



**To: MWS Club Registrars**

**From: Scot Sorensen, Membership/Registration Coordinator**

**Date: May 15, 2020**

**Re: Broadened Outreach Eligibility Criteria**

National Headquarters expects the number of outreach athlete memberships to increase for the 2021 membership year which begins June 1, 2020. Midwestern Swimming's sole eligibility criteria is currently the Reduced Free Lunch Program (RFLP). RFLP will not by itself encompass the anticipated increase in new and renewal athlete registrations. Home schooling, potential school closures and the economic hardships that families are currently experiencing because of the coronavirus pandemic prompts a broader scope of inclusion into this program.

A variety of entitlement programs exist that may be different barometers of need. In order to simplify and streamline the membership process, while maintaining strict confidence, the following policy has been approved by the MW BOD.

***The criteria for outreach eligibility shall be that the athlete/family meets ONE of the following requirements:***

- Proof of acceptance into the Free/Reduced Lunch Program - Verification Letter from a school administrator*
- Proof of acceptance into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – A front copy of the Nebraska or Iowa Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card*
- Medicaid participation – A copy of the parent or guardian Medicaid card*

*The burden of proof rests with the applicant, and proof of eligibility needs to be resubmitted each year at registration for the athlete to continue in the Midwestern Swimming Outreach program.*

Additionally:

- Modifications have not been made to the Outreach registration fee of \$5.00 and the Midwestern Swimming meet entry reimbursement program.
- This policy will become effective at the start of the 2021 membership year, **June 1, 2020**.
- Outreach membership information shall continue to be kept confidential at all times.
- The 2021 Registration P&P Manual has been updated with this policy change and will be posted on the MW registration website.