Foreign Athlete
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USA Swimming has an "open border" policy with Puerto Rico, Canada, Bermuda and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Travel documents are not necessary for their athletes or clubs traveling to the United States and are not necessary for USA Swimming's athletes traveling to these countries.

You can find the addresses and phone numbers of other FINA federations on FINA's website at www.fina.org.

Foreign Federation Member (Athlete) Joining USA Swimming

When a member of a FINA Federation applies for membership in USA Swimming, he/she must complete the **Notification of Membership in USA Swimming** form. USA Swimming will use this information to notify the athlete's home federation.

The athlete should send the completed form to his/her LSC Registration Chair, who will sign and forward the form to National Headquarters.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide the athlete with a copy of the Notification of Membership in USA Swimming form.

2. Have the athlete fill out a year-round or seasonal athlete membership form for the current registration year.

3. Collect the appropriate fee for membership from the athlete.

4. Process the athlete as unattached until you receive written confirmation from the federation as to the last date of competition in the federation. (**203.9.2 An athlete who has competed for an organization within a foreign federation must provide official documentation from that federation confirming his/her last day representing that organization in competition. One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after a swimmer represents any organization before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club. If documentation is not provided at the time of registration, the one hundred and twenty (120) days will commence from the date of registration. Foreign athletes who are competing for a secondary school, college or university shall be automatically released to represent, in accordance with 203.4.)**

5. Sign the completed Notification of Membership in USA Swimming form and submit it to National Headquarters.

6. Keep a copy of the form submitted to National Headquarters and attach all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete. You can prepare a file for foreign athletes, keep them by club or whatever is appropriate within your bookkeeping system. The copies are necessary at your level to provide a paper trail of steps taken by the athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the athlete's USA Swimming club and the LSC Registration Chair.

Notification of Membership in USA Swimming

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

USA Residence _____
Street Address

_____
City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

I am a citizen of _____

I am now or have been a member of the following FINA Federation _____

The date of my last competition as a member of that Federation was

_____ _____
Club Competition National/International Competition

I make application for status as (circle one): Attached Unattached

in _____
Local Swimming Committee

If attached, give name of USA Swimming Member Club: _____

_____ _____
Athlete or parent Signature Date

Registration Date _____

ID # _____

Submit to LSC Registration Chair.

_____ _____
LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair, fax or mail to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

_____ _____
USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation

When a USA Swimming athlete member applies for membership in any other FINA Federation, he/she must complete the **Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation** form.

The athlete should send the completed form to his/her LSC Registration Chair who will sign and forward the form to National Headquarters.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide a copy of the Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation form to the athlete when requested.

2. Sign the completed Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation form and submit it to National Headquarters.

3. Keep a copy of the form submitted to National Headquarters and attach all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the athlete's USA Swimming club and the LSC Registration Chair.

USA Swimming
Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

USA Residence _____
Street Address

_____
City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone _____ Fax_____

E-mail_____

Date of Birth _____ ID # _____

USA Swimming Club affiliation _____

Local Swimming Committee _____

Last date represented USA Swimming Club in USA Swimming competition _____

I request a written release from USA Swimming in order to join the Swimming Federation of

_____
Country

_____ _____
Athlete or parent Signature Date

Submit to LSC Registration Chair.

_____ _____
LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair, fax or mail to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

_____ _____
USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

Foreign Travel by USA Swimming Members

While USA Swimming clubs and athletes are free to participate in competitions with FINA Federation members, the formal invitation must be issued by the foreign federation. State organizations and foreign clubs are not empowered to extend a formal invitation.

This is to ensure compliance with FINA GR 3.1 and GR 3.2:

GR 3.1 A competitor competing at a meet in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated thereto. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.

GR 3.2 All competitions must have received sanction by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Clubs and athletes wishing to compete abroad must complete the **Foreign Travel Permit Request** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair.

2. The LSC Registration Chair checks the form to see that all the athletes and clubs on the form are current members of the LSC/USA Swimming.

3. The LSC Registration Chair signs the form in the appropriate place and submits it **along with the foreign federation invitation and the meet information** to National Headquarters. (The foreign federation invitation and meet information is very important and will require follow-up from USA Swimming Member Services if it is not received with the form.)

4. Keep a copy of all information submitted to National Headquarters and attach all related correspondence you receive regarding this request.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the host club and the LSC Registration Chair.

USA Swimming
Foreign Travel Permit Request

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

The athletes, judges, officials, trainers, and coaches listed on the attached or below, is/are registered members of their Local Swimming Committee and USA Swimming.

Local Swimming Committee _____

Participants _____

_____

_____

Note: In accordance with FINA rule GR 2.4, no U.S. athlete can be designated a member of the "USA Swimming Team" unless selected as such by USA Swimming.

They/he/she plan to participate in sanctioned competition in

Country to be visited _____ Dates _____

Name of meet _____ Location _____

Meet Dates _____

All competitions must be sanctioned by the Member (Foreign Federation) where the competition takes place. **This request must be accompanied by an invitation from the foreign federation and complete meet information.**

Group Leader _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Submit with copy of foreign federation invitation and complete meet information to LSC Registration Chair.

_____ _____

LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair, fax or mail to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

_____ _____

USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

Revised 11/10

Inviting Foreign Athletes/Teams

While Local Swimming Committees and USA Swimming clubs are free to set up competitions with FINA Federation members, the formal invitation must be issued by USA Swimming. LSCs and USA Swimming clubs are not empowered to extend a formal invitation.

