

2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

10K Open Water Competition

**Monday 10 August
Long Beach, CA (TBD)**

The Open Water competition will be open to all invited federations.

Pool Competition

**Wednesday 12 August – Saturday 15 August
William Woollett, Jr. Aquatics Center, Irvine, CA**

The pool competition is open to all non-LEN (European) federations. The pool competition will include heats and A & B finals (no semifinals). Pending qualification criteria set forth by World Aquatics, USA Swimming will seek World Aquatics approval for the pool event as a qualifying event for the World Aquatics World Championships 2027.

The information provided in this document is correct at the time of publishing. USA Swimming will not be held liable for any costs and expenses incurred by any person following any changes to the information outlined in this document. Any updates/ amendments to this booklet will be posted on the website at usaswimming.org. Unless otherwise noted, World Aquatics Technical Rules will govern the conduct of this event.

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1. EVENT OVERVIEW

The Pan Pacific Swimming Championships are held under the oversight of the Pan Pacific Swimming Association. The Association was established in the mid-1980s and is made up of the four founding swimming federations – Swimming Australia, Swimming Canada, the Japan Amateur Swimming Federation and USA Swimming. These charter nations developed the concept of a biennial swimming competition to provide their national teams with first class international competition between the two major international swimming competitions – the Olympic Games and the World Aquatics World Championships. As World Aquatics modified its calendar in the 2001-2004 period to include two World Championships in the quadrennium (the odd years), the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships also adjusted and has been held since 2002 in the second year after the summer Olympic Games (2002, 2006, 2010, etc). The first Pan Pacific Swimming Championships was hosted by Japan in Tokyo in 1985. Since this time, the competition site rotated between Japan and the other charter nations. The host nation has taken responsibility for organizing all aspects of the Championships including issuing all invitations to other national swimming federations.

Site History of Pan Pacific Championships

1985 Tokyo, Japan
1987 Brisbane, Australia
1989 Tokyo, Japan
1991 Edmonton, Canada
1993 Kobe, Japan
1995 Atlanta, Georgia, USA
1997 Fukuoka, Japan
1999 Sydney, Australia
2002 Yokohama, Japan
2006 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
2010 Irvine, California, USA
2014 Gold Coast, Australia
2018 Tokyo, Japan
2022 Not conducted due to the impact of the Global Covid 19 Pandemic
2026 Irvine, California, USA
2030 Australia, TBD
2034 Canada, TBD
2038 Japan, TBD

Quick Facts

1. The format includes one day of open water swimming and four days of pool swimming
2. The maximum team size is 30 men and 30 women
3. In the pool competition, each country is allowed to advance two individuals/one relay into the Finals
4. Separate team trophies will be presented for the pool and open water competitions
5. The top male and female swimmers will receive “Swimmer of the Meet” awards

All swimmers must be members in good standing of their respective World Aquatics member federation. Delegations may be required to obtain travel visas to the United States. If your delegation requires assistance in obtaining travel visas, please contact Macie McNichols at mmcnichols@usawimming.org as soon as possible.

Any photographs, videotape or other audio and/or visual recordings of the event created by a spectator may be used solely for such spectator's personal non-commercial use, and may not be broadcast, published or disseminated, or used for any commercial purposes, without the prior written consent of USA Swimming.

All participants agree to be filmed and photographed by the official photographer(s) and network(s) of USA Swimming under the conditions authored by USA Swimming, and allow event organizers the right to use names, pictures, likenesses, and biographical information before, during or after the period of participation in USA Swimming competitions to promote such competitions. All participants agree not to use or authorize use of pictures in the uniforms and equipment provided by USA Swimming for the purpose of trade, without the consent of USA Swimming. All participants agree not to use medals or photos, or portraits or films with the medals, which are received for performances in this competition, for the purpose of trade. Furthermore, participants agree to return these uniforms and equipment, bearing USA Swimming logos and marks, if and when requested.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 2 March 2026	Preliminary Entry Form due for all federations
Mon 29 June 2026	Charter Nations Accommodations Forms, Travel Forms, and Payments due
Mon 27 July 2026	Deadline for all Team Lists, Final Entries, and accreditation photos
Wed 5 August 2026	Draft Psyche Sheet available
Sat 8 August 2026	Team accommodations and pool practice available
Sun 9 August 2026	10K Open Water Competition Team Leader's Meeting
Mon 10 Aug 2026	10K Open Water Competition
Mon 10 August 2026	Pool entry corrections due
Tue 11 August 2026	Pool Competition Team Leader's Meeting and Welcome Reception
Wed-Sat 12-15 Aug 2026	Pool Competition
Sun 16 August 2026	Teams depart

3. EVENT ADMINISTRATION

Pan Pacific Charter Nations

Swimming Canada
Suzanne Paulins

Swimming Australia
Rob Woodhouse

Japan Swimming Federation
Hidesumi Kaneko

USA Swimming
Kevin Ring, President/CEO

USA Swimming Staff

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Marissa DelGado, National Events Specialist
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Katie Trace, National Events Coordinator
ktrace@usaswimming.org
+1.719.238.2394

Pool Venue

William Woollett, Jr. Aquatics Center
4601 Walnut Avenue
Irvine, California USA 92620
+1.949.724.6717

Open Water Venue

TBD
Long Beach, California, USA

4. EVENT PROGRAM

Monday 10 August 10:00 10K Open Water Competition					
10:00		Wednesday 12 August		18:00	
1	50 Fly Heats (W/M)	2	1	50 Fly Final (W/M)	2
3	200 Free Heats (W/M)	4	3	200 Free Final (W/M)	4
5	100 Back Heats (W/M)	6	5	100 Back Final (W/M)	6
7	200 Fly Heats (W/M)	8	7	200 Fly Final (W/M)	8
-	800 Free Heats (M)	9	-	800 Free Timed Final (M)	9
10	1500 Free Heats (W)	-	10	1500 Free Timed Final (W)	-
			11	Mixed 4x100m Medley Relay (all heats)	11
10:00		Thursday 13 August		18:00	
12	400 IM Heats (W/M)	13	12	400 IM Final (W/M)	13
14	100 Free Heats (W/M)	15	14	100 Free Final (W/M)	15
16	100 Breast Heats (W/M)	17	16	100 Breast Final (W/M)	17
18	50 Back Heats (W/M)	19	18	50 Back Final (W/M)	19
			20	4 x 200 Free Relay (all heats) (W/M)	21
10:00		Friday 14 August		18:00	
22	400 Free Heats (W/M)	23	22	400 Free Final (W/M)	23
24	100 Fly Heats (W/M)	25	24	100 Fly Final (W/M)	25
26	200 Back Heats (W/M)	27	26	200 Back Final (W/M)	27
28	50 Breast Heats (W/M)	29	28	50 Breast Final (W/M)	29
			30	4 x 100 Free Relay (all heats) (W/M)	31
10:00		Saturday 15 August		18:00	
32	200 IM Heats (W/M)	33	32	200 IM Final (W/M)	33
34	50 Free Heats (W/M)	35	34	50 Free Final (W/M)	35
36	200 Breast Heats (W/M)	37	36	200 Breast Final (W/M)	37
38	1500 Free Heats (M)	39	38	1500 Free Timed Final (M)	39
40	800 Free Heats (W)	41	40	800 Free Timed Final (W)	41
			42	4 x 100 Medley Relay (all heats) (W/M)	43

