

## **Club Dues Investment Plan Frequently Asked Questions**

The Club Dues Investment Plan is an initiative that aims to expand and enhance Sport Development programs and services to USA Swimming clubs in key areas through an increase in annual USA Swimming club dues. This plan was developed based on survey results from 2022 and 2023, in which coaches requested a higher level of service and more touchpoints from USA Swimming.

In order to implement this program, the USA Swimming House of Delegates will vote on Resolution 1 at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates on September 28, 2024. Please see below for answers to some frequently asked questions provided by the proposers of Resolution 1 (Kenneth Chung and Ira Klein, members of the House of Delegates). To view the full proposal, please visit the [USA Swimming website](#).

### **Q: Why increase for the 2026 membership year?**

A: Based on feedback and surveys from coaches, Sport Development put together a plan to provide more services to USA Swimming member clubs. For USA Swimming to sufficiently fund these services, we must adjust the club dues fee of \$70, which has been the same amount since the 1980s.

### **Q: The increase seems so substantial; is it necessary?**

A: The increase percentage does seem significant, but it is an increase from a very low starting point that has not been raised in decades. If we take inflation into consideration, \$70 in 35 years with an average of 3% inflation, the compound results after 35 years would be around \$200. The proposed \$225 reflects the additional services that USA Swimming could offer with this funding.

### **Q: How did we come up with the amount of \$225?**

A: The amount is based on the aggregate costs of services contemplated by the Club Dues Investment Plan, with provisions for some services already underway.

### **Q: Are the total costs of investment listed higher than the increased amount?**

A: Yes, the total cost of the Club Dues Investment Plan, based on the proposed increased fees, is \$525,000 annually, and the estimated increase based on the number of clubs will be \$454,405. As mentioned, some of the services are already underway, so the additional funding would support some of these newly created services.

**Q: Why can't we use a sliding scale (i.e. larger clubs pay more)?**

A: It is something that we have considered. However, a larger club does not necessarily require more services. On the contrary, smaller clubs may not have as many resources as larger clubs, so some smaller clubs may need more help. We will continue to explore this option in the future.

**Q: How are we soliciting stakeholder feedback for this plan?**

A: One or more national committees, made up of coaches, athletes, and volunteers, are assigned to each program investment area to collaborate on implementation and evaluation and to ensure effectiveness.