Adjustment of professional intervention in child's swimming lessons in face of the pandemic situation Covid19

**Authors:** Patricia Torres<sup>1</sup>, Vera Reis<sup>1</sup>, Marta Martins<sup>1</sup>, Hugo Louro<sup>1,2</sup>

Affiliations:

1 Escola Superior de Desporto de Rio Maior, Instituto Politécnico de Santarém (ESDRM-

IPSantarém), Santarém, Portugal

2 Centro de Investigação em Qualidade de Vida (CIEQV), Santarém, Portugal

Correspondence: Marta Martins (martamartins@esdrm.ipsantarem.pt)

Abstract: In the current context, the need to adapt sports practices to safety rules to control the pandemic spread of COVID-19 has emerged in a short period of time. Objectives - In this sense, this work intends to gather and analyze information and results in relation to those that were necessary adaptations in children's swimming lessons. In order to obtain concrete information, we asked 10 questions to swimming coaches who carry out swimming lessons with children in the context of Pandemic, through a uniform questionnaire, presented on a digital platform (Google Forms Survey), distributed through the network of contacts of researchers, in order to ensure compliance with safety and distance rules and to cover the largest possible number of professionals and the greatest possibility of response. The professionals come from different parts of the country and work in different swimming pools with different conditions and dimensions. The coaches that indicated in open response to give these classes out of water were excluded from this sample because they did not gather information that would serve as an answer to the questions asked. Most results point to the use of protective equipment (mask or visor) by coaches while they teach in the water. It is practically unanimous to adopt the physical distance between the teacher and the students, as well as between each student. Touching and body manipulation by the teacher, which is essential in some tasks, is avoided. In most cases, there was a need to adapt the lessons to the pandemic situation and in order to continue to offer these activities to children. It will be interesting to find out in the long term any less positive side effects, what consequences these factors will have on children's learning to swim.

**Keywords:** covid-19, children, swimming.