5. RULES

Unless otherwise noted, World Aquatics Technical Rules will govern the conduct of this event.

Eligibility

The pool competition is open to all non-LEN (European) countries. The competition will include heats and A & B finals (no semifinals). The Open Water competition is open to all federations, including LEN countries.

Format

- All individual events except the 800/1500 Freestyles will have heats and finals.
- Timed finals will be conducted for the 800/1500 Freestyles and all relays. Early heats of the 800/1500 Freestyle events will be swum at the end of the preliminary heats on that day, fastest to slowest, alternating women and then men. The fastest timed final heat will be swum with the finals. All relays will be swum with the finals session.
- The maximum team size will be 30 men and 30 women, broken down as follows: 26 men and 26 women (52 total) for the pool team and a maximum of 4 men and 4 women (8 total) for the 10K open water race. Pool athletes may swim in the open water race and open water athletes may swim in the pool events.

Entries

Each country may enter an unlimited number of swimmers in the heats in each event. In events when A and B Finals are conducted, only two (2) swimmers per nation shall be allowed to qualify for the A Finals. When one nation has qualified more than two (2) swimmers for an A final event, only the fastest two (2) swimmers (after scratches) shall advance. If a country has two (2) athletes in the A Final, that country may also qualify two (2) additional athletes to the B Final. If the country has only one (1) athlete in the A Final, that country may have up to two (2) athletes in the B Final. Example;

In the 100 Backstroke, Country XYZ has athletes qualify 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, and 8th in the morning heats. For the finals, the athletes who qualified 1st and 2nd will swim in the A Final. The athletes who qualified 4th and 7th will swim in the B Final, and the athlete who qualified 8th will not swim in either the A or B Finals.

In events that are timed finals, a maximum of two (2) swimmers per country are permitted to swim in the fastest heat of that event. In events that are timed finals and have eight (8) swimmers or less entered in the entire event, a country will be permitted to have more than two swimmers in the fastest heat. These additional swimmers will be seeded behind all swimmers conforming to the two per country rule, in one of the outside lanes of the heat. These swimmers do not have to be designated prior to the race, but only the fastest two swimmers from any one country will be permitted to score in the top eight (8).

In the situation when B Finals are swum, and there are not eight (8) athletes in that heat, that heat may be filled by the 4th, 5th, etc. athlete from a particular country, based on preliminary times. Example:

There are 14 athletes entered in an event, which will mean that the B final will not be full. If Country XYZ has four athletes in that event, the 4th fastest from Country XYZ will be

permitted to swim in an outside lane in the B final. These athletes may not count in the team score.

Relays

Each country may enter up to one team in each relay event to swim in the final heat and count toward the team score. Countries may also enter a “B” relay that will swim in a preceding heat. These “B” relays may not score points and are not eligible for medals. Note: due to television timing restrictions, this heat may be held after the main relay heat.

Apparel

a. Swimsuits

- One manufacturer’s logo of a maximum size of 30cm² when worn on the men’s race suits, on right hip
- Two manufacturers’ logos of a maximum size of 30cm² when worn on women’s race suits, one on center or right chest and the other on the right thigh.
- The manufacturer’s logo must be calculated taking into consideration the entire surface of the logo, as shown below:



- One commercial sponsor’s logo of a maximum size of 30cm² is permitted under the manufacturer’s logo on right leg of men’s and women’s racing suits. An additional one logo from the same sponsor of 30cm² is permitted under the manufacturer’s logo of the women’s racing suit.
- One National Federation logo of a maximum size of 30cm² is permitted on the left leg of men’s and women’s racing suits. An additional one logo from the National Federation of 30cm² is permitted on the left chest of the women’s racing suit.

b. Caps

- One manufacturer’s logo of 20cm² can be placed on the front of the cap
- One sponsor’s logo of 30cm² can be placed on the left side of the cap
- One country name or flag of 30cm² can be placed on the right side of the cap
- Athletes names (up to 20cm²) can be placed under the respective logos on both sides of the caps

c. Team Podium Apparel

- Podium apparel has no restrictions in terms of nation, manufacturer, or sponsor marks, to the extent that proper decorum and uniformity within the team is preserved.
- PanPac Charter nations agree to show plans for podium gear to each other in advance of the competition to ensure professionalism of all.

Athlete Imagery Usage

- Approved athlete imagery must be provided by each of the Charter Nations and any participating nations at least 12 months prior to the event
- More than two athletes must feature in all marketing collateral to promote the event
- Any athlete imagery utilized in commercial sponsorship arrangements associated with the event must be approved by the National Federations under their Use of Group IP guidelines

Scoring and Awards

- A team trophy will be awarded to the country that scores the most points based on the following scoring system:
 - Individual Events: 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 (for places 1st – 8th from the A final)
 - Relay Events: 18-14-12-10-8-6-4-2 (for places 1st – 8th from the A final)
 - A team trophy will be given for the highest scoring team (men and women combined) in pool swimming.
 - A team trophy will be given for the highest scoring team (men and women combined) in open water swimming.
 - A medal count will also be kept.
- A medal presentation will take place for all events, with a gold, silver and bronze medal awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
- An award will be given to the Swimmer of the Meet – one for male and one for female.
 - The priority for each gender for the Swimmer of the Meet will be a world record in the finals. If there is more than one world record in that gender, the Swimmer of the Meet will go to the athlete whose world record in the finals scores the highest amount on the World Aquatics performance points table. If two or more world records in the finals score the same amount of points on the performance points table, the award will be shared.
 - If there are no world records for that gender at the meet, the Swimmer of the Meet will be awarded to the athlete whose single swim in the finals scores the highest amount of points on the World Aquatics performance tables.
 - If the above method yields a tie between two athletes, these athletes will share the award.
 - Relay lead-offs will count towards the Swimmer of the Meet award.

