



# GOLD COAST AQUATIC CENTRE

## Update

## 2021 Australian Swimming Championships

The Gold Coast Aquatic Centre (GCAC) is proud to be hosting the 2021 Swimming Championships in April 2021.

This comprises of two events running consecutively from 5 April.

- [2021 Australian Age Swimming Championships](#) will take place from 5 to 12 April with a pre-meet training day on 4 April.
- [2021 Australian Swimming Championships](#) 14 to 18 April with a pre-meet training day on 13 April.

These are both high-profile events on the Australian swimming calendar in the lead-up to the Tokyo 2020 qualifications with competitors, families and spectators coming from across Australia to participate.

These are ticketed events with allocated seating sold via Ticket Booth which can be accessed from Swimming Australia's website from mid to late March. Ticket sales are capped at 1600 per session under the event's COVID-safe management plan.

Local residents and centre users will notice a bump-in of event infrastructure such as grandstand seating from late March 2021. This is likely to take place for seven days between 7am and 6pm.

On competition days, there will be heat and final sessions running from 7am until 9pm during which time there will be increased activity in and around the centre.

### What this means for GCAC users

There will be significant impact on access for the general public, centre members and existing user groups both during event bump-in and on competition days. For this reason, GCAC will close to the public and all centre programs and services will be suspended from 4pm Saturday 3 April until 5am Monday 19 April 2021.

This includes:

- Squad
- Learn to swim
- The fitness centre and all group fitness classes
- All regular user group bookings
- Public lap and recreational swimming.

The team at GCAC apologises for any inconvenience this event may cause and thanks all members and guests for their continued patience while the City continues to attract high-profile national and international events which bring significant economic benefit to the Gold Coast.

### Who is the event organiser?

The event organiser is Swimming Australia.

### Why are these events so important?

These are both high-profile events in the Australian swimming calendar in the lead up to Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualifications, with competitors, support crew, families and spectators coming from all over Australia to participate. It is estimated that these events will contribute over \$5 million into the local Gold Coast economy.

### Where can I get tickets to see these events?

Tickets are not available until mid to late March, but once released, they will be available from [Ticket Booth](#) which can be accessed through Swimming Australia's website at [swimming.org.au](http://swimming.org.au)

### How many spectators will be allowed to purchase tickets to these events?

With only 1600 tickets per session available, they are likely to sell out. To stay up to date with ticketing announcements, Swimming Australia's website at [swimming.org.au](http://swimming.org.au)

### How will I be able to watch these events from home?

The events will both be livestreamed internationally by [Swim TV](#) and [Amazon Prime Video](#).

### How is this event being planned to meet COVID-Safe requirements?

Swimming Australia is delivering this event under the QLD Health approved Aquatic Industry Plan.

### How much grandstand seating is being constructed at the centre?

Grandstand seating for 1600 additional seats will be installed on both the eastern and western concrete event decks.

### When will the grandstand seating be constructed?

From approximately 24 March 2021. This is likely to take seven days to complete and will be done between the hours of 7am and 6pm.

During this time, some spaces in the public carpark will be used to facilitate the bump-in of equipment.

### What times are the events running at the centre?

Competition days run from 5 to 18 April 2021 with pre-meet training sessions taking place on 4 and 13 April. On all competition days there will be heat and final sessions

running from 7am to 9pm. To view the event schedules, visit Swimming Australia's event page at [swimming.org.au/events](http://swimming.org.au/events)

### **What sort of activities will be happening on event days?**

As this is a major event on the Australian swimming calendar, there will be increased activity at the centre. While participants and spectators will be encouraged to use the Light Rail and other local public transport options, there is likely to be increased traffic in and around Marine Parade. Coming from the centre, you will likely hear whistles, race starts, announcers, a DJ with music and crowds cheering the swimmers on.

There will be a selection of food trucks on site at the front entry to the centre and other small commercial activations inside the centre.

### **Why does the centre have to close to regular user groups and the public during these events?**

An event of this nature means the bump-in of a significant amount large and heavy equipment and infrastructure which will take up car parking spaces and areas within the centre normally used by the public or by regular user groups.

Given the significant operating hours of the event and the need to maintain a COVID safe environment, Swimming Australia requires the use of most of the pool space and surrounding areas for the duration of the booking period. Local traffic will be busier than usual and parking in and around the centre will be impacted, making access by members and regular user groups more challenging. Centre management is confident it will be safer for our members and regular user groups to close the centre as working around the event is practically impossible.

### **Myself or my family are members of the squad program at GCAC. What does this mean to us during this event?**

Mini and Junior squads will finish up on Thursday 1 April and resume as normal on Monday 19 April 2021. For more information on National Age and Open squad, please contact BE Swim Coaching at [beswimcoaching@gmail.com](mailto:beswimcoaching@gmail.com)

### **My child is in the learn to swim program at GCAC. What does this mean to us and my direct debit payments?**

The direct debit cycle does not align with the centre closure dates so direct debits will take place as normal, but you will only be charged pro-rata amounts for the lessons your child attends outside the centre closure dates.

Meaning:

- A direct debit will take place on Thursday 1 April, but you will only be charged if you have a lesson booked on 1 April.
- There is no charge for Friday 2 and Saturday 3 April as these are Easter public holidays with no learn to swim classes scheduled.
- There is no charge for Monday 5 April until the end of that direct debit cycle which is Wednesday 14 April as the centre is closed.
- The next direct debit will take place on Thursday 15 April as scheduled, but you will only be charged a pro-rata amount for booked lessons taking place from

when we reopen Monday 19 April

If you require any additional information, please contact the learn to swim coordinator at [learntoswim@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:learntoswim@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

### **I have a fitness centre or a pool only membership which I pay on direct debit. What does this mean for me and my payments?**

The direct debit cycle does not align with the centre closure dates so direct debits will take place as normal, but you will only be charged pro-rata amounts.

Meaning:

- A direct debit will take place on Thursday 1 April, but you will only be charged a pro-rata amount for 1 and 3 April (2 April is Good Friday and the centre is closed)
- There is no charge for Sunday 4 April until the end of that direct debit cycle which is Wednesday 14 April as the centre is closed.
- The next direct debit will take place on Thursday 15 April as scheduled, but you will only be charged a pro-rata amount from when we reopen Monday 19 April

If you require any additional information, please contact the fitness centre team leader at

[fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au) or centre administration at [aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

### **I have a fitness centre or a pool only membership which I have paid up in full. What does this mean for me and my membership?**

As you have a paid in full membership, two weeks will be added to your contract end date to make up for this two-week closure.

If you require any additional information, please contact the fitness centre team leader at

[fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au) or centre administration at [aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

### **I have a fitness centre or a pool only multi-visit pass. What does this mean for me and my pass?**

As you have a visit pass, two weeks will be added to the expiry date to make up for this two-week closure.

If you require any additional information, please contact the fitness centre team leader at

[fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:fitnesscentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au) or centre administration at [aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

### **I am a sporting group with a regular booking. What does this mean to me and my group?**

Your booking will be suspended for the duration of the centre closure and you will not be charged for this period.

If you require any additional information, please contact the booking officer at [aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:aquaticcentre@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

### **I just want to do some lap or recreational swimming. Can I still do this at GCAC?**

Unfortunately, the centre is closed to the public, members and regular user groups during this event and this includes lap and recreational swimming.

### **What other public aquatic centres are available to use during this event?**

For a full list of City owned pools, visit

[cityofgoldcoast.com.au/citypools](http://cityofgoldcoast.com.au/citypools)