



Disaster Relief Program for Teams Grant Application & Guidelines

Name of Team: _____ LSC: _____
Name of Head Coach: _____ # of team members: _____
Address of Team _____
City/State/Zip of Team: _____
Day/Cell Phone #: _____
Date(s) of disaster: _____ FEMA # for Team (if received): _____

Name of person completing application: _____

Email of person completing application: _____

Phone of person completing application: _____

All grant questions should go to clubgrantrelief@usaswimming.org

Purpose

Provide financial assistance to USA Swimming teams negatively impacted by an instance of devastation and destruction (e.g., hurricane or wildfire disaster).

Grant Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a USA Swimming disaster relief grant, teams must have suffered material losses from an instance of devastation or destruction. To be able to use grants to provide swim team dues relief, teams must have team members and families that have suffered loss of their homes for an extended period.

Teams are eligible to be considered for one grant up to \$5000. The average grant is expected to be about \$3000. Based on the number of teams that could be impacted, USA Swimming may be unable to honor every request for assistance that is received.

Grant Application Guidelines

The grant review committee will evaluate each grant request and give the strongest consideration to those requests that, in the collective opinion of the committee, demonstrate the most significant need.

In evaluating grant requests, the review committee will consider the following questions and guidelines:

- Has the team provided all the information requested? Does the grant proposal clearly and effectively present a strong case for support?
- Will the proposed grant help replace losses that were not insured or the deductible for an insured loss? Is replacing those losses critical to the ongoing operation of the club (e.g. lane lines and/or pool heaters)? Losses deemed as being critical to ongoing team operations will merit the highest consideration.
- Is there an opportunity for the team to secure matching funds? In general, all requests to use grant dollars provided by USA Swimming to match funds from other sources, will merit high consideration.
- Will the proposed grant be utilized as matching funds for swim team dues relief for families suffering substantial losses (e.g. loss of their home for an extended period)? Is that financial aid critical to keeping children participating with the team? Requests to use grant dollars as matching funds for swim team dues relief shall merit strong consideration. Funding provided for dues relief must be matched by the team (see note #1 in section titled “Additional Info”)
- If replacing equipment, more expensive, longer serving equipment purchases that benefit multiple athletes will merit higher consideration than less expensive, more disposable items like fins, hand paddles, stretch cords, kickboards, and pull buoys.
- Potential Uses for Grant Funds:
 - Assist with losses that will not be covered by insurance.
 - Pay deductible expenses for insured losses.
 - Help replace or repair lost and damaged equipment – pace clocks, lane lines, pool pumps, pool heaters, etc.
 - Assist with cost of using temporary facilities.
 - Help clubs provide matching grants for swim team dues relief to team families with significant losses.

Grant Application Instructions

- Please attach page 1 (contact information) of this document to your grant request.
- Provide a written statement (one page) outlining your grant request. It should include the following information:
 - A brief description of the losses the team has suffered because of the instance of devastation or destruction.
 - The dollar amount that are you requesting.
 - The purpose for which your team is requesting grant funds. Specifically, how will these funds be spent? To replace damaged equipment? Dues relief?
- The request must include basic details regarding the planned use of funds. For example, if you are replacing damaged equipment, the request should detail the projected cost of the specific items to be replaced.
- The program is primarily intended to assist clubs with non-insured losses, but it can also help cover deductible expenses for insured losses. If requesting reimbursement for a deductible expense from an insured loss, clubs and/or facilities must provide a FEMA number and/or documentation from the insurance company.

- If requesting funds for team dues relief for families experiencing significant hardship, these funds shall be matching grants, i.e., USA Swimming will match any dues relief for families that the club is providing. As part of the request, please outline the dues relief proposal and how much money the club plans to commit to matching financial aid?

Grant Review Committee

The grant review committee will be composed of 3 volunteers, as well as one staff liaison to provide support. The three volunteers will be approved by the USA Swimming Board Chair, who shall also approve a committee chairperson from within that group.

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Additional Information

- Requests for swim team dues relief shall only be for swimmers/families who have been severely impacted by a disaster. In addition, the dollars requested from USA Swimming shall be matched by the club or LSC. For example, the club desires to provide scholarship aid to a family that lost their home in the hurricane. For a 6-month period, the club proposes to waive all coaching fees for three swimmers from that family. The regular monthly fee is \$400. The USA Swimming grant will be \$200; the club will pay a matching \$200.
- Realizing that some member athletes have been displaced from their homes and teams, USA Swimming passed resolutions granting a temporary exception to the 60-day representation rule. For more information about this exception, contact Denise Thomas, Membership Manager, USA Swimming, denise.thomas@usaswimming.org.
- Prior to USA Swimming disbursing any grant funds, the club will be required to sign a letter of agreement acknowledging that the funds awarded will be utilized for the specific purpose(s) stated in the letter of agreement. Per IRS regulations, USA Swimming must also have a current W-9 form on file for any club receiving funds.

Timeline

Upon receipt of a grant application, the grant review committee will communicate the grant award to the applicant within 30 days.