

# **The three things I learned as a swim coach & a water safety activist during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**By George Young 11/12/2020**

1. **Be more organized than everyone else.** This really helped me establish my goals and my beliefs. When one understands their goals and then either blends or adjusts these goals to meet the recorded standards and best practices of the Health and Local officials' requirements. If one wishes to rent a pool for training, come with your team's safety protocols. Incorporating the best practices and standards of some biggest and well-respected organization can only lead to a benchmark in the words of your team's safety protocols. USA Swimming has done a wonderful job assisting clubs and swim coaches dealing with the reopening process and COVID-19. Nicely done, USA Swimming!!
2. **I have witnessed individuals, and organizations' passion grows and grows, becoming more committed to their love of what is important to them and the people surrounding them.** The passion only grew for the individuals that swum age group swimming with passion and love for swimming. The enhancement of swimming's love grew as they did dryland and studied the sport while forced to sit out during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the swimmers that view age group swimming as an activity got lost from the sport and found other activities to fill their time off from age group swimming. The passion for water safety awareness by a few leading organizations were increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish to highlight two non-profit organizations that stepped up to stay true to their water safety awareness mission. The first organization is Colin's Hope. Colin's Hope [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org) did a wonderful job-sharing virtual programming increased exponentially. They supplied many families with healthy and water safety-wise activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The second organization is the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) [www.ndpa.org](http://www.ndpa.org). This organization turned an in-person water safety conference into a virtual one in less than two weeks to stay true to their goal of promoting water safety awareness. NDPA responded to the challenges and understood just how important water safety awareness would be during the COVID-19 with limited swimming lessons being offered and swimming pools being shut down. Unprecedented job Colin's Hope and NDPA!!
3. The third thing I learned was how important it is for a leader to establish a standard to promote or create benchmarks of best practices to ensure the mission is met. For me, building a safer environment for my swimmers was the cornerstone I had to reach. Blending in resources from the aquatic's elite help me accomplish my standard. Health Agencies establish minimum standards for safety, and I always believed it is wise to surpass the minimum standards every time you can. Reflexing on the insight shared by the following individuals and organizations, I am happy to state I am proud of the standards I set forth and promoted. Thank you, Kevin Post, from Counsilman-Hunsaker. Thank you, Mike Kraft, from Clear Comfort. Thank you to the CDC for their guidance and knowledge. Thank you to all the Council for Model Aquatic Code (CMAHC) members for always trying hard to improve the aquatic world. Thank you to the USA Swimming

Aquatic Coalition for doing all that you have done and is continuing to do for age group swimming. **Surround yourself with the best to establish your standards.**

Arranged and posted by George Young