

Direct Athlete Support 2025 – PENDING USOPC APPROVAL

General Criteria – Pool and Open Water

- Athletes must be registered USA Swimming members in good standing at the time of the qualifying competition, at the time of selection, and throughout their term on the National Team.
- An athlete may be suspended from the National Team if they do not remain in good standing, including membership requirements and adherence to the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Protocol, the World Anti-Doping Agency's Code, and any USA Swimming, USOPC, World Aquatics, or IOC rules and regulations. If an athlete who has qualified for, but has subsequently been suspended from, the National Team is reinstated, or their suspension is reduced, by a court or body with competent jurisdiction such that the athlete becomes eligible during all or a portion of the term of the 2024-2025 National Team, their National Team suspension will be lifted, in accordance with the order from the court or body. If an athlete who was otherwise eligible for selection to the National Team but was not in good standing at the time of selection due to any type of suspension or ineligibility determination, and the suspension or ineligibility determination is later overturned or reduced by a court or body with competent jurisdiction during the term of the 2024-2025 National Team such that the athlete would have been eligible at the time of selection to the National Team, the athlete will be added to the team, in accordance with the order from the court or body. In any of the above scenarios where an athlete is added or reinstated to the National Team, no athlete will be removed as a result of that addition.
- All team members 18 and over must complete a background check and Athlete Protection Training five days after being named to the Team.
- The athlete must be eligible to represent and intend to represent the U.S. in international competition.
- Athletes must be members of the current year USA Swimming National Team.
- Only individual Olympic events will be considered.
- No relay lead-offs, intermediate splits or time trials will be considered.
- Open Water National Team Members must have a 2024 Olympic Trial Cut in the 1500 LCM from November 30, 2022 or be a 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Member in the 10K.

Qualification Criteria – Pool: January 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025

- The top 28 athletes of each gender will receive Direct Athlete Support based on the following rankings:
 - Athletes who are named to the 2024-2025 National Team and are ranked number 1 in their respective event(s) will receive Direct Athlete Support. Athletes who are named to the 2024-2025 National Team and are ranked number 2, 3 or 4 in the 100 and 200 free will receive Direct Athlete Support.
- If all athletes listed above have qualified for funding and less than 28 athletes per gender meet the above requirements, athletes who are on the 2024-2025 National Team will be ranked based on their fastest time in an Individual Olympic Event according to their percentage faster than the World Aquatics "A" Time Standard for the 2024 Olympic Games.
 - Percentage faster than the "AQUA A' Time Standard" means the difference between a swimmer's National Team time to the "A" Time Standard for that same Event. The resulting time difference will be converted to a percentage to demonstrate how much faster or slower the swimmer's finishing time in an Event is compared to the "A" Time Standard in that same Event. This percentage will be calculated by subtracting the swimmer's finishing time at the Finals in an Event from the "A" Time Standard in that same Event, then dividing the difference by the "A" Time Standard in that Event. Calculations will be carried to the onethousandth of a percent (i.e., x.xxx%).
 - For example, if the "A" Time Standard in the 100-meter Freestyle is 1 minute, and Swimmer #1's finishing time in the 100-meter Freestyle at the Finals is :54 seconds, then Swimmer #1 has swum 6 seconds faster than the "A" Time Standard in the 100-meter Freestyle. Using the formula described above (60 seconds minus 54 seconds, divided by 60 seconds) Swimmer #1's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard would be 10%.
 - If the "A" Time Standard in the 200-meter Freestyle is 2 minutes, and Swimmer #2's finishing time in the 200-meter Freestyle at Finals is 1:54, then Swimmer #2 has swum 6 seconds faster than the "A" Time Standard in the 200-meter Freestyle. Using the formula described above (120 seconds minus 114 seconds, divided by 120 seconds) that swimmer's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard would be 5%.
 - Swimmer #1's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard (10%) would be considered higher than Swimmer #2's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard (5%).
 - If a swimmer's finishing time at the Finals in an Event is slower than the "A" Time Standard for that same Event, their percentages will be negative. Using the same example above, if Swimmer #1's finishing time in the 100-meter Freestyle is 1:06, their percentage faster than the "A" standard would be -10% (60 seconds minus 66 seconds equals negative 6 seconds negative 6 seconds divided by 60 seconds equals -10%). If Swimmer #2's finishing time in the 200-meter Freestyle is 2:06 their percentage faster than the "A" standard would be -5% (120 seconds minus 126 seconds equals negative 6 seconds; negative 6 seconds divided by 120 seconds equals -5%). In this case, Swimmer #2's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard (-5%) is faster than Swimmer #1's Percentage faster than the "A" Time Standard (-10%).
 - This process will continue until 28 men and 28 women have qualified for Direct Athlete Support.
 - In the event there is a tie for the 28th position, all athletes involved in the tie will receive support.

June 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025

- Members of the 2025 World Championships, who are not already receiving funding will receive funding.
- The USA Swimming Athlete Partnership Agreement (APA) will not be offered to the 2025 World Championship Team Members.

September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

- The top 28 athletes of each gender will receive Direct Athlete Support based on the following rankings:
 - Athletes who are named to the 2025-2026 National Team and are ranked number 1 in their respective event(s) will receive Direct Athlete Support. Athletes who are named to the 2025-2026 National Team and are ranked number 2, 3 or 4 in the 100 and 200 free will receive Direct Athlete Support.
- If all athletes listed above have qualified for funding and less than 28 athletes per gender meet the above requirements, athletes who are on the 2025-2026 National Team will be ranked based on their fastest time in an Individual Olympic Event according to their percentage faster than the World Aquatics "A" Time Standard for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships. Process described above.
- This process will continue until 28 men and 28 women have qualified for Direct Athlete Support.
 - In the event there is a tie for the 28th position, all athletes involved in the tie will receive support.

Qualification Criteria – Open Water:

January 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025

- Up to 3 men and 3 women
- Athletes who qualify, are selected to compete, and do compete in the 10K event at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- Remaining funding positions will be filled by athletes who finish in the top 16 at the 2024 World Aquatics 10K World Cup (Date and Location TBD) until a maximum of 3 athletes per gender qualify for funding.
- In the event that this World Cup is held after November 1, athletes will be paid retroactively.

May 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

- Up to 4 men and 4 women
 - Criteria to be determined based on the World Aquatics international calendar.