Open Water

- A 10K Open Water event will be conducted at the Pan Pacific Championships. All attempts will be made to host the 10K Open Water Competition at the 2026 Los Angeles Olympic Open Water venue.
- The Open Water competition will have a women's and men's division, and medals will be presented to the top three (3) in each race. Open Water will be scored but this scoring will be separate from the pool competition. If more than two athletes are permitted in each event per country, the scoring will only be for the top two athletes from each country.
- For the 2026 Pan Pacific 10K Open Water Championships it was agreed by the Charter Nations meeting in Canberra, Australia on 23 August 2024 that the competition would be open to all European Nations (European Aquatics) should they wish to attend, to a maximum of 2 entries per event (i.e. 2 men and 2 women).

Doping Control

Doping control tests will be conducted at the Pan Pacific Championships following World Aquatics rules.

6. ACCREDITATION

Anyone expecting a credential for the 2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships must submit a passport-style photo. This includes athletes, coaches, officials, VIP's and volunteers.

- Passport-style, front facing, full head and top of shoulders visible (can be taken with most digital cameras; need not be a professional photograph)
- Color or black and white
- Plain/light background only
- Hats or dark glasses may not be worn
- File size should be between 50kb and 1Mb
- Save digital photographs in JPG format with the following naming convention:

SurName_GivenName.JPG
(e.g. Smith_John.jpg)

Submission information will be distributed in Quarter 4 of 2025.

For additional information, contact Macie McNichols at; mmcnichols@usaswimming.org

Credentials will be required in the Ready Room/Last Call Room for all athletes, as the credentials will be used by USADA for doping control purposes.

Due to heightened security, all participants should be prepared for bag checks upon each entry to the venue. Please plan for some delays.

7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The Team Leader's Meeting for the Open Water competition will be held at the Hyatt Regency Irvine on Sunday, 9 August at 3:00 p.m. (15:00). All participants must be represented at this meeting for information and last-minute changes to the competition format.

The Team Leader's Meeting for the Pool Competition will be held at the Hyatt Regency Irvine on Tuesday, 11 August at 3:00 p.m. (15:00). All participants must be represented at this meeting for information and last-minute changes to the competition format.

A meeting for all pool technical officials will be held at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center on Wednesday, 12 August at 8:30 a.m. A similar meeting will be held at the Aquatics Center one hour prior to the start of each competition session.

8. VENUES

Pool Venue

The venue for the 2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships will be the William Woollett Jr Aquatics Center in Irvine, California. This outdoor venue has been the site for several USA Swimming National Championships, as well as the 2005 Duel in the Pool (USA vs Australia) and the 2010 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. The main competition pool is an eight-lane 50 meter pool consisting of one constant depth (7 feet). The adjacent practice pool is also an eight-lane 50 meter pool. Expansive locker room facilities for both men and women are adjacent to the warm-up pool. The venue will have spectator seating for more than 1,000 people in addition to athlete seating for over 400 around the competition pool.



Team Seating

Team seating areas and rotations will be detailed at the Team Leader's Meeting.

Spectator Information

All-session tickets for the pool competition will go on sale beginning 1 January 2026 and can be purchased at usaswimming.org. There is no charge for admission to the Open Water competition.

The venue will not be open for spectators before the first day of the competition. Spectator doors will open one hour before the designated start time for each session.

Medical Assistance

Physicians' services will be available in the venue during all hours the venue is open for team practice and competition. More information regarding these services will be distributed at the Team Leader's Meeting.

Open Water Venue

All attempts will be made to host the 10K Open Water Competition near the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games Open Water venue at Belmont Shores in Long Beach, California. The Open Water competition will be open to all invited federations. Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available.

9. ACCOMMODATIONS

Charter Nations Housing and Meals

All Charter Nations teams, VIPs and Officials will be housed at the Hyatt Regency Irvine. The Hyatt Regency is located about ten minutes from the William Woollett Aquatics Center, and five minutes from the Orange County John Wayne International Airport. The prime setting of this hotel is also near many of California's tourist attractions, including Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and the Anaheim Angels baseball stadium. World-class shopping and beaches are also nearby. Teams may begin checking into the hotel on Saturday, 8 August. Departure shall be no later than Sunday, 16 August. Three meals/day will be served in the hotel for all Charter Nation participants.



The Organizing Committee will be responsible for participating athletes to a maximum of 60 per charter nation (30 men and 30 women). Therefore, a team of 60 athletes will be allocated 30 athlete rooms (accommodation requirements based on a 2/room basis) and 60 athlete meal quotas. Any additional athlete requirements will be at the cost to that nation. The Organizing Committee will be responsible for the costs for coaching/support staff at a ratio of 1:3. Therefore, a team of 60 athletes will be allocated 10 staff rooms (accommodation requirements based on a 2/room basis) and 20 staff meal quotas. Any additional room requirements will be at the cost to that nation of US \$435/Single Occupancy, and/or US \$310/Double Occupancy.

The Organizing Committee will also be responsible for related costs for 2 VIP rooms and meal quotas per charter country. VIP accommodations at the Hyatt Regency Irvine are based on a 1/room basis.

Charter nations bringing additional VIP's/Dignitaries, will be secured by the Organizing Committee at the cost to that nation of US \$435/Single Occupancy, and/or US \$310/Double Occupancy.

Hyatt Regency Irvine
17900 Jamboree Road,
Irvine, California, USA 92614
Tel: +1 949 975 1234 Fax: +1 949 852 1574

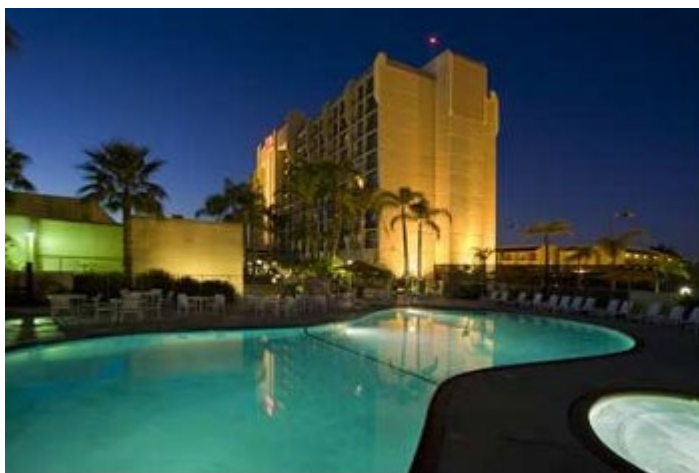
All accommodation requests and additional room payments must be submitted on the "Accommodations Form" no later than Monday, 29 June 2026. Final payment for additional rooms must also be submitted no later than Monday, 29 June 2026.

