

2026 USA Swimming-Open Water

Additional Criteria for Qualification of National Level Events

Athletes may qualify for USA Swimming's national level open water meets (10K/5K National Championships, 7.5K/5K Junior National Championships) via time standards set by USA Swimming, posted on its website. This document defines additional criteria for qualification, if an athlete does not meet the set time standard. For the purposes of these Selection Procedures, the men's and women's components will be considered separately. Qualification by means of the Zone Championships outlined below can only result in a single entry at the USA Swimming Open Water Junior National Championship in the corresponding event, as listed below, unless the athlete has achieved the necessary time standards for additional events.

Time standards for national level meets can be found at www.usaswimming.org/Home/times/time-standards.

USA Swimming reserves the right to add additional criteria for qualification based on the needs of the USA Swimming National Team Program. Any additional criteria will be communicated by USA Swimming via posted changes to these Selection Procedures. Any questions regarding these criteria can be directed toward Bryce Elser (belser@usaswimming.org).

2026 USA Swimming Open Water National Championships

5K Qualification

- Finished in the top 5 at the 2025 CSCAA 5K National Championships; or
- Finished in the top 3 at the 2025 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation 5K Open Water Championship.

2026 USA Swimming Open Water Junior National Championships

7.5K Qualification (Birth year: 2009 & 2010)

- Finished in the top 10 overall** at the 2025 USA Swimming 5K Open Water Zone Championships (Open Division Only). *

5K Qualification (Birth year: 2011 & 2012)

- Finished in the top 15 overall** at the 2025 USA Swimming 5K Open Water Zone Championships (Open Division Only).*

*** The "Open" Division of the 5K Open Water Zone Championships will be the only event used for the qualification towards USA Swimming's National Level Events. Qualification from age group events will not be allowed.**

****Overall place finish is the athlete's finish position amongst all competitors, regardless of age.**