



ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2026 Junior Open Water Swimming Championships
Santa Fe, Argentina

The 2026 Junior Open Water Swimming Championships will be held in Santa Fe, Argentina from September 3 to 6, 2026.

DEFINITIONS

Available Swimmer. “Available Swimmer” means a swimmer who (i) qualifies to be Selected to the Team in an Event according to these Selection Procedures and has complied with all eligibility requirements set forth in Sections 1.1-1.2 of these Selection Procedures; (ii) as of December 31, 2026, is 14 or 15 years old for Selection to the 5K Event, 16 or 17 years old for selection to the 7.5K Event, and 18 or 19 years old for Selection to the 10K Event; (iii) certifies to USA Swimming that they remain available to swim through the completion of the Championships; (iv) competes in the Qualifying Competition and achieves the 1500-Meter-Freestyle-Pool Standard; (v) indicates in writing within 24 hours of receiving the invitation that they will accept the invitation to be Selected to the Team and to swim in the Event for which they qualify in the Championships (except as otherwise provided herein); and (vi) has not accepted a nomination from USA Swimming to swim the 10K event at the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships; a decline of the Event or failure to accept will be considered a decline of the invitation and the swimmer will no longer be considered an Available Swimmer. If a swimmer does not satisfy these requirements, then they are not considered an Available Swimmer.

Championships. “Championships” refers to the 2026 Junior Open Water Championships, which will be conducted in Santa Fe, Argentina, September 3 to 6, 2026.

Head Coach. Unless otherwise indicated, “Head Coach” refers to the head coach of the Team.

Managing Director, National Team. “Managing Director, National Team” refers to the USA Swimming Managing Director, National Team, or their designee.

Qualifying Competition. “Qualifying Competition” means the 2026 USA Swimming Open Water National, which includes the Junior National Championships held in Sarasota, Florida from April 2 to 4, 2026.

Select/Selected/Selection to the Team. “Select/Selected/Selection the Team” refers to the Team selected by USA Swimming on or before August 3, 2026, plus any replacements that may be added to the Team pursuant to Section 4.

Senior Director and Coach, National Team. “Senior Director and Coach, National Team” refers to the USA Swimming Senior Director and Coach, National Team, or their designee.

Team. “Team” means the Championships team Selected on or before August 3, 2026, plus any changes or replacements made pursuant to these Selection Procedures.

5K Qualifying Competition. “5K Qualifying Competition” means the 2026 USA Swimming Open Water 5K Junior National Championships, held Friday, April 3, 2026, in Sarasota, Florida.

5K Event. “5K Event” refers to the 5k competition event contested at the Championships.

7.5K Qualifying Competition and 10K Qualifying Competition. “7.5K Qualifying Competition” and “10K Qualifying Competition” both mean the 2026 USA Swimming Open Water 10K National Championship, held Thursday, April 2, 2026, in Sarasota, Florida, as this same race is used to Select to the Team for the 10K Event.

10K Event. “10K Event” refers to the 10k competition event contested at the Championships

1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard. “1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard” means the time standard set forth by USA Swimming for each age group, as listed in Appendix A, achieved between May 1, 2026 to August 1, 2026, at a USA Swimming or World Aquatics sanctioned competition, as entered into USA Swimming’s SWIMS database as of August 1, 2026 at 11:59 pm Mountain Time.

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1 The minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for Selection to the Team:

1.1.1 To be considered for Selection to the Team, an athlete must, at the beginning of the Qualifying Competition and at the time of Selection to the Team:

- (a) be an Available Swimmer;
- (b) be a registered athlete member of USA Swimming in good standing;
- (c) be a citizen of the United States; and
- (d) be eligible to represent the United States in international competition.

1.1.2 Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport as of April 1, 2026, that will not expire until six months after the Championships.

1.1.3 Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

- (a) All competitors Selected to the Team must meet the World Aquatics eligibility requirements. For additional information regarding World Aquatics’ athlete eligibility, refer to the World Aquatics General Rules (GR 3).