Charter Nations Transportation

The Organizing Committee shall provide each charter nation with one or two coach buses (depending on team size) with drivers to use at their disposal. Transportation will be provided from the arrival airport to the hotel, all local travel, and back to the departure airport. The preferred airports are 1. Orange County John Wayne International Airport (SNA), or 2. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). In addition to the team buses, a shuttle will be operated throughout the week. Please see the complete shuttle schedules in this document.

Non-Charter Nations Housing

Non-Charter Nations wishing to utilize the OC's complimentary ground transportation will be housed at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel. This hotel is located about 15 minutes from the William Woollett Aquatics Center, and two minutes from the Orange County John Wayne International Airport. Cost for this hotel is US \$189 + Tax (approximately 10.3%) per night for single or double occupancy and includes a complimentary buffet breakfast. No additional meals will be provided, however several restaurants are within walking distance of this hotel. Accommodations at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel can be made [here](#).



Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport
18800 MacArthur Blvd.
Irvine, California, USA 92612
Tel: +1 949 833 9999 Fax: +1 949 833 3317

Non-Charter Nations Transportation

If arriving at the Orange County John Wayne International Airport, the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel offers a free shuttle. If arriving at the Los Angeles International Airport, transportation for participants staying at the Hilton Irvine Hotel will be arranged by the Organizing Committee. The preferred airports are 1. Orange County John Wayne International Airport (SNA), or 2. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Participants wishing transportation from LAX to the Hilton Irvine must complete and return the Travel Form no later than 29 June 2026.

A shuttle will be operated throughout the week between the Hilton Irvine and the pool. Please see the complete shuttle schedules in this document.

Participants who choose not to stay at the Hilton Irvine Hotel will be responsible for their accommodations and travel.

10. Warm-up Schedule

Warm up Procedures for competition pool

(All Times Subject to Change)

Up to 1.5 hours prior to the first race, open warm up exists in both pools

PRELIMINARIES

90 minutes prior to start	<i>All kicking must move to warm up pool. Swimming only in Competition pool.</i>	
	Lanes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
45 minutes prior <u>to start</u>	Lanes 4, 5, 6, 7	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 3, 8, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
30 minutes prior <u>to start</u>	Lanes 4, 5	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 6, 7, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 3, 8, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
15 minutes prior to start	CLEAR COMPETITION POOL	

FINALS

90 minutes prior to start	<i>All kicking must move to warm up pool. Swimming only in Competition pool.</i>	
	Lanes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
45 minutes prior <u>to start</u>	Lanes 4, 5, 6, 7	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 3, 8, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
30 minutes prior <u>to start</u>	Lanes 4, 5	<u>GENERAL</u>
	Lanes 1, 6, 7, 10	PACE (Swimmers, no diving off blocks)
	Lanes 2, 3, 8, 9 (Sprinters one way only)	SPRINT
15 minutes prior to start	CLEAR COMPETITION POOL	

Thank you for your cooperation.

11. SHUTTLE SCHEDULES

2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships - Pool Shuttle Schedule for Saturday 8 August

Days	Bus	Depart Hilton	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Pool	Depart Pool	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Hilton
Sat 8 Aug	Red Bus	15:20	15:30	15:35	15:50	15:55	16:10	16:15	16:25
Sat 8 Aug	Blue Bus	15:55	16:05	16:10	16:25	16:30	16:45	16:50	17:00
Sat 8 Aug	Red Bus	16:30	16:40	16:45	17:00	17:05	17:20	17:25	17:35
Sat 8 Aug	Blue Bus	17:05	17:15	17:20	17:35	17:40	17:55	18:00	18:10
Sat 8 Aug	Red Bus	17:40	17:50	17:55	18:10	18:15	18:30	18:35	18:45
Sat 8 Aug	Blue Bus	18:15	18:25	18:30	18:45	18:50	19:05	19:10	19:20
Sat 8 Aug	Red Bus	18:50	19:00	19:05	19:20	19:25	19:40	19:45	19:55
Sat 8 Aug	Blue Bus	19:25	19:35	19:40	19:55	20:00	20:15	20:20	20:30
Sat 8 Aug	Red Bus	20:00	20:10	20:15	20:30	20:35	20:50	20:55	21:05

Pool open 4pm-8pm Sat after team arrivals

2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships - Pool Shuttle Schedule Sunday 9 August - Saturday 15 August

Days	Bus	Depart Hilton	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Pool	Depart Pool	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Hilton
Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	6:00	6:10	6:15	6:30	6:35	6:50	6:55	7:05
Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	6:35	6:45	6:50	7:05	7:10	7:25	7:30	7:40
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	7:10	7:20	7:25	7:40	7:45	8:00	8:05	8:15
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	7:45	7:55	8:00	8:15	8:20	8:35	8:40	8:50
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	8:20	8:30	8:35	8:50	8:55	9:10	9:15	9:25
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	8:55	9:05	9:10	9:25	9:30	9:45	9:50	10:00
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	9:30	9:40	9:45	10:00	10:05	10:20	10:25	10:35
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:35	10:40	10:55	11:00	11:10
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	10:40	10:50	10:55	11:10	11:15	11:30	11:35	11:45
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	11:15	11:25	11:30	11:45	11:50	12:05	12:10	12:20
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	11:50	12:00	12:05	12:20	12:25	12:40	12:45	12:55
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	12:25	12:35	12:40	12:55	13:00	13:15	13:20	13:30
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	13:00	13:10	13:15	13:30	13:35	13:50	13:55	14:05
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	13:35	13:45	13:50	14:05	14:10	14:25	14:30	14:40
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	14:10	14:20	14:25	14:40	14:45	15:00	15:05	15:15
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	14:45	14:55	15:00	15:15	15:20	15:35	15:40	15:50
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	15:20	15:30	15:35	15:50	15:55	16:10	16:15	16:25
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	15:55	16:05	16:10	16:25	16:30	16:45	16:50	17:00
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	16:30	16:40	16:45	17:00	17:05	17:20	17:25	17:35
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	17:05	17:15	17:20	17:35	17:40	17:55	18:00	18:10
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	17:40	17:50	17:55	18:10	18:15	18:30	18:35	18:45
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	18:15	18:25	18:30	18:45	18:50	19:05	19:10	19:20
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	18:50	19:00	19:05	19:20	19:25	19:40	19:45	19:55
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	19:25	19:35	19:40	19:55	20:00	20:15	20:20	20:30
Sun 8/9 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	20:00	20:10	20:15	20:30	20:35	20:50	20:55	21:05
Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	20:35	20:45	20:50	21:05	21:10	21:25	21:30	21:40
Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15	Red Bus	21:10	21:20	21:25	21:40	21:45	22:00	22:05	22:15
Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15	Blue Bus	21:45	21:55	22:00	22:15	22:20	22:35	22:40	22:50

