

Thank you for the opportunity to present our request. Platinum Aquatics respectfully requests release from South Texas Swimming LSC in order to rejoin Gulf Swimming LSC.

Platinum Aquatics has been a proud USA Swimming member team since 2011. From 2011 through 2020, we were members of Gulf Swimming, where our swimmers thrived under a model that aligned with our philosophy of providing opportunities for athletes of all levels.

When our program relocated to Temple in 2020, our geographic designation placed us in South Texas Swimming. We have been active members in South Texas, hosting two South Texas Championship meets in Feb. 2022 and Feb. 2023 with AQTX and providing leadership on the LSC Safe Sport Committee for two years.

After years of active involvement, we have determined that the business model and competitive opportunities within South Texas Swimming do not align with our mission or the needs of our swimmers.

1. **Access to Championships:** Platinum Aquatics believes every swimmer deserves the chance to finish their season with a meaningful championship experience. In South Texas, under-B swimmers lack a true end-of-season opportunity. Despite recent adjustments, a swimmer with one B time may only have the opportunity to swim between 1 and 3 total events for a championship meet. Below B level swimmers still have no end of season championship opportunities. By contrast, Gulf Swimming's model ensures all swimmers, at every level, can set goals and pursue a championship experience.
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3. **Geographic Barriers:** Our team is based in Temple, Texas, which places us much closer to the Gulf Swimming community than to many STX venues. Under current South Texas structure, our swimmers could be required to travel nearly 400 miles—over five and a half hours one way—to compete in a single championship EVENT. This is not reasonable for our families and creates barriers to participation.
4. **Governance & Voice:** We have worked in good faith within South Texas—building partnerships, requesting changes, and advocating for a more inclusive championship format. However, the weighted voting system heavily favors large teams, leaving smaller programs like ours without a meaningful voice in shaping policy.

Platinum Aquatics has consistently demonstrated commitment to athlete development, USA Swimming's mission, and to Safe Sport. To continue delivering on our values of opportunity, inclusivity, and athlete-centered programming, we respectfully request to be released from South Texas Swimming and recognized as a member of Gulf Swimming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg and Mary Spano and Team Board Members