



70 Unsworth Drive, Unit 17  
Hamilton, ON  
L8W 3K4  
p: 905-572-7245  
888-672-7245  
Email: [execdir@ontariosailing.ca](mailto:execdir@ontariosailing.ca)  
Website: <https://ontariosailing.ca>

March 23, 2020

Ontario Sailing is continually monitoring the rapidly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) health situation in our province and beyond. These are exceptionally difficult and unusual circumstances and the health and safety of all members of our sailing community remain, as always, of upmost importance to us.

As the scope and longer-term reality of COVID-19 continues to evolve, our immediate concern for the health of all participants is joined by a concern for the financial viability of our member organizations and the hundreds who are employed by our sport.

We aim to update our sailing community regularly based on our collaboration with Sail Canada, our provincial ministry, staff and board leadership and other partners as well as noted experts. Our leadership has been in constant communication as we monitor and adjust our organizational response to the current pandemic.

#### **Member Organizations:**

Ontario Sailing strongly urges that all member clubs and organizations suspend all in-person activities and instead work to support athletes and other members to continue safe activity in accordance with social-distancing protocols.

There have been significant measures announced by both federal and provincial governments that may provide relief to our community. We will continue to work with government to advocate for continued support for the sport sector. We are working to be able to provide guidance on the support that is being made available and assist, in any way we can, to ensure that our community has access to those programs.

#### **Courses:**

Currently, as announced by Sail Canada, all in-person courses scheduled up to the beginning of May have been cancelled or postponed.

Ontario Sailing has long been a leader in online options; our online courses will continue as scheduled. We are moving other fundamental courses to online options for candidates as well. Individuals who have registered will be contacted about their courses and options available.

We are in the process of developing contingency plans for all leadership development courses scheduled for this spring. We will continue to monitor the situation and as information is available, we will directly update the individuals who are registered.

#### **Office Closure:**

The Ontario Sailing office is closed as staff participate in social distancing. All staff are still working hard to support you as we navigate this situation together. Staff are available directly by email and will set up phone calls as needed. A list of staff email addresses can be found at <https://ontariosailing.ca/about/ontario-sailing-staff/>

Moving forward, we are committed to updating you as information changes and evolves. Continual updates can be found on the front page of our website as we go through COVID-19 together. We encourage you to turn to reliable sources of information as this situation evolves. Links to official sites will also be available on the front page of our website at <https://ontariosailing.ca/feature/the-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information/>.

While these are challenging times with many unknown factors, please remember we have your back! We are here to support you and together we will get through!

Sincerely,

Glenn Lethbridge  
Executive Director  
Ontario Sailing  
[execdir@ontariosailing.ca](mailto:execdir@ontariosailing.ca)