Note: Each Charter Nation will have one or two coach buses (depending on delegation size) for their exclusive use throughout the week. Pool open for practice 6am-8pm Sun 8/9 - Tue 8/11. Pool open 6am-one hour after finals Wed 8/12 - Sat 8/15.

2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships - Pool Shuttle Schedule Sunday 16 August

Days	Bus	Depart Hilton	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Pool	Depart Pool	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Hilton
Sun 8/16	Red Bus	8:20	8:30	8:35	8:50	8:55	9:10	9:15	9:25
Sun 8/16	Blue Bus	8:55	9:05	9:10	9:25	9:30	9:45	9:50	10:00
Sun 8/16	Red Bus	9:30	9:40	9:45	10:00	10:05	10:20	10:25	10:35
Sun 8/16	Blue Bus	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:35	10:40	10:55	11:00	11:10
Sun 8/16	Red Bus	10:40	10:50	10:55	11:10	11:15	11:30	11:35	11:45

Pool open 9am-11am Sunday 8/16 after meet

2026 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships - Open Water Shuttle Schedule

Days	Bus	Depart Hilton	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Long Beach	Depart Long Beach	Arrive Hyatt	Depart Hyatt	Arrive Hilton
Tue Only	Purple	5:00	5:10	5:15	6:00	6:05	6:50	6:55	7:05
Tue Only	Orange	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:30	6:35	7:20	7:25	7:35
Tue Only	Green	6:00	6:10	6:15	7:00	7:05	7:50	7:55	8:05
Tue Only	Black	6:30	6:40	6:45	7:30	7:35	8:20	8:25	8:35
Sun-Tue	Purple	7:10	7:20	7:25	8:25	8:30	9:30	9:35	9:45
Sun-Tue	Orange	7:40	7:50	7:55	8:55	9:00	10:00	10:05	10:15
Sun-Tue	Green	8:10	8:20	8:25	9:25	9:30	10:30	10:35	10:45
Sun-Tue	Black	8:40	8:50	8:55	9:55	10:00	11:00	11:05	11:15
Sun-Tue	Purple	9:50	10:00	10:05	11:05	11:10	12:10	12:15	12:25
Sun-Tue	Orange	10:20	10:30	10:35	11:35	11:40	12:40	12:45	12:55
Tue Only	Green	10:50	11:00	11:05	12:05	12:10	13:10	13:15	13:25
Tue Only	Black	11:20	11:30	11:35	12:35	12:40	13:40	13:45	13:55
Tue Only	Purple	12:30	12:40	12:45	13:45	13:50	14:50	14:55	15:05

Note: Venue practice available Sun 8/9 and Mon 8/10 from 9:00 a.m -11:00 a.m. Race on Tue 8/11 begins at 9:00 a.m. with staggered start between men and women.

12. BROADCAST

USA Swimming will provide a host broadcast of the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships. This host broadcast will be made available to each charter nation for its own purposes within its own country (ex. Australia retains the rights in Australia).

The essential basics that will be provided will be:

- Full coverage of the finals each evening. The host broadcast will not include a broadcast for the morning heats, although there will be web coverage of these heats (more on this in the Web Coverage section below).
- The number of cameras is still being developed, but there will be between eight and 12 cameras for the broadcast. The broadcast will be in HD (high definition).
- Each charter nation will be provided with a feed of the show each evening. Each charter nation's domestic broadcaster will need to provide to USA Swimming the exact details for what it wishes. This includes:
 - Commentary booth needs
 - Flash zone needs
 - What graphics are necessary? (clean feed)
 - What audio is necessary?

A general rate card will be provided for other services that broadcasters might need (ex. hiring an ENG crew, lighting, etc.).

USA Swimming has hired a host broadcaster to manage the production and this group has extensive experience producing host broadcasts.

USA Swimming will require detailed information from each charter nation by 1 March 2026, as to what its intentions are going to be for its own domestic broadcasts. Once those decisions are made, the host broadcaster will be in touch with the broadcast manager for each charter nation's broadcast in order to work out all details and expenses.

Web Coverage

USA Swimming will provide live web coverage of the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships. This includes both heats and finals, though the coverage for heats will involve fewer cameras.

