

The Relationship

In 1979 the Foothills Swimming Association became the first community based swim club in Canada to enter into partnership with a university varsity athletics program. The result was what we now know as the University of Calgary Swimming Program (Calgary Swimming) that includes the Varsity (UofC Varsity Dinos) and club team (UCSC).

This partnership enabled growth of the club program while adding higher level coaching on deck, professional management, improved access to sports science and excellent training facilities for both the club and Varsity programs. From the perspective of programming, competitiveness and club organization the relationship has proven extremely beneficial.

In general terms the association, whereby the club trades off access to World Class coaching for access to a World Class facilities has stood the test of time and is a fiscally balanced relationship resulting in a win-win situation for both programs.

To UCSC the UofC Varsity program provides:

- 2 offices supplied with heat, light, 7 phone lines and high speed internet
- Daily use of gym, weight room and related dry land training facilities
- Preferred pool access and rates at 1/3 the market rate
- Meeting rooms and storage as needed
- Fitness passes at staff rates for USCS members
- 20% of head coach compensation and expenses
- Direct access to top U of C sports science/kinesiology resources
- Direct access to National Sports Centre resources and expertise
- Opportunities for club swimmers to interact and swim with Varsity and world level swimmers and coaches

To the U of C Varsity, UCSC Foothills Swimming Association provides:

- Administration staff and services
- 80% of head coach compensation and expenses
- Coaching assistance for the Varsity swim program
- Management of Varsity meets
- One seat on its board for a Varsity representative
- Governance of the organization and programs

This unique relationship as brought competitive swimming to the North West community and World Class swimming to Calgary and Alberta. The symbiotic relationship has served the overall program of the University of Calgary Swimming programs (Calgary Swimming) well and will do so long into the future.