1.1.4 Other requirements (if any):

- (a) An athlete must qualify for the Qualifying Competition and compete in that Qualifying Competition. Qualification for the Qualifying Competition can be found [here](#).
- (b) Each athlete that has been Selected to the Team must sign their acceptance in writing and return to USA Swimming by 11:59 PM MT August 1, 2026, and abide by the USA Swimming applicable competition forms which will be made available prior to Selection;
- (c) Each athlete that has been Selected to the Team must comply with all applicable rules and requirements of the Championships, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”), World Aquatics, the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”), the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and USA Swimming, including without limitation USA Swimming policies and protocols regarding Team preparation and participation, through the Championships.
- (d) All athletes that are 18 years of age must successfully complete and pass a criminal background check as required by USA Swimming and the USOPC.
- (e) All swimmers who qualify for the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships in the 10K Open Water Event are ineligible for Selection to the Championships as both Available Swimmers and replacement swimmers under Section 4.

1.2 Tryout Events:

1.1.1 Provide the event names, dates, and locations of all trials, events, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

5K Qualifying Competition
7.5K Qualifying Competition
10K Qualifying Competition

and;

1500-Meter-Freestyle-Pool Standards.

1.1.2 Provide event names, dates, locations, and description of how athletes qualify for the Qualifying Competitions above in 1.2.1 (if any):

- (a) To qualify for the Qualifying Competition, an athlete must achieve an applicable Qualifying Competition time standard between January 1, 2025 and the entry deadline for the for the Qualifying Competition; or an athlete may qualify via one of the alternate Qualification Pathways. Qualification pathways and Time standards can be found in the USA Swimming Website and on the Event page for Qualifying Competition [here](#).

1.3 Comprehensive Selection Process:

This Section sets forth the steps by which Available Swimmers will be Selected to the Team. Although USA Swimming may announce during the Qualifying Competitions that athletes have “made the Team” or “qualified for the Team,” any such announcement is informal and subject to change. The process of determining who is eligible to be Selected to the Team will take place on or before August 3, 2026, after completion of the Qualifying Competition and conclusion of the Qualifying Window. The results from the application of these Selection Procedures will be announced on or before August 3, 2026, although USA Swimming retains the right to make changes to the results to address withdrawals, vacancies, and applicable World Aquatics invitations through the entry deadline (time and date TBD).

- 1.3.1 Team Size. The maximum allowable Team size is six men and six women; two men and two women in each of the following Events and age categories:

5K Event: 14 or 15 years old as of December 31, 2026

7.5K Event: 16 or 17 years old as of December 31, 2026

10K Event: 18 or 19 years old as of December 31, 2026

Note: Age is determined by the age of the athlete on December 31, 2026, regardless of age during the Qualifying Competition.

The actual Team size will be determined once these Selection Procedures are implemented. For purposes of these Selection Procedures, the men's and women's components of the Team will be considered separately. USA Swimming is under no obligation to Select to the Team a full team of six athletes per competition category. Transgender athletes shall compete at the Championships consistent with USA Swimming, IOC, World Aquatics, USOPC, and Championships' Organizing Committee policies and criteria.

- 1.3.2 Qualifying Competitions. Performances at the Qualifying Competition, from among those eligible to compete in the Qualifying Competition, will be used to determine the Team by using the priority system in Section 1.3.3.

- 1.3.3 Application of Priorities for Team Selection. These priorities will be applied on or before August 3, 2026. Athletes not qualifying via one of these priorities will not be eligible to be Selected to the Team unless they are subsequently added to the Team as a replacement swimmer according to Section 4. If, after applying the priorities, as well as the procedures in Sections 1.3.4, there are fewer than six men and six women, or both, on the Team, then USA Swimming will not field a full Team, unless the Team is filled as a result of adding one or more replacements as provided in Section 4.

- 1.3.3.1 Qualification for the 5K Event

Priority #1. The highest finishing Available Swimmer from the 5K Qualifying Competition, that also achieves 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to the Team to compete in the 5K Event.