13. EVENT RECORDS (as of 25 August 2018)

EVENT	WOMEN	MEN
50 Free	Cate Campbell, AUS 23.81 Tokyo – 12 August 2018	Bruno Fratus, BRA 21.44 Gold Coast – 24 August 2014
100 Free	Cate Campbell, AUS 52.03 Tokyo – 10 August 2018	Cameron McEvoy, AUS 47.82 Gold Coast – 22 August 2014
200 Free	Taylor Ruck, CAN 1:54.44 Tokyo – 9 August 2018	Ian Thorpe, AUS 1:44.75 Yokohama – 26 August 2002
400 Free	Katie Ledecky, USA 3:58.37 Gold Coast – 23 August 2014	Ian Thorpe, AUS 3:41.83 Sydney – 22 August 1999
800 Free	Katie Ledecky, USA 8:09.13 Tokyo – 9 August 2018	Zane Grothe, USA 7:43.74 Tokyo – 9 August 2018
1500 Free	Katie Ledecky, USA 15:28.36 Gold Coast – 24 August 2014	Grant Hackett, AUS 14:41.65 Yokohama – 28 August 2002
100 Back	Kylie Masse, CAN 58.29 Tokyo – 9 August 2018	Ryan Murphy, USA 51.94 Tokyo – 9 August 2018
200 Back	Kathleen Baker, USA 2:06.14 Tokyo – 11 August 2018	Ryan Murphy, USA 1:53.57 Tokyo – 11 August 2018
100 Breast	Rebecca Soni, USA 1:04.93 Irvine – 19 August 2010	Kosuke Kitajima, JPN 59.04 Irvine – 19 August 2010
200 Breast	Rebecca Soni, USA 2:20.69 Irvine – 21 August 2010	Ippei Watanabe, JPN 2:07.75 Tokyo – 12 August 2018
100 Fly	Rikako Ikee, JPN 56.08 Tokyo – 11 August 2018	Caeleb Dressel, USA 50.75 Tokyo – 11 August 2018
200 Fly	Jessicah Schipper, AUS 2:05.40 Victoria – 17 August 2006	Michael Phelps, USA 1:53.80 Victoria – 17 August 2006
200 IM	Yui Ohashi, JPN 2:08.16 Tokyo – 12 August 2018	Ryan Lochte, USA 1:54.43 Irvine – 21 August 2010

400 IM	Elizabeth Beisel, USA 4:31.99 Gold Coast – 22 August 2014	Ryan Lochte, USA 4:07.59 Irvine – 19 August 2010
400 Medley Relay	AUS (Emily Seebohm, Jessica Hansen, Emma McKeon, Cate Campbell) 3:52.74 Tokyo – 12 August 2018	USA (Matt Grevers, Kevin Cordes, Michael Phelps, Nathan Adrian) 3:29.94 Gold Coast – 24 August 2014
400 Free Relay	AUS (Emily Seebohm, Shayna Jack, Emma McKeon, Cate Campbell) 3:31.58 Tokyo – 11 August 2018	USA (Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, Jason Lezak, Nathan Adrian) 3:11.74 Irvine – 20 August 2010
800 Free Relay	AUS (Ariarne Titmus, Emma McKeon, Mikkayla Sheridan, M. Groves) 7:44.12 Tokyo – 10 August 2018	USA (Michael Phelps, Peter Vanderkaay, Ricky Berens, Ryan Lochte) 7:03.84 Irvine – 19 August 2010
400 Mixed Medley	AUS Mitch Larkin, Jake Packard, Emma McKeon, Cate Campbell 3:38.91 Tokyo – 9 August 2018	

14. LOCAL INFORMATION

All of California is in the Pacific Time Zone. The state observes daylight saving time March through October. The average daytime temperature is 74°F (23.3°C), and most days are sunny. Coastal areas are cooler, and the inland areas can be 10 to 15 degrees warmer depending on the time of year. The coolest time of the year is December to February and the warmest time is July to October. Dressing in layers is highly recommended to help stay comfortable from warm afternoons to cooler evenings. Casual sportswear goes right along with our comfortable weather. Jackets and ties are optional even in the most elegant of restaurants.

Financial Services/ Currency Exchange

Bankcard holders affiliated with participating banking network or credit card companies can withdraw U.S. currency from automated teller machines (ATMs) at banks and other businesses that offer this service.

Sales Tax

Orange County sales tax is approximately 9%.

Gratuities

Though tipping is voluntary, the following services illustrate appropriate tips you may want to consider when traveling:

- Restaurant, bar and taxi service: 15–25% of the bill
- Hotel door attendants, valet parking attendants and other service personnel: \$3.00
- Hotel bellmen: \$5.00 per person
- Housekeeping staff: \$2.00 per room/daily
- Hotel Concierge: \$5.00–\$20.00 for special services
- Airport skycap: \$2.00 per bag

Alcoholic Beverages/Liquor Laws

You must be 21 years or older with photo identification to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages in California. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a very serious offense. Alcohol is not permitted on most Orange County Beach areas including City, County or State Beaches.

Smoking

You must be at least 21 years of age to purchase or use tobacco products. Throughout California, smoking is prohibited in most public buildings, all restaurants and many beach areas.

15. VISA INFORMATION

Traveling to the United States

USA Swimming and the Organizing Committee for the **2026 Pan Pacific Championships in Irvine/Long Beach, CA** are committed to providing international sports leaders, athletes and officials with first-rate, personalized visa and entry assistance. The following pages provide important information for prospective travelers to the United States. ***If you require a travel visa to enter the U.S., please begin the process as soon as possible!*** USA Swimming will facilitate an entry visa to the United States for all participants and coordinate all the required procedures upon receipt of required documentation to the World Aquatics GMS System. Should you have any questions regarding the visa and entry process or require additional assistance please contact Macie McNichols at mmcnichols@usaswimming.org.

Foreign nationals traveling to the United States are required to present the following to travel: a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your planned departure from the U.S. and a visa or an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Foreign nationals from non-visa waiver countries must have the appropriate visa to travel to the U.S. In most cases, obtaining a visa requires an in-person interview at a U.S. Consular post.

EFFECTIVE 9 JUNE, 2025, the United States fully or partially suspended entry for and visa issuance to nationals of 19 countries. An exemption states that athletes, coaches, and essential support personnel may continue to enter the United States to train, compete, and qualify for major international competitions.

With limited exceptions, visa issuance to nationals of the following countries is fully suspended:

- Afghanistan
- Burma
- Chad
- Republic of the Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Haiti
- Iran
- Libya
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Yemen

With limited exceptions, visa issuance to nationals of the following countries is suspended for nonimmigrant B-1/B-2 visitor visas and F, M, and J student and exchange visitor visas, and all immigrant visas:

- Burundi
- Cuba
- Laos
- Sierra Leone
- Togo
- Turkmenistan
- Venezuela

It is critical that nationals of these countries contact the Local Organizing Committee or National Federation (NGB) of their event in the U.S. USA Swimming will the USOPC so that we can notify the State Department about the applicants' request for an exception.

Applicants who are subject to the Presidential Proclamation may still submit visa applications and attend scheduled interviews. Eligibility for the exception will be determined at the time of an applicant's visa interview. For additional details, visit travel.state.gov.

DO I REQUIRE A VISA TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S.?

To determine if you require a visa to travel to the U.S., please review the instructions below or visit the U.S. Department of State's [Visa Wizard](#).

