



ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2026 Pan Pacific Open Water Championships
Long Beach, California
Updated as of February 27, 2026

The 2026 Open Water Pan Pacific Championships will be held in Long Beach, CA on August 10, 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) is at least 14 years old as of December 31, 2026; (iii) certifies to USA Swimming that they remain available to swim through the completion of the Championships; (iv) competes in all three Qualifying Competitions (note: if an Available Swimmer begins but does not complete any or all of the Qualifying Competitions, they are still considered an Available Swimmer but will receive the lowest possible point score for that Qualifying Competition); (v) finishes in the top six best finishing Available Swimmers at the 10K Open Water Nationals¹; and (vi) indicates in writing 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); 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 Open Water Pan Pacific Championships, which will be conducted in Long Beach, California on August 10, 2026.

Cumulative Scoring System. “Cumulative Scoring System” means the point system that will be used to aggregate points earned by Available Swimmers ~~at all from solely the~~ three Qualifying Competitions: 10K Open Water Nationals, 10K Open Water Golfo Aranci, and 10K Open Water Ibiza. Specifically, each Available Swimmer’s Open Water Swimming World Ranking Points will be calculated ~~immediately after all three at the conclusion of each Qualifying Competition by World Aquatics. USA Swimming will document the immediate points allotted to each of the three Qualifying Competitions for each Available Swimmer. After all three of the Qualifying Competitions have concluded, USA Swimming will total the points from solely the three Qualifying Competitions for each Available Swimmer and totaled for assign each Available~~

¹ Following the conclusion of the 10K Open Water Nationals, USA Swimming will identify the six best finishing Available Swimmers and only those Available Swimmers will be considered for Selection to the Team; no other athletes will be considered Available Swimmers.

Swimmer one cumulative score. USA Swimming will rank Available Swimmers based on [those](#) point totals from the Cumulative Scoring System, i.e., from highest to lowest point total.

Event. “Event” refers to the 10K event contested at the Championships for each competition category.

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.

Open Water Swimming World Ranking Points. “Open Water Swimming World Ranking Points” refers to World Aquatics’ point system. World Aquatics assigns an individual point value at each Open Water individual race for each individual competitor immediately following the conclusion of their race. The method in calculating points can be found [here](#) and the current rankings can be found [here](#).

Qualifying Competitions. “Qualifying Competitions” mean the 10K Open Water Nationals, the 10K Open Water Ibiza, and the 10K Open Water Golfo Aranci.

Select/Selected/Selection to the Team. “Select/Selected/Selection the Team” refers to the Team selected by USA Swimming on or before May 4, 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 May 4, 2026, plus any changes or replacements made pursuant to these Selection Procedures.

10K Open Water Golfo Aranci. “10K Open Water Golfo Aranci” means the 10K event at the 2026 World Aquatics World Cup held May 1, 2026 in Golfo Aranci, Italy.

10K Open Water Ibiza. “10K Open Water Ibiza” means the 10K event at the 2026 World Aquatics World Cup held April 24, 2026 in Ibiza, Spain.

10K Open Water Nationals. “10K Open Water Nationals” means the 10K event at the 2026 USA Swimming Open Water National Championships, held Thursday, April 2, 2026, in Sarasota, Florida.

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 applicable Qualifying Competitions 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 Other requirements (if any):

- (a) An athlete must qualify for the Qualifying Competitions as described in Section 1.2, and compete in all the Qualifying Competitions. If an athlete begins any or all of the Qualifying Competitions but does not finish, they remain an Available Swimmer but will receive the lowest possible points in any Qualifying Competition(s) that they did not finish.
- (b) Each athlete that has been Selected to the Team must sign their acceptance in writing and return to USA Swimming by May 4, 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, Pan-Pac Charter Nations, 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.

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:

The Qualifying Competitions.

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 10K Open Water Nationals, an athlete must achieve an applicable Qualifying Competition time standard between January 1, 2025 and the entry deadline for

the 10K Open Water Nationals. Time standards can be found in the USA Swimming Website and on the Event page for Open Water National Championships [here](#).