Priority #2. The second highest finishing Available Swimmer from the 5K Qualifying Competition, that also achieves the 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to compete in the 5K Event.

1.3.3.2 Qualification for the 7.5K Event

Priority #1. The highest finishing Available Swimmer, from the 7.5K Qualifying Competition that also achieves 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to the Team to compete in the 10K Event.

Priority #2. The second highest finishing Available Swimmer from the 7.5K Qualifying Competition that also achieves 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to the Team to compete in the 10K Event.

1.3.3.3 Qualification for the 10K Event

Priority #1. The highest finishing Available Swimmer from the 10K Qualifying Competition, that also achieves 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard within the Qualifying Window, will be Selected to the Team to compete in the 10K Event.

Priority #2. The second highest finishing Available Swimmer from the 10K Qualifying Competition, that also achieves 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to the Team to compete in the 10K Event.

All athletes Selected to Team must agree to swim in the Event for which they were Selected for above. An athlete will no longer be considered an Available Swimmer if they are offered positions in their Event and do not accept the Event at the Championships.

1.3.4 Breaking a Tie.

- (a) Tie in 5K Qualifying Competition. If there is a tie between two Available Swimmers in the 5K Qualifying Competition for first place, in Priority #1, both athletes will be Selected to the Team. If there is a tie between three or more Available Swimmers for first place in the 5K Qualifying Competition, the two Available Swimmers with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw. In both instances, Priority #2 will not be filled. If there is a tie between two or more Available Swimmers under Priority #2, the Available Swimmer with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw.
- (b) Tie in 7.5K Qualifying Competition. If there is a tie between two Available Swimmers in the 7.5K Qualifying Competition for first place, in Priority #1, both athletes will be

Selected to the Team. If there is a tie between three or more Available Swimmers for first place in the 7.5K Qualifying Competition, the two Available Swimmers with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard, will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw. In both instances, Priority #2 will not be filled. If there is a tie between two or more Available Swimmers under Priority #2, the Available Swimmer with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw.

- (c) Tie in 10K Qualifying Competition. If there is a tie between two Available Swimmers in the 10K Qualifying Competition for first place, in Priority #1, both athletes will be Selected to the Team. If there is a tie between three or more Available Swimmers for first place in the 10K Qualifying Competition, the two Available Swimmers with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw. In both instances, Priority #2 will not be filled. If there is a tie between two or more Available Swimmers under Priority #2, the Available Swimmer with the fastest 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard will be Selected to the Team. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw.

1.3.5 Announcement.

Those officially Selected to the Team will be announced on or before August 3, 2026. If there is a vacancy in an Event(s) that arises on or after August 3, 2026, the replacement process in Section 4 will be used to fill the vacancy in that Event(s).

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1 *Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):*

All swimmers who are Selected to the Team shall be eligible for selection to the Team Relay and Knockout Sprint at the Championships. The Senior Director and Coach, National Team, shall select the athletes for the Team Relay and Knockout Sprint conducted at the Championships, with the advice and consent of the Head Coach. In selecting the Team Relay and Knockout Sprint teams, the Senior Director and Coach, National Team shall consider all available relevant information, including but not limited to, and in no particular order, each Team member's respective Qualifying Competition performances, past relay performances, Championships performances, personal best performances, Championships Event schedules, individual workload, other recent results and performances, consistency of performances, fatigue, health, fitness levels, training preparation, scientific evaluation, attitude, and team chemistry

2.2 *Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.*

The Senior Director and Coach, National Team (or their designee) will be responsible for relay selection, with the advice and consent of the Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Should the Senior Director and Coach, National Team have a conflict of interest, as determined by USA Swimming's Ethics Committee, his/her designee will be responsible for

