

# USA SWIMMING

## World Aquatics Open Water World Cup Policy

*Based on the recommendations from the USA Swimming Open Water Review Commission, USA Swimming has implemented the following policy regarding USA Swimming athlete members attending World Aquatics Open Water races around the world. The World Aquatics Open Water Cup events are open competitions, meaning that an athlete may enter either of these series' events if his or her National Federation endorses the entry form. For USA Swimming to endorse an entry form or take any other action to enter an athlete into the competition, an athlete must satisfy the criteria set forth in this document. Any questions can be directed to Bryce Elser, Director, National Team Open Water [belser@usaswimming.org](mailto:belser@usaswimming.org)*

### OW SELECTION STANDARDS

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To be eligible for a World Aquatics Open Water Tour, a swimmer must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water National Team from 2018 to present; or
- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water National Junior Team from 2018 to present; or
- Finish in the top 15 at the most recent USA Swimming 10k Open Water National Championship; or
- Obtain an official letter of invitation to compete from the event Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and provide this letter to USA Swimming before the entry deadline. The athlete and/or athlete's coach are responsible for obtaining this documentation.

### USA SWIMMING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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All entries (and other event forms) must be submitted to USA Swimming for endorsement prior to the entry deadline. Entries will not be endorsed without having a signed letter by a current USA Swimming non-athlete, coach member in good standing with USA Swimming, stating that he/she will assume coaching responsibility for the athlete participating in the event. Each athlete will be responsible for providing their own coach to attend the competition at the cost of the athlete and/or coach (unless specified below). According to World Aquatics Open Water rules, a coach may only be responsible for up to two swimmers. The coach attending the competition must also attend technical meetings, all training sessions, and competitions.

The athlete and coach will be responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel plans to and from the competition and must do so by the deadlines established by the LOC. USA Swimming recommends that each athlete and coach purchase international travel health insurance, which will be at the cost of the athlete and coach.

All athletes and coaches must be USA Swimming members in good standing prior to entry into the competition and throughout the competition. Athletes and coaches must comply with all applicable rules and requirements of World Aquatics, USOPC, IOC, WADA, USADA, U.S. Center for SafeSport, and USA Swimming, including without limitation USA Swimming's Code of Conduct.

All eligible athletes and coaches wishing to compete in any World Aquatics Open Water race must submit a signed USA Swimming Open Water Waiver and Release concurrently with his/her meet forms (including entry).

Due to the ever-changing conditions in open water swimming, USA Swimming recommends that all athletes receive a full examination by a licensed physician before competing in any World Aquatics Open Water races. It is recommended that the athlete receives this physical examination at least once a year to ensure that he/she is still in good health and fit for endurance competitions.

USA Swimming will provide no technical, administrative, or financial support, including, but not limited to, the cost of transportation to and from the event, accommodations, meals, and other expenses for any eligible athlete and/or his/her coach, except for athletes and coaches who meet the criteria as established in the USA Swimming Open Water International Race Funding Program. For more information regarding travel reimbursement and the quadrennial plan please visit [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org).

Checklist for World Aquatics Open Water Competition:

- Confirm coach
- Purchase international medical insurance
- Send copy of international medical policy/card to USA Swimming
- Send entry and other event forms to USA Swimming for endorsement stamp/signature
- Submit USA Swimming Open Water Waiver and Release