All visitors must have a visa to enter the U.S. with the exception of visitors from Canada, Bermuda, and countries that are part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). You must be a citizen or national of the following countries* to be eligible to travel to the U.S. under the VWP:

- Andorra
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brunei
- Chile
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- San Marino
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan*
- United Kingdom**

**With respect to all references to "country" or "countries" on this page, please note that the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, Pub. L. No. 96-8, Section 4(b)(1), provides that "[w]henver the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan." 22 U.S.C. § 3303(b)(1). Accordingly, all references to "country" or "countries" in the Visa Waiver Program authorizing legislation, Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1187, are read to include Taiwan. This is consistent with the U.S.'s One-China Policy, under which the U.S. has maintained unofficial relations with Taiwan since 1979.*

***To be eligible to travel under the VWP, U.K. citizens must have the unrestricted right of permanent abode in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.*

Under the VWP Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, travelers in the following categories must obtain a visa prior to traveling to the U.S., as they are no longer eligible to travel under the VWP:

- Nationals of VWP countries who have travelled to or been present in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, or Yemen, on or after March 1, 2011 (with limited exceptions for travel for diplomatic or military purposes in the service of a VWP country).
- Nationals of VWP countries who have traveled to or been present in Cuba on or after January

12, 2021 (with limited exceptions for travel for diplomatic or military purposes in the service of a VWP country).

- Nationals of VWP countries who are also nationals of Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria.

These individuals can apply for visas using regular appointment processes at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

For additional information on the VWP, please refer to **Section B** below. If you require a visa to travel to the U.S., please refer to **Section A** below.

SECTION A: I REQUIRE A VISA TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

Application Process

When should I initiate the application process?

Apply early! Although the majority of applications are processed and ready to pick up within a few business days, some applications will require administrative processing. Please apply at least three months before you plan to travel.

The wait times for appointments by post are available at the [U.S. Department of State travel site](#).

How do I apply for a visa?

- Complete the online Non-immigrant Visa Application Form [DS-160](#).
- Print the application confirmation page and bring to your interview.
- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the [Photograph Requirements](#).
- Schedule an interview appointment. Appointments should be scheduled as soon as possible. For country specific instructions and information, please consult [usembassy.gov](#).

*If there are no interview appointments available prior to the date of the event, please confirm the earliest appointment available and notify mmcnichols@usaswimming.org immediately. By confirming the earliest appointment available, the applicant is considered to be entered into the U.S. Department of State network.

Do all non-immigrant visa applicants have to come to the Embassy for an interview?

Yes, for most applicants. There are only a few exceptions to the interview requirement. The following applicants generally do not have to appear in person:

- Applicants renewing their visa may be eligible for the [Interview Waiver Program](#).
- Applicants for A1, A2 (official travelers on central government business), C2, C3 (central government officials in transit on central government business) G1, G2, G3, or G4 (central government officials traveling in connection with an international organization, or employees of an international organization).
- Children under 14 years of age at the date of the initial visa interview in the Embassy or Consulate if either of the parents have a valid non-immigrant visa.

- Applicants over 80 years of age.

I have a non-immigrant visa that will expire soon, and I would like to renew it. Do I need to go through the entire visa application process again?

Yes, unless you are eligible to apply using the [Interview Waiver Program](#).

Preparing for Your Interview

How should I prepare for my interview appointment?

Gather and prepare the following required documents before your visa interview:

- Ensure your passport is valid for travel to the U.S. Many passports must be valid for at least six months after your planned departure from the U.S. unless exempted by [country specific agreements](#).
- Print your Non-immigrant Visa Application, DS-160 Form confirmation page and bring it to your interview.
- Print your application fee payment receipt, if you are required to pay before your interview.
- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. If the photo upload fails, the applicant must bring one printed photo to your interview. Your photo must be in the format explained in the [Photograph Requirements](#).
- Additional documentation may be required. Review the instructions for how to apply for a visa on the website of the [embassy or consulate](#) where you will apply. Additional documents may be requested to establish if you are qualified. For example, additional requested documents may include evidence of:
 - The purpose of your trip.
 - Your intent to depart the United States after your trip.
 - Your employment and/or your family ties may be sufficient to show the purpose of your trip and your intent to return to your home country. If you cannot cover all the costs for your trip, you may show evidence that another person will cover some or all costs for your trip.

Please obtain a new passport before your interview if:

- Your passport expires in less than six months after the time you enter the U.S. unless exempted by country specific agreements.
- The film on the biographic data pages of your passport (i.e., page with your photo and back page with your parents' information, if a minor) is peeling, or
- Your passport is otherwise torn, damaged, mutilated, or has been washed or laundered.

Do I require an official letter of invitation?

Official letters of invitation are not required but are strongly recommended. Please request an invitation letter from the Organizing Committee.

Is there anything I should know about attending my visa interview?

During your visa interview, a consular officer will determine whether you are qualified to receive a visa. You will need to establish that you meet the requirements under U.S. law to receive the

category of visa for which you are applying. Ink-free, digital fingerprint scans will be taken as part of your application process. Fingerprints are usually taken during your interview, but this varies based on location.

After your visa interview, your application may require further administrative processing. You will be informed by the Consular Officer if further processing is necessary for your application. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days of the visa interview.

When the visa is approved, you may pay a visa issuance fee if applicable to your nationality and will be informed how your passport with visa will be returned to you. Review the [visa processing time](#) to learn how soon your passport with visa will generally be ready for pick-up or delivery by the courier.

About My Visa

How do I read and understand my visa?

As soon as you receive your visa, please check to make sure all your personal information printed on the visa is correct. If any of the information on your visa does not match the information in your passport or is otherwise incorrect, please contact the non-immigrant visa section at the U.S. Embassy or the Consulate that issued your visa immediately.

The expiration date of your visa is the last day you may use the visa to enter the U.S. It does not indicate how long you may stay in the U.S. Your stay is determined by the Department of Homeland Security at your port of entry. As long as you comply with the Department of Homeland Security's decision on the conditions of your stay, you should have no problem.

My visa was printed incorrectly. What do I do?

If you think your visa may have been printed incorrectly, please email Trey Freeman at tfreeman@usaswimming.org and explain why you think there is an error.

My visa will expire while I am in the U.S. Will this be an issue for me?

No. You may stay in the U.S. for the period of time and conditions authorized by the Department of Homeland Security officer when you arrived in the U.S., which will be noted on the I-94, even if your visa expires during your stay.

Further information about understanding your visa can be found by visiting visa [FAQs](#).

Entering the United States

What will happen when I enter the U.S.?