Team Relay and Knockout Sprint Event Selection, with the advice and consent of the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches. All involved in relay selection must comply with USA Swimming's Statement of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the Ethics Committee. Anyone involved in relay selection who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose to the Ethics Committee, prior to the start of the relay selection process. The Ethics Committee may determine that this individual must disclose the conflict to the others involved in relay selection and/or recuse themselves from selection and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a person's personal, family, financial, professional, club, team, or business interest poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for relay selection that could compromise the individual's ability to participate in selection in an unbiased manner. For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse him/herself from voting, the Ethics Committee may still find that if they have relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or performance scientist, they may, if requested by the others involved in relay selection, still provide such information, so long as it is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the individual with the conflict does not vote. The individual must not otherwise influence others in selection. Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that an individual involved in selection has a conflict of interest should report the alleged conflict of interest to the Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual involved in selection shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

An athlete who is to be Selected to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Swimming's Managing Director, National Team in conjunction with the USA Swimming President & CEO and USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Chair ("AAC Chair"). An athlete who is to be removed from the Team or an Event, or from eligibility to be Selected to the Team, has the right to a hearing per USA Swimming's Bylaws (usaswimming.org), the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9, or the applicable anti-doping code/protocol before such removal or declaration of ineligibility.

- 3.1.1 An athlete may choose to voluntarily withdraw from an Event or the Team. The athlete must submit in writing any withdrawal to the Managing Director, National Team and Senior Director and Coach, National Team. An athlete considering withdrawal is strongly encouraged to submit the written withdrawal by August 1, 2026.
- 3.1.2 USA Swimming may remove an athlete who has an injury or illness, as certified by a physician for the Championships, that is likely to keep them from competing at peak levels in the Championships. If an athlete refuses verification of the illness or injury by an approved Championships' physician, the injury will be assumed to keep them from competing at peak levels in the Championships and they may be removed.

- 3.1.3 An athlete may be removed by the Managing Director, National Team, in consultation with the Senior Director and Coach, National Team, and AAC Chair, if it is determined that the swimmer is unable or unwilling to maintain a training regimen necessary for peak performance in the Championships. If any of these individuals involved in the decision has a conflict of interest, they will not be part of the decision-making.
- 3.1.4 A swimmer may be removed from the Team if the swimmer violates any USA Swimming or other rules and regulations applicable to the Team or its members, including, without limitation applicable Codes of Conduct or Team Rules. If there is a violation and the swimmer is to be dismissed from the Team, upon request of the swimmer, there will be an emergency hearing held before USA Swimming's National Board of Review within 24 hours of the violation (or as soon as possible) to determine whether the proposed dismissal or other discipline is warranted.
- 3.1.5 If a swimmer is alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, they shall remain on the Team (or remain eligible to be Selected to the Team) until the swimmer: (i) is provisionally suspended; (ii) is declared ineligible after a hearing conducted pursuant to the USADA Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing or by AQUA; (iii) voluntarily accepts a provisional suspension or sanction of ineligibility; or (iv) voluntarily withdraws from the Team or relinquishes eligibility to be Selected to the Team.
- 3.1.6 If a swimmer is alleged to have committed a violation of the SafeSport Code for the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, they shall remain on the Team (or remain eligible to be Selected to the Team) until the swimmer: (i) is suspended; (ii) is declared ineligible after a hearing; (iii) voluntarily accepts a suspension or sanction of ineligibility; or (iv) voluntarily withdraws from the Team or relinquishes eligibility to be Selected to the Team.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1 Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

The pool of potential replacement athletes includes those individuals who meet the criteria in this Section 4 and does not include athletes that have been Selected to the 2026 Open Water Pan Pacific Championship Team, even if they have declined that invite or otherwise been removed from that team.

- 4.2 Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee (Time and Date TBD).
- 4.3 If after the Team is announced on or before August 3, 2026, an Available Swimmer declines their spot on the Team for any reason or a vacancy is otherwise created on the Team in an Event, that vacancy will be filled by the next highest finishing Available Swimmer from the respective Qualifying Competition respective to that Event (i.e., the 5K Qualifying Competition for the 5K Event, the 7.5K Qualifying Competition for the 10K Event, the 10K Qualifying Competition for the 10K Event, dependent upon the age of the swimmer leaving

the Team) that also meets the 1500-Meter-Freestyle Pool Standard in the Qualifying Window.