This is to ensure compliance with FINA GR 3.1 and GR 3.2:

GR 3.1 A competitor competing at a meet in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated thereto. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.

GR 3.2 All competitions must have received sanction by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide the **Invitation to Foreign Athletes/Teams** form to the appropriate person who wishes to invite a foreign team or members of a foreign team to participate in a meet within your LSC.

2. The completed form must be submitted to the LSC Registration Chair along with the meet information**. It is the responsibility of the LSC to verify through SWIMS that coaches accompanying the foreign athletes/teams are not banned from USA Swimming**. The LSC Registration Chair signs the form in the appropriate place and submits it and the meet information to National Headquarters. (The meet information is very important and will require follow-up from USA Swimming Member Services if it is not received with the form.)

3. Keep a copy of all information submitted to National Headquarters and attach all related correspondence you receive regarding this invitation.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the host club and the LSC Registration Chair.

USA Swimming has an "open border" policy with Puerto Rico, Canada, Bermuda and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Travel documents are not necessary for their athletes or clubs traveling to the United States and are not necessary for USA Swimming's athletes traveling to these countries

USA Swimming
Invitation to Foreign Athletes/Teams

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

USA Swimming, on behalf of _____
Member Club

and _____
Local Swimming Committee

invites the following athletes/teams to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned competition.

Names of athletes/teams to be invited _____

_____

Names of coaches accompanying athletes (**must be provided**) _____

_____

from _____
Name of Country

for _____
Name of Event

at _____
Location

on _____
Dates

USA Swimming Club Contact _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax_____

E-mail_____

Submit with copy of complete meet information to LSC Registration Chair.

_____ _____
LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair, fax or mail to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

_____ _____
USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

Revised 11/10

Foreign Athletes Who Train with USA Swimming Clubs

When an athlete member of a FINA Federation wishes to come to the United States and train with a USA Swimming club, the foreign athlete does not have to become a USA Swimming member if the athlete will be training with the club for **less than 30 days**. USA Swimming's insurance will provide liability coverage for the athlete, the USA Swimming club and coach during this 30 day period; however, there will be no excess accident medical coverage for the foreign athlete.

If the athlete will be in the United States more than 30 days training with a USA Swimming club and competing in USA Swimming meets, he/she must become a USA Swimming member.

United States Citizens Residing Outside of the United States

USA Swimming wants to be responsive to those athletes who are United States citizens and who happen to reside outside the United States. Often those athletes make special trips to the United States to participate in USA Swimming meets and would like their times to be counted for Top 16 purposes, Age Group Records, etc. However, there is a major concern about insurance and coverage in those situations we cannot adequately monitor. The following is in effect:

- When a request is made, USA Swimming will register those athletes living outside the specified Local Swimming Committee (LSC) boundaries if the athlete is a United States citizen. The registration for athletes will be done through National Headquarters, Member Services Department. USA Swimming insurance coverage for registered athletes will be in effect only when the athlete is participating in practices, meets or other USA Swimming activities within the LSC boundaries. USA Swimming insurance coverage will not apply outside the LSC boundaries.

- National Headquarters will register non-athlete members living outside the LSC boundaries if a request is made. The non-athlete member, however, will only have USA Swimming insurance coverage when involved with practices, meets or other USA Swimming activities within the specified LSC boundaries. No USA Swimming insurance coverage would apply outside the LSC boundaries.

- If FINA (the international federation for aquatic sports) has recognized a territory, federation or possession (i.e. Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands) as having a separate governing body, then USA Swimming does not have jurisdiction and cannot register swim clubs in the area.

Representation

By Carol Zaleski, Chairman
FINA Technical Swimming Committee

USA Swimming National Headquarters receives many inquiries about "foreign athletes" and the representation rules.

It is important to distinguish between FINA (the international aquatic federation) rules and USA Swimming rules. Let us deal with the FINA representation rules first:

FINA Rules
Club Representation

According to FINA, an athlete may join as many clubs within the same country as he wishes but can only represent one at a time. Each federation, however, may have more restrictive rules relative to representation.

An athlete who temporarily or permanently moves to a new country may join a federation club in that country.

International Representation

The rules regulating international representation and competition are, as you would expect, somewhat different. To compete representing a country or sport country, the athlete must be selected by the national federation belonging to FINA.

What is a "sport country?" As defined by FINA, sport country means a geographical territory or region which, though not recognized as a country, has certain aspects of self-government at least to the extent in being autonomous in the control of its sports, and is recognized as such by the FINA. For example, Puerto Rico is a sport country.

To represent a country, the athlete must be a citizen of that country. In the case of a naturalized citizen, the athlete must have established a residence in that country for one year.

Athletes who have two nationalities, according to the laws of the two countries, may choose a "sport nationality." They do so by representing the chosen country (competition representing a country, not a club). Once having chosen a sport nationality and competed representing a country, the athlete must wait 12 months before being able to represent a new country. The athlete who wishes to represent any new country must notify the federations involved, establish residence in the new country and wait 12 months.

USA Swimming Rules

All of the above is different and distinct from the USA Swimming rules ─ rule 203.3, "For a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must have elapsed without the swimmer having represented any other USA Swimming club in USA Swimming competition...." ─ rule 203.9.2, "....One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after a swimmer represents any organization before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club."

The FINA rules must be considered in those sections that refer to "foreign swimmers." The USA Swimming glossary defines foreign swimmer as, "an athlete member of a FINA member-country federation, other than USA Swimming, or an athlete member of USA Swimming who is not eligible to represent the United States in international competition due to FINA sports citizenship requirements."