Ozark Outreach Policy

Updates

(1) In accordance with USA Swimming year-round athlete Memberships: The Ozark LSC Registration and Membership policy handles a request for reimbursement/refund for any reason for all year-round Ozark USA Swimming Memberships including year-round Ozark USA Swimming Outreach Memberships void and expired 30 days following the purchase of the membership be it paid by a USA Swimming Club and/or USA Swimming Athlete.

(2) Only year-round USA Swimming Outreach Swimmers are eligible for reduced swim meet fees.

(3) Sue Anderson @ USA Swimming 4/2/2010 discussion and explanation of the Outreach Program to give further clarification on swimmer qualifications for outreach.

(4) Meet fees paid by USA Swimming Outreach Swimmers or USA Swimmers who later become Outreach Swimmers are not refundable, i.e. surcharges, meet fees, etc.

(5) “Sample” form/questionnaire for Ozark Teams for recordkeeping purposes for their Outreach Swimmers.

Mrs. Alice Oates
Ozark Diversity/Outreach Chair
Ozark Outreach Policy & Updates approved May 14, 2011 by Ozark HOD
Ozark LSC Outreach Membership Program

Mission Statement
The goal of the Ozark Outreach Committee is to provide resources for and to promote the sport of swimming to the underserved, under-represented and economically disadvantaged youth in the Ozark Region.

“Several years ago, USA Swimming began to address the problem of the underserved (and in many cases unserved) population of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged youth in the sport of swimming at all levels. The lack of underrepresented swimmers, especially at the elite levels, was distinctly noticeable.” Taken from the USA Swimming Outreach Manual.

“At the 1999 National Convention, USA Swimming approved a new registration fee for low-income families. The purpose of this fee is to reach out to the economically disadvantaged youth throughout the county. The Outreach Membership Program reduces the fee a year-round athlete pays to National Headquarters for membership. Outreach membership offers qualified individuals the opportunity to become a USA Swimming year-round athlete member at a reduced fee. The national fee for outreach membership is $5.00 and Local Swimming Committee has the option to set a local fee that may not exceed $2.00. Ozark’s Local Swim Committee has not set a local fee at this writing (February 2011) since the inception of the USA Swimming Outreach Membership Program in 1999. This fee reduction has been effective in recruiting underserved, underrepresented and economically disadvantaged youth to USA Swimming Programs. Each LSC determines how they will qualify athletes for Outreach Membership. In accordance with USA Swimming Memberships: The Ozark LSC Registration and Membership policy handles a request for reimbursement/refund for any reason for all year-round Ozark USA Swimming Memberships including year-round Ozark USA Swimming Outreach Memberships void and expired 30 days following the purchase of the membership be it paid by a USA Swimming Club and/or USA Swimming Athlete.

USA Swimming’s goal is for each LSC to make the Outreach Membership program as easy to administer as possible and have as many athletes’ participate as possible. Each Local Swim Committee determines how they will qualify athletes for outreach membership. LSC’s may use but are not limited to national guidelines based on Federal Food Stamps, Free School Lunch and/or Federal Poverty Guidelines. USA Swimming suggests that the burden of “proof” rest with the applicant. It is not the LSC Registration Chair’s job to track down people to verify their economic status. Ozark LSC currently expects the Team and/or athlete to verify and keep a record of athlete USA Swimming outreach membership qualifications. LSC participation in the outreach membership program is not optional. The USA Swimming rulebook references in rule number 302.2 and 502.5 that it is mandated that the outreach category of athlete membership is available to all qualified athletes. So, all LSC’s are required to offer Outreach Memberships.
Ozark Outreach Committee Guidelines for USA Swimming Outreach Memberships:

At USA Swimming an ethnically under-represented population is less than 20% of the current USA Swimming membership. These populations include: African American, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Native American. Economically disadvantaged has not been defined by USA Swimming and includes all ethnicities according to Sue Anderson @ USA Swimming (April 2, 2010). Underserved and unserved includes groups with low income, vulnerable populations (which includes the upper income who are affluent and the middle income), urban and rural populations, paralympic females, individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds, populations facing barriers to participation and in chaotic circumstances “hard to reach”, i.e. family stressors, and inadequate services where an athlete has a need or suffers from the absence of something that a Team does not or is unable to offer. One trend that discourages participation of the underserved is the ethnic background of coaches, board of directors and others.

Qualifications of Swimmers:

The yearly income guidelines that are used by school district to qualify children for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program are also used to qualify Ozark Outreach swimmers. A swimmer does not have to participate in the actual lunch program to in order to qualify. These are the same guidelines that USA Swimming say LSC’s may use but are not limited to use along with economically disadvantaged, underserved, unserved and under-represented as discussed above by Sue Anderson, USA Swimming, Club Development Division, Program and Services Director.

A copy of one of the following items currently must be provided in order to show proof of need:

- Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program Verification Form
- Medicaid card
- Food Stamp Letter
- Current signed Federal Tax Return that shows that the guidelines have been met.
“Sample”
USA Swimming Outreach Membership Record Keeping Form

Athlete Signature: _______________________________ Club: __________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: _______________________________ Date: __________

Please check ALL that applies:

Race and Ethnicity:
1. ___ White
2. ___ American Indian
3. ___ Alaska Native
4. ___ Asian
5. ___ Black or African American
6. ___ Hispanic or Latino
7. ___ Native Hawaiian
8. ___ Other Pacific Islander
9. ___ Other Race

Disability:
1. ___ Legally Blind
2. ___ Visually Impaired
3. ___ Deaf/Hard of Hearing
4. ___ Physical Disability*
5. ___ Cognitive Disability**

*Physical Disability i.e. amputation, cerebral palsy, dwarfism, spinal injury, mobility impairment.
**Cognitive Disability such as Mental retardation, sever learning Disorder, autism, other:

In your Community for the Sport of Swimming are you:

1. ___ Under-represented
2. ___ Under-served
3. ___ Economically Disadvantaged
4. ___ Unemployed and/or Student
5. ___ Financially/Other Stressors:

Please give a brief description

Please indicate (provide copy to show proof)
1. ___ Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program participant
2. ___ Medicare and/or Medicaid Membership Card
3. ___ Food Stamp letter
4. ___ Utility and/or Rental Assistance letter
5. ___ Signed Federal Tax Return (shows the Current Poverty Guidelines are met)

Upon receipt of this informational form and copies if applicable, we will issue your USA Swimming Membership Card and ALL of its privileges. See usaswimming.org
We want you on our Team!

