



## **Strategic Plan for the Development of Swimming in the Turks and Caicos Islands.**

With reference to Sport Commission Bill 2020, 30. 3. (d) (v).

### **Aquatic Facility in Compliance with WORLD AQUATICS Regulations**

Currently there is no proper swimming facility within the Turks & Caicos Islands, that complies with WORLD AQUATICS regulations.

Our swimmers have to travel abroad to achieve entry times in to regional competitions and gain experience in regulation length swimming pools. Historically many of our best swimmers have resided off island, where the benefits of being able to regularly train in a standard sized swimming pool have become obvious.

The Turks & Caicos Islands Swim Federation is committed to assisting with the development of a WORLD AQUATICS standard sized 25m pool within the Turks & Caicos Islands.

We have previously applied for a grant from WORLD AQUATICS, under ‘pools for all program’, and when the opportunity arises will apply again.

Within our Federation we have members who have been involved in the construction, maintenance and operating of a swimming facility. And we’ve offered advice to both TCIG and members of the private sector potentially involved in the development of swimming facilities.

We also have members who have been very active in fundraising towards the development of a swimming pool from within the private sector.

We firmly believe that the development of proper swimming facilities will allow us to host WORLD AQUATICS regulated competitions and dramatically increase the value of domestic competitions, training sessions and the number of persons participating in both the sport of competitive swimming and learn to swim programs.

### **Development of Swimming on Providenciales**

Historically the TCI Swim Federation has hosted coaching clinics organized by WORLD AQUATICS. These clinics are funded by WORLD AQUATICS and we will continue to apply to host them in the future. Initially with an emphasis on ‘grass roots’ level coaching, but noting that this might change as the number of practicing coaches on Providenciales increases.

Attending online seminars relating to ‘Schools for Officials’. WORLD AQUATICS has started to provide online training for officials (time keepers, starters, referees). By training up as many persons as possible, it is hoped that we can develop a core of competent persons that would be available to officiate at domestic level competitions.

The TCI Swim Federation also supports lifesaving and encourages members to attend lifesaver courses run on Providenciales.

The TCI Swim Federation has supported basic swim teacher courses, with the intention of encouraging more people to become involved in swimming.

The TCI Swim Federation supports the develop of clubs, with the long-term goal of being able to organize inter club competitions.

### **Development of Swimming in the Outer Islands**

In previous years swim clinics have held on the islands of Grand Turk, South Caicos and North Caicos. These have been limited by the instructor being based on the island of Providenciales

As a Federation we recognize that swimming is a potentially hazardous activity and place an emphasis on adopting a safety-first approach.

Water safety saves lives.

To develop swimming outside of Providenciales, we recognize the need to develop swim teachers based on the other islands.

To achieve this, we have sponsored clinics in Grand Turk, South Caicos and North Caicos.

The first step is to provide lifesaver and first aid training to potential swim teachers.

The next step is to provide basic swim teacher training, to the candidates that have demonstrated competency with the lifesaver and first aid training.

From there it's intended that the teacher instructor will visit the outer islands over an extended period of time. Conducting lessons, with the new teachers shadowing the instructor, developing teaching skills as time progresses.

World Aquaticsncial assistance from the TCIG, whether that would be from the Sports Department or Education Department would greatly determine the extent of this period and the frequency of the lessons. Plus, the number of participants.

It is hoped in the long term, these swim lessons will become self-sufficient.

It is also a long-term goal that swimmers from the outer islands could travel to Providenciales for competition, whether open water or pool based.

### **Participation in Regional and International Competitions**

It's noted participation in the CARIFTA swimming competition has provided an incentive for younger teenage swimmers and thus had acted as a catalyst to increase in the number of young swimmers actively involved in the sport.

The Federation is committed to sending a team to the CARIFTA, CCCAN and Goodwill Swimming Championships on an annual basis. Based on available funding from WORLD AQUATICS, it is hoped to send a small team to the world championships. Participating in these events provides valuable experience to our swimmers, coaches and team managers.

Based on recent successes of our swimmers in regional events, we have been allocated two slots by the TCICGA, for swimmers at the upcoming Commonwealth Games 2022, in Birmingham, England. It is hoped that we can continue to provide this opportunity for our swimmers into the next four-year cycle and see swimmers representing the TCI at the Commonwealth Games 2026. Ultimately, it's hoped that some of our swimmers continue to achieve the standards necessary to represent the Turks & Caicos Islands at the Commonwealth Games.