

# USA SWIMMING

## USA SWIMMING FINA OPEN WATER 10K WORLD CUP POLICY

*Based on the recommendations from the USA Swimming Open Water review commission USA Swimming has implemented the following policy regarding USA Swimming athlete members attending FINA World Cup races around the world. The Open Water FINA World Cup is an open competition, meaning that an athlete may enter any Open Water FINA World Cup event as long as his or her National Federation endorses the entry form. In order for USA Swimming to endorse an entry form, or take any other action to enter an athlete into the competition, an athlete must satisfy the criteria set forth in this document. Any questions can be directed to Bryce Elser, Open Water Program Manager, at [belser@usaswimming.org](mailto:belser@usaswimming.org).*

### OW SELECTION STANDARDS

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In order to qualify for the FINA World Cup a swimmer must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water National Team from 2008 to present
- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water Junior National Team from 2008 to present
- Finish in the top 15 at the 2012 USA Swimming Open Water 10k Championships in Ft. Myers, Florida on April 27, 2012
- Obtain an official letter of invitation to compete from the event Organizing Committee and provide this letter to USA Swimming before the entry deadline. The athlete and/or athlete's coach are responsible for obtaining this documentation.

### USA SWIMMING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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All entries (and other event forms) must be submitted to USA Swimming for endorsement. Entries will not be endorsed without having a signed letter by a current USA Swimming Certified Coach stating that he/she will assume coaching responsibility for the athlete participating in the event. Each athlete will be responsible for providing their own coach to attend the competition at the cost of the athlete and/or coach. According to FINA World Cup rules, a coach may only represent one athlete during the competition. The coach attending the competition must also be in attendance at technical meeting and all training sessions. USA Swimming will provide only technical and administrative support for National Team members and will not provide coaching support unless the particular event is specifically designated as an official team event by USA Swimming.

The swimmer and coach will also need to provide proof of valid international medical insurance to USA Swimming at least one month prior to the start of the competition. USA Swimming will purchase this insurance for all current members of the USA Swimming Open Water National Team (including athletes who are members of the National Team in the 800/1500m freestyle). Insurance coverage will need to be purchased for the entire time spent outside of the United States. For information on purchasing this insurance please contact Camila Zardo at [czardo@usaswimming.org](mailto:czardo@usaswimming.org), or call 1-800-732-5309 (you must mention you are with USA Swimming) to purchase your own MEDEX TravMed Abroad policy.

All eligible athletes desiring to compete in any FINA World Cup race must submit a signed USA Swimming National Team Waiver and Release concurrently with his or her meet forms (including entry).

Due to the ever changing conditions in open water swimming, USA Swimming recommends that all athletes receive a full examination by a licensed physician before competing in any FINA World Cup races. It is recommended that the athlete receives this physical examination at least once a year to ensure that he or she is still in good health and fit for endurance competitions.

USA Swimming will provide no technical, administrative or financial support, including, but not limited to, the cost of transportation to and from the event, accommodations, meals and other expenses for any eligible athlete and/or his or her coach, except as expressly provided in this policy and the applicable USA Swimming National Team Waiver and Release. Current Open Water National Team athletes may be eligible for travel reimbursement and a limited range technical and administrative support.

In the event that USA Swimming declares a FINA 10K World Cup to be “historically unsafe”, USA Swimming will no longer provide any financial assistance to that particular event for National Team Members until the event organizing committee and race organizers have all shown that the event is currently safe and will continue to meet the requirements of hosting a safe race. National Team Members will be notified if an event has been declared “historically unsafe” at the time of the annual distribution of the *Open Water National Team Quadrennial Plan*.

Lastly, athletes attending international competitions will be encouraged to arrive at the competition site a specific number of days in advance which should be reflected in your travel plans. USA Swimming recommends the following arrival dates before the start of competition:

USA/ Canada	2 days in advance
Central America	3 days in advance
Asia	4 days in advance
South America	4 days in advance
Europe	4 days in advance
Oceania	5 days in advance

Checklist for FINA World Cup 10K Competition:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm coach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase international medical insurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send copy of international medical policy/card to USA Swimming
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send entry and other event forms to USAS for endorsement stamp/signature
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase airline tickets to event