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Office Use Only:

Received by: _______________________________ Date: __________
Ozark Outreach Committee Meet Guidelines

Reduced Meet Fee Guidelines

The HOD passed the following proposal at its January 2001 meeting: Beginning with the 2001 Short Course Division I and II Championships, event entry fees will be reduced by one half by the Meet Hosting team for all Ozark sponsored meets. Ozark Outreach Funds will cover the remaining half of the cost of the event entry fees if funds are available. The parent of the Outreach swimmer will pay the meet surcharge and also cover the second half of the entry fees if the Ozark Outreach Fund is unable to cover this cost. The Ozark Outreach Fund will pay Zones, Sectionals, and All-Star Meet entry fees. The parent of the Outreach swimmer will pay the meet surcharge for these three meets. Reduced Meet Fee Guidelines only apply to year-round Outreach Swimmers. Meet fees paid by USA Swimming Outreach Swimmers or USA Swimmers who later become Outreach Swimmers are NOT refundable, i.e. surcharges, meet fees, etc.

STEPS TO APPLY FOR REDUCED MEET FEES

- The coach or designated team representative notifies the Outreach Treasurer of the number of Outreach swimmers and total events that will be swum in the meet. Names of swimmers participating will only be given to the Outreach Treasurer. The team will receive written notice when entry information is received.
- The Outreach Treasurer verifies that funds are available to cover swimmers for this meet or informs the team representative that no funds are available at the present time.
- Teams participating must have $50.00 in escrow in the Ozark Outreach Bank account to be used for repayment of missed events.

IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

- When submitting an entry, coaches should include a separate list of the number of Outreach swimmers and number of events that will be swum in the meet by these swimmers on the meet entry form. No names should be included on this tally sheet. The total cost of the entry fees for these swimmers is deducted from the team's payment for the meet. Meet surcharge fees for these swimmers are included in the team's check.
- The Outreach Treasurer submits payment to the Host Team for the Outreach swimmers entry fees.
- After the meet, the coach or designated team representative sends the Outreach Treasurer a TM report showing swimmers times and events swum at the meet. This verification report must be received 10 days after the meet. If the swimmer did not show for the meet or skipped any events, or the report is not received within 10 days, entry fees will be deducted from the team escrow account. The coach or designated team representative will receive a copy of the guidelines and qualifications.
Ozark Outreach Committee Meet Guidelines

IF NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

- If no funds are available then the team must submit payment for one half of the event fees. The discount from the meet host team is still in effect. The parent of the Outreach swimmer would be responsible for half of the entry fees.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- Raise money for meet fees for Outreach Swimmers to attend Ozark sponsored meets Offer assistance in grant writing to individuals who are attempting to raise money for their team's Outreach Program
- Encourage teams to begin and expand Outreach Programs. This should be of utmost importance in order to increase the declining Ozark Swimming base
- Develop a promotional graphic piece for Outreach to be used in conjunction with team-specific information and needs
- Look into developing a community based advisory board whose members may help in areas of fundraising, grant writing, etc.
Ozark Outreach Committee Meet Guidelines

OUTREACH REPAYMENT FOR EVENTS NOT SWUM POLICY

When an Outreach athlete competes, the cost is prepaid by the Outreach Fund to the team hosting the meet. Therefore, if a swimmer does not compete in their prepaid events, the Outreach Committee must recoup the money. It is important that Outreach Fund money be used for athletes who do swim. If an Outreach swimmer does not swim an event for any reason, the funds will be deducted from the team escrow account.

The repayment of 50% of the regular cost of the event(s) to the Outreach Fund when the Outreach swimmer skips an event (or events) will be deducted from the team escrow account:

- Due to illness
- Due to lack of attention
- Due to the fact that the swimmer did not show for the day’s events, came late or left early

TM report of times swum at a meet not received 10 days after the meet.

A. If the swimmer is entered in a limited event and does not make the cut, a 50% refund should be requested from the meet host team by the Outreach team in order for the swimmer’s team to repay the Outreach Fund. (Since the Outreach Treasurer would not know if a cut was not made in a limited event, the Outreach team itself must request the 50% refund from the host team for these events so that the fund may be repaid.) If the request for reimbursement is not done within the time limit stated in the meet information, the Outreach team repays the Outreach Fund with its own money from the escrow account.

B. If a swimmer is entered in an event in a B/C meet and then swims an "A" time in that event before the B/C meet occurs, the coach or person who entered the swimmer in the meet should notify the Meet Director and see if the swimmer can swim a different event. If a substitution cannot be made, the coach or person who enters the swimmers in meets should notify the Outreach Treasurer so that the amount of the check that will be written to the meet host team is reduced. If this notification is not done by the Tuesday before the meet, the Outreach team escrow will be used to repay the Outreach Fund for these events.

The Outreach Treasurer will notify teams when the escrow account is below $10.00. Additional money must be added before swimmers are entered in future meets. If there is no money held in escrow reimbursements will not be made.