To qualify for the 10K Open Water Golfo Aranci and the 10K Open Water Ibiza, an Available swimmer must finish in the top six best finishing Available Swimmers at the 10K Open Water Nationals. USA Swimming will offer the top six best finishing Available Swimmers at the 10K Open Water Nationals the opportunity to compete at the remaining two Qualifying Competitions; only the Available Swimmers that accept this invitation will remain Available Swimmers. Available Swimmers must accept this invite within 24 hours of receiving the invite. If an Available Swimmer declines their spot for any reason, then the next highest finishing Available Swimmer at the 10K Open Water Nationals will be invited to compete at the next two Qualifying Competitions. This process will continue until there are six Available Swimmers that have accepted the invitation to swim at the next two Qualifying Competitions. Of ~~not~~course, any USA Swimming athlete may still enter ~~themselves~~themselves in these ~~competitions~~Qualifying Competitions, but only the top six Available Swimmers from Open Water Nationals that compete in these competitions will be eligible to be Selected to the Team per the standards laid out in these Selection Procedures.

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 May 4, 2026, after completion of the Qualifying Competitions. The results from the application of these Selection Procedures will be announced on or before May 4, 2026, although USA Swimming retains the right to make changes to the results to address withdrawals, vacancies, and applicable Pan-Pac Charter invitations through the entry deadline (July 27, 2026).

- 1.3.1 Team Size. The maximum allowable Team size is four men and four women total. 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 four 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 10K Open Water Nationals, 10K Open Water Ibiza, and 10K Open Water Golfo Aranci, will be used to determine the Team by using the priority system in Section 1.3.4.
- 1.3.3 Application of Priorities for Team Selection. These priorities will be applied on or before May 4, 2026, after the completion of all the Qualifying Competitions. 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 replacement according to Section 4. If, after applying the priorities below, as well as the procedures in Sections 1.3.5, there are fewer than four men and four 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.

Priority #1. The Available Swimmer with the highest point total using the Cumulative Scoring System from all three Qualifying Competitions will be Selected to compete in the Event.

Priority #2. The Available Swimmer with the second highest point total using the Cumulative Scoring System from all three Qualifying Competitions will be Selected to compete in the Event.

Priority #3. The Available Swimmer with the third highest point total using the Cumulative Scoring System from all three Qualifying Competitions will be Selected to compete in the Event.

Priority #4. The Available Swimmer with the fourth highest point total using the Cumulative Scoring System from all three Qualifying Competitions will be Selected to compete in the Event.

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

1.3.4 Breaking a Tie.

- (a) If there is a tie between two or more Available Swimmers after tallying up their cumulative point totals, the best finishing Available Swimmer from the 10K Open Water Nationals will be considered the winner of the tiebreaker.
- (b) If Section 1.3.5(a) does not break the tie, the Available Swimmer with the fastest Long Course 1500-Meter Freestyle time between the period of January 1, 2025 and April 7, 2026 as reflected in USA Swimming's SWIMS database at the time of selection (<https://www.usaswimming.org/times>), will be considered the winner of the tiebreaker. If this does not break a 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 May 8, 2026, after completion of the Qualifying Competitions. If there is a vacancy in an Event(s) that arises on or after May 8, 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):

No discretionary selection will be used. USA Swimming will rely only on the priority system above as the Event is the only race contested at the Championships. No relays or knockout events will occur.

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 May 4, 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.

- 4.2 Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee (July 27, 2026):

USA Swimming will offer the top six best finishing Available Swimmers at the 10K Open Water Nationals the opportunity to compete at the remaining two Qualifying Competitions; only the Available Swimmers that accept this invitation will remain Available Swimmers. Available Swimmers must accept this invite within 24 hours of receiving the invite. If an Available Swimmer declines their spot for any reason, then the next highest finishing Available Swimmer at the 10K Open Water Nationals will be invited to compete at the next two Qualifying Competitions. This process will continue until there are six Available Swimmers that have accepted the invite to swim at the next two Qualifying Competitions.

If after the Team is named on or before May 8th an Available Swimmer declines their spot on the Team for any reason or a vacancy is otherwise created on the Team in the Event, that vacancy will be filled by the Available Swimmer with the next highest cumulative point score using the Cumulative Scoring System not already on the Team.

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

After Entries by Name have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee (July 27, 2026), USA Swimming will not attempt to fill any vacancy.

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 May 4, 2026.

7. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

Event	Date	Site
Depart for Optional Camp	August 3	Various Airports to LAX
Optional Camp Entry #2	August 5	Los Angeles, CA
Mandatory Camp Entry	August 8	Los Angeles, CA
Training	August 4 to August 9	Los Angeles, CA
Competition	August 10	Long Beach, CA
Return Home	August <u>16</u>	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 1, 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		<u>2/24/26</u>
Managing Director, National Team	Greg Meehan		<u>2/24/2026</u>
USA Swimming AAC Chair	Lilly King		<u>3/4/2026</u>