Upon granting entry to the U.S. at the port of entry, the Customs and Border Protection Officer will stamp the travel document of each arriving non-immigrant traveler. The admission stamp will show the date of admission, class of admission, and the duration of admission. Upon arrival, travelers will also receive a flier alerting them to visit cbp.gov/I94 for their admission record information. This online record replaces the paper I-94 form. VWP travelers receive Form I-94W. On this form, the Officer records either a date or "D/S" (duration of status). If your I-94 records a specific date, then that is the date by which you must leave the U.S. A visa does not

guarantee entry into the U.S., but it allows a foreign citizen coming from abroad to travel to a U.S. port of entry and request permission to enter the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have authority to permit or deny admission to the U.S., and determine how long a traveler may stay.

What if my request for a visa is refused?

The Consular Officer has the sole authority to issue or refuse a visa in accordance with regulations that have been established by Congress. The Consular Officer's decision cannot be overruled. There is no formal appeal process for a visa refusal.

If your visa is refused, please contact mmcnichols@usaswimming.org immediately with the reason for refusal. It is possible that with additional information the refusal may be reconsidered, and the applicant may reapply.

[Click here for Additional Information for Visa Frequently Asked Questions](#)

SECTION B: I AM FROM A VISA WAIVER PROGRAM COUNTRY

Travelers from Visa Waiver Program Countries

International travelers seeking to travel to the U.S. without a visa, who are also nationals of VWP countries, should review the following important information on:

1. Traveler passport requirements under the VWP, and Electronic submission of the ESTA form in advance of travel.

Passport Requirements

Your passport must meet the following requirements for VWP travel:

- *Six-Month Validity*: Many passports must be valid for at least six months after your planned departure from the U.S. unless exempted by [country specific agreements](#).
- *Machine-Readable*: A Machine-Readable Passport contains two lines of text with numbers and chevrons (<<<) at the bottom of the personal information page with the passport bearer's picture.
- *E-Passport*: The passport must be an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. As of April 1, 2016, all travelers must have an e-passport to use the VWP. An e-Passport, denoted by the symbol, is an enhanced secure passport with an embedded electronic chip. E-Passports are issued by the proper passport issuing authority and must meet international standards for securing and storing information corresponding to the passport and bearer.

Applying for the ESTA

In order to travel without a visa on the VWP, you must have authorization through ESTA prior to boarding a U.S. bound air or sea carrier. ESTA is the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection's automated web-based system to determine eligibility to travel without a visa to the U.S. for tourism or business. Visit the [ESTA website](#) for more detailed information and to apply.

There is a U.S. \$21 fee for ESTA registration. The fee can be paid online using PayPal, a debit card, or any of the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Third parties (travel agents, family members, etc.) can pay your ESTA fee for you if you do not have the correct type of credit card. If the ESTA registration is denied, the fee is only U.S. \$4.

What information is needed in order to complete the ESTA application?

The traveler must provide, in English, biographical data, including name, birth date, and passport information. The traveler will also be required to answer VWP eligibility questions regarding communicable diseases, arrests and convictions for certain crimes, and past history of visa revocation or deportation, among others. The traveler will also need their credit card information to pay the associated fees in order to complete the ESTA application.

What should I do if my ESTA application is denied?

If an ESTA application is denied and the traveler wishes to continue with the trip, the traveler will be required to apply for a non-immigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Can I apply for ESTA without specific U.S. travel plans?

Yes. VWP travelers are not required to have specific plans to travel to the U.S. before they apply for ESTA. If a traveler's destination address in the U.S. is unknown at the time of application, the traveler should enter the name of the hotel or approximate location they intend to visit. Travelers may update this information when their plans are finalized, but they will not be required to update their destination addresses or itineraries should they change after their ESTA has been approved. The Department of Homeland Security recommends that ESTA applications are submitted as early as possible, as soon as, or even before, travel is planned. ESTA will accept applications from last-minute and emergency travelers.

Traveling Under the Visa Waiver Program

Am I eligible for ESTA if I am traveling on a private aircraft?

If you are otherwise eligible to travel on an ESTA but are traveling on a non-U.S. corporation private aircraft, you will require a visa.

If I travel to the United States without ESTA, what happens?

VWP travelers who have not obtained approval through ESTA should expect to be denied boarding on any air carrier bound for the U.S. If you are allowed to board, you can expect to encounter significant delays and possible denial of admission at the U.S. port of entry (i.e., arrival airport). ESTA registration usually only takes a few minutes to complete, and authorization often arrives in seconds. The ESTA is valid for two years, unless the traveler's passport expires within that two-year period. In those cases, ESTA validity is limited to the passport's validity.

Do I need to apply for ESTA if I am in Canada or Mexico and want to drive to the U.S.?

If you are a citizen of a country that participates in the VWP and you enter the U.S. by land from Mexico or Canada, you will be issued an I-94 electronically and will no longer receive a paper I-94 stub. U.S. Customs and Border Protection encourages travelers requiring an I-94 to use the

CBP One™ mobile app or the [CBP I-94 website](#) to apply for their I-94. VWP travelers are encouraged to use the I-94 website or CBP One™ mobile app to apply for an I-94 in advance.

Note: VWP citizens do not need an ESTA to travel on the ferries between Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia and Washington State. They are treated as a land-border port.

If entering by sea, as long as it is a cruise ship, you will need to apply for ESTA (check the [ESTA website](#) for approved cruise lines). If you are coming in a private-sailing vessel, ESTA is not an issue since you must have a visa to arrive in the U.S. by that mode. VWP is not approved for travel to the U.S. on a pleasure boat.

[Click here for Additional Information for ETSA Frequently Asked Questions](#)

VISA CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE REFERENCES

USA Swimming email: mmcnichols@usaswimming.org

Visa Wizard: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wizard.html>

Visa Wait & Processing Times: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

DS-160 Form: <https://ceac.state.gov/GenNIV/Default.aspx>

Photograph Requirements: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/photos.html>

U.S. Embassies & Consulates: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

Interview Waiver Program: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/>

Country-Specific Agreements (Six-month Validity): <https://www.cbp.gov/document/bulletins/six-month-validity-update>

Visa FAQs: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/frequently-asked-questions.html>

ETSA FAQs: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/faq?lang=en>

Arrival/Departure Forms: I-94 and I-94W: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94>

ESTA: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta>

Please contact USA Swimming at mmcnichols@usaswimming.org for assistance or questions with the visa process.