

Unofficial News for Swim Coaches

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1 Serious, nation-wide, lifeguard shortages are impacting program opportunities and continue to threaten the viability of aquatic facility operations. Anyone with an interest in this problem are invited to join a new, regional, **LIFEGUARD Recruiting Initiative**. Share resources and build better relationships among workforce development agencies, employers, schools, and aquatic professionals. A volunteer co-convenor, Rick Flanagan, has extensive nonprofit, community-development experiences. He ran an employment center works within the workforce-development sector. If interested, email or call.

2 Wellness and health concerns for coaches are trending in positive directions. Coaches, spouses, their families members and other community swimmers are invited to learn and play SKWIM from 2-4 pm on many Sundays at Moon Area HS pool. Future sessions include: Nov 10, 17, and 24, 2019. See 4Rs.org.

3 Underwater Hockey happens for adults and select high school swimmers throughout the winter on most nights on Tuesdays at West Allegheny and Thursdays at Mt. Lebanon. Ask Bob, Mike or Mark about details and how to get on the group's RSVP email list.

4 Youth and scholastic water polo clinics are slated for Mt. Lebo on Saturday, organized in part by the masters, Pittsburgh Renegades, <https://Renegades.4Rs.org>. Another youth clinic is slated in November at Mercyhurst. <https://Waterpolo.CLOH.org>.

5 Gratis, on-line, water safety resources, including four, 25-question, interactive quizzes are available for use with your teams, students at <https://SKWIM.us>.

6 The Pittsburgh Play Collaborative gave a grant to the nonprofit SKWIM USA. Bring a guest coach (and some free disks / equipment) to one of your practices by scheduling a date soon, while supplies and availability exist. SKWIM is easier, safer and more fun and flexible than water polo. SKWIM is ideal for swim squads of all age groups.

7 SKWIM clinics and game days are also being scheduled with the Saturday Swim School on Pittsburgh's Northside at Pgh Public Schools' Allegheny pool, located across the street from the National Aviary.

8 Some local coaches are planning additional Open Water Swimming and Triathlon clinics and events in the spring (bonus for HS T&F) and summers. Email if interested.

9 On Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 26-27, W&J College hosts intense and exciting men's water polo, DIII, eastern championship games at Chartiers Valley HS in Bridgeville. Field trip!

10 We hope to further enhance the TribLive High School Sports Network's broadcast of the 2020 WPIAL Swimming & Diving Championships with additional show prep and post meet highlights specific to your squad, with your cooperation. The 2019 meet remains online, free to watch. Tip: loop Mark@Rauterkus.com into your team's e-news and check-in again to the end of the season with additional insights.