

2026 ATHLETE PERFORMANCE FUNDING – POOL

GENERAL CRITERIA

To be eligible for Athlete Performance Funding, athletes must be actively training and competing.¹

January 1, 2026- August 31, 2026

- The top 60 athletes (30 men/30 women) will receive Athlete Performance Funding based on the following rankings:
 - Athletes who are named to the 2025-2026 National Team and are ranked number 1 in their respective Individual Olympic Event(s) that qualified them for the Team (“Event”).
 - To the extent that the above process exceeds 30 athletes, all athletes will be ranked by the percentage of “A” standard (defined below) and if there is a tie for the 30th position all athletes involved in the tie will be added to the team.
 - Athletes who are named to the 2025-2026 National Team and are ranked number 2, 3, or 4 in the 100- and 200-meter Freestyle.
 - To the extent that the above process exceeds 30 athletes, all athletes will be ranked by the percentage of “A” standard (defined below) and if there is a tie for the 30th position all athletes involved in the tie will be added to the team.
- If all athletes listed above have qualified for funding and fewer than 30 athletes per competition category meet the above requirements, all remaining athletes who are on the 2025-2026 National Team and are ranked number 2 in their respective Event and have not yet qualified for funding will be ranked based on their fastest Percentage of “A” Standard in their Event.
- This process will continue with all remaining athletes ranked number 3, 4, 5, and then 6 respectively in their respective Event, until 30 men and 30 women have qualified for Athlete Performance Funding.
 - If there is a tie for the 30th position, all athletes involved in the tie will receive funding.
- Percentage of “A” Standard means the difference between a swimmer’s fastest Time² in an Event and the “A” Standard for that Event. USA Swimming will use the World Aquatics “A” Time Standard for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships. The resulting time difference will be converted to a percentage to demonstrate how much faster or slower the swimmer’s fastest 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 fastest time in an event from the “A” Standard in that same event, then dividing the difference by the “A” Time Standard in that Event. Calculations will be carried to a one hundredth of a percent (i.e., x.xx%).
 - For example, if the “A” Time Standard in the 100-meter Freestyle is 1 minute, and Swimmer #1’s fastest time in the 100-meter Freestyle is :54 seconds, then Swimmer #1 has swum 6 seconds faster than the “A” Standard in the 100-meter Freestyle. Using the formula described above (60 seconds minus 54 seconds, divided by 60 seconds) Swimmer #1’s Percentage of “A” Standard would be 10%.
 - If the “A” Time Standard in the 200-meter Freestyle is 2 minutes, and Swimmer #2’s fastest time in the 200-meter Freestyle 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 of “A” Standard would be 5%.
 - Swimmer #1’s Percentage of “A” Standard (10%) would be considered higher than Swimmer #2’s Percentage of “A” Standard (5%).
- Athletes who have exhausted or relinquished their NCAA eligibility will be offered the opportunity to sign the Athlete Partnership Agreement.

¹ “Actively training and competing” means that an:

- Athlete’s primary coach submits a quarterly training acknowledgement to USA Swimming and;
- Athlete must compete in a minimum of four USA-Swimming or World Aquatics-sanctioned LCM competitions from January 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026. Two of these competitions must be Pro Swim Series stops. One must be either Nationals or Pan-Pacific Championships.

² “Fastest Time” refers to the time used to select the athlete to the 2025-2026 National Team, from January 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

2026 ATHLETE PERFORMANCE FUNDING – OPEN WATER

GENERAL CRITERIA

To be eligible for Athlete Performance Funding, athletes must be actively training and competing. Actively training and competing” means that an:

- Athlete’s primary coach submits a quarterly training acknowledgement to USA Swimming and.
- Athlete must compete in a minimum of four USA-Swimming or World Aquatics-sanctioned competitions from January 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026. One of these competitions must be Open Water Nationals.

January 1, 2026 - August 31, 2026

- The top 4 athletes (2 men/2 women) will receive Athlete Performance Funding based on the following rankings:
 - Highest place finisher in the 10K at the 2025 Open Water World Championships.
 - 2nd highest place finisher in the 10K at the 2025 Open Water World Championships.
 - If an athlete is removed from the course due to injury, illness, or safety concerns, the athlete will be considered as a “finisher”.
- Athletes who have exhausted or relinquished their NCAA eligibility will be offered the opportunity to sign the Athlete Partnership Agreement.

2025-2026 ATHLETE PERFORMANCE FUNDING MONTHLY AMOUNTS

Athlete Performance Funding

Qualified professional athletes who sign Athlete Partnership Agreement	\$3,750
Qualified professional athletes who do not sign Athlete Partnership Agreement	\$2,250
Qualified NCAA Athletes	\$1,750
Qualified pre-enrollment NCAA eligible athletes	\$1,750

EAHI Criteria – Pool and Open Water

EAHI will be offered to athletes who meet the following criteria:

POOL AND OPEN WATER CRITERIA - OCTOBER 1, 2025-SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

- 2025-2026 National Team Members
- 2024 Olympians