3.1.2 After submission of Entries by Name to the Organizing Committee:

After Entries by Name have been submitted to the Organizing Committee (time and date TBD), USA Swimming will attempt to fill any vacancy with the best finishing Available Swimmer from the 5K Qualifying Competition to replace for a vacancy in the 5K Event and from the 7.5K and 10K Qualifying Competition to replace for a vacancy in the 7.5K Event or the 10K Event who has already been named to the Team. There is no guarantee that USA Swimming will be successful in filling this Event vacancy and it will ultimately be decided by World Aquatics and or the Organizing Committee.

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Swimming will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Championships.

5. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Swimming on its website.

6. DATE OF SELECTION

The Selection of Athletes will take place on or before August 3, 2026.

7. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of mandatory training and/or competition*:

Event	Date	Site
Depart United States	August 31	Various Airports
Training	September 1-2	Santa Fe, Argentina
Competition	September 3-6	Santa Fe, Argentina
Return Home	September 7	Various Airports

*Dates and locations are subject to change

8. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to IOC, WADA, World Aquatics, USADA, and United States Olympic and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, World Aquatics, USADA, and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

9. USA SWIMMING BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Swimming Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: usaswimming.org.

10. DISCLAIMER

These Selection Procedures are based on World Aquatics and the Organizing Committee's rules and regulations, as applicable and as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in the Organizing Committee or World Aquatics rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The Selection Procedures are based on the latest information available to USA Swimming. However, the Selection Procedures are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If circumstances cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the Qualifying Competitions listed in this document, these Selection Procedures will be revised.

The terms and conditions of these written Selection Procedures shall take priority over any verbal explanation, clarification, or interpretation of the Selection Procedures, and an athlete relies on a verbal explanation, clarification, or interpretation of these Selection Procedures at his/her sole risk. Any request or question that would involve a formal clarification or interpretation of these Selection Procedures, or that would address an issue not otherwise covered in these Selection Procedures, should be submitted to the Senior Director and Coach, National Team in writing by no later than March 31, 2026, and the response to such request by USA Swimming must be provided in writing and, where appropriate, must be published promptly on the USA Swimming website.

An athlete who is Selected to the Team by virtue of an error or oversight by USA Swimming may be removed from the Team at any time.

11. SELECTION PROCEDURE APPROVAL COMMITTEE

11.1 Conflicts of Interest

Individuals involved in the creation and enforcement of these Selection Procedures are subject to USA Swimming's Statement of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy (the "Conflict of Interest Policy"). Pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Policy, these individuals must submit annual Disclosure Statements to USA Swimming's Ethics Committee for review and direction on avoidance and mitigation of any conflicts. Any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest identified in the creation or enforcement of these Selection Procedures should be reported to USA Swimming's Ethics Committee, pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Policy.

11.2 Retaliation

No individual who raises concerns or asks questions about these Selection Procedures or files a grievance and/or reports a conflict of interest regarding these Selection Procedures shall suffer retaliation, as prohibited by USA Swimming’s Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy (the “Anti-Retaliation Policy”). Any claims of retaliation should be reported to USA Swimming’s Ethics Committee, pursuant to the Anti-Retaliation Policy. This protection against retaliation includes protection for seeking advice from the Athlete Ombuds Office.

Athlete Ombuds Office Contact Information

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org Website: usathlete.org

11.3 Signatures

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Swimming.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
President & CEO	Kevin Ring		3/5/2026
Managing Director, National Team	Greg Meehan		03/05/2026
USA Swimming AAC Chair	Lilly King		3/6/2026

Appendix A

1500-Meter-Freestyle Time Standards

Competition Category	Age Group	Average Swim Time
Female	14-15	17:25.80
Female	16-17	17:10.80
Female	18-19	17:09.50
Male	14-15	16:17.10
Male	16-17	15:52.40
Male	18-19	15:48.50