – being socially responsible is one of our missions.

The next step that I was hopeful to avoid is Membership suspensions. It is an administrative burden that our staff does not need to add to our list of requirements.

On behalf of the entire Membership and Staff, I ask that you embrace the above.

Pool Readings

The atmospheric reading for the pool are based upon three factors - water temperature, air temperature and humidity level. Our goal is to manage all these numbers within consistent ranges in accordance with what the subject matter experts deem appropriate for our activities.

The general consensus is that a pool used for lap swimming and water aerobic classes such as our Olympic pool should be maintained within a range of 78 - 82 degrees with a target air temperature 1.0-1.5 degrees warmer than the water. Our goal is to maintain the water between 80-81 and the air between 81-82. Recent statistics have shown that we have been quite consistent in our readings. This weekend, we had our first frost that required some recalibration of our new system for the Olympic Pool. While we had some readings outside our normal range, adjustments were made to return to our targets. Further, you can find the daily pool and air temperature on the back of the lifeguard chair closest to the bulkhead.

Our Alumni Pool is kept at a higher temperature, again within prescribed guidelines for other aquatic activities/users - swim lessons, water walking, arthritis, prenatal, etc. Our goal is to deliver a safe and consistent environment within prescribed parameters and we are proud of our consistency. For the record, our pool chemistry has also been very consistent in both pools.

That all said, we have Members who align into the three "Goldilocks porridge" categories - too cold, too hot, just right - each of them have their own form of commentary. These views are subject to individual preferences. For many who fall into the "too cold" category, it could be that the much lower humidity is giving the impression of a cooler temperature. Further, while previous practice was to lower the temperature for competitive team events, we have not been doing so.

In summary - no matter what we do, we are not going to be able to please all Members all the time. All we can do is deliver a consistent product within prescribed levels and hope that our two pools offerings satisfy the vast majority.

Stay Healthy and Safe!