

Cottontail Swim & Racquet Club – Summer 2020

As of 14 May 2020

Frequently Asked Questions:

QUESTION: Can't we just close the pool for the summer and no one pays dues?

ANSWER: No. Either the pool is open to swim OR the pool is open and no one swims. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(7) community organization. The cost of providing lifeguards is only 1/3rd of our annual budget. Dues are utilized to maintain our pool throughout the year. Without members' dues, the pool will not meet its budget for the year and will put us at financial risk which the Board is working to avoid.

QUESTION: Can't the pool be closed and drained to save money?

ANSWER: No. We chose early in the season to drain and clean the pool to prevent the water from becoming full of mosquitoes and other outdoor pathogens. Additionally, pools must have water in them and cannot be left empty. If you don't keep water in the pool, being empty for even a short period of time puts strain on the structure, plaster and caulking causing it to fail. Pumps that don't run significantly during the year experience shortened efficiency and lifespan and could potentially need to be replaced again next season.

QUESTION: Will Bonded members get priority for swimming slots?

ANSWER: No. There is equal access for both Bonded and Associates. Since the Board feels we share this responsibility, we voted to decrease the cost to Associate members because we are ONE Cottontail community and in this unprecedented time together.

QUESTION: How often will I get to swim during the part of the season that we are signing up for time slots for lap swimming?

ANSWER: We will be using a signup that will be sent each week to all members. Please start with only one slot per/person/week (2 slots if a parent is with a younger small child). If at closing time (9 p.m.) the night before a particular day there is an open time slot then you may sign up for a 2nd session. If the pool closes for thunder, lightening, or maintenance issues, sign up for the next convenient slot. Please be assured that we are doing our very best to create a good system for our members to swim.

QUESTION: How will you make accommodations for families with younger children during phase 1?

ANSWER: We will be able to have 6 standard lap lanes + 2 shallow half lanes for lap walking or for small children requiring a parent's help. While we cannot have furniture set out, parents who are supervising their children can sign up to swim with their child or may bring a chair to sit inside or outside of the fence. Social distancing is in place while we are in Phase 1 and all mandates will be in effect.

QUESTION: How are you coming up with the procedures during this time?

ANSWER: Our orders regarding how to open are mandated by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Fairfax County Health Department. (Guidance for pools can be found on pages 16-17).

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Virginia-Forward-Phase-One-Business-Sector-Guidelines.pdf>

QUESTION: If there are fewer swimmers isn't that a cost savings? Why else do we need money?

ANSWER: As shown in our Letter to Members dated 12 May 2020, there are costs for chemicals, clean water, electricity, insurances, and general maintenance that keep our pool and property well-maintained for this year and the future. Based on our best analysis, having less swimmers means having less dues to help pay those fixed costs. These are unavoidable fixed costs. As part of our annual budget, we usually raise revenue through social events, fundraisers, and by selling concessions. We also have been fortunate to have generous sponsors. During this time we are unable to sell food and many sponsors' businesses are closed. We are continuing to extend sponsorships to businesses that sponsored us last year in a show of support from our community.

QUESTION: Will the cost to join the pool be discounted later this summer?

ANSWER: The Board made the decision to support our pool community with discounts at the start of the season. The cost to join this season is \$420/household for both membership types. By waiving the \$75 volunteer fee for all members and decreasing Associate memberships by \$100, we are demonstrating our best efforts to minimize costs to our families while properly maintaining our facilities. At this time, we do not anticipate any further discounts. We will revisit the issue at our scheduled July 22nd Board meeting.