



One Olympic Plaza  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80909-5770  
o 719.866.4578  
f 719.866.4669  
usaswimming.org

**\*\*\*MEMORANDUM\*\*\***

**TO:** "Open Border" Policy Countries  
USA Swimming Local Swimming Committees

**FROM:** Dan McAllen  
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

**SUBJECT:** Deck Access at USA Swimming Sanctioned Meets

**DATE:** January 9, 2014

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There have been a number of recent cases involving deck access for international coaches at USA Swimming-sanctioned competitions. In these instances, the international coaches were attending the meet exclusively to supervise and coach USA Swimming athlete members. Deck access has been granted to these coaches as long as they were able to present a valid coach membership card from their home country.

USA Swimming has carefully reviewed the rules related to this and determined that this practice violates its Rules and Regulations. The pertinent part of Rule 202.3.2 reads:

*"At a sanctioned competitive event, USA Swimming athlete members must be under the supervision of a USA Swimming member coach during warm-up, competition, and warm-down. Swimmers participating under the provisions of 202.6 or USA Swimming's "open border" policy must be under the supervision of their own coach or a USA Swimming member coach."*

The key aspect here is that the second sentence of this rule does not apply as this pertains solely to athletes who are not members of USA Swimming.

For this reason, effective April 1, 2014, any international coach who attends a USA Swimming sanctioned meet for the purpose of serving as the primary supervisor and coach of USA Swimming athletes must be a USA Swimming coach member in good standing and present their coach membership card to meet personnel when requested. For any USA Swimming sanctioned meet occurring between now and April 1, 2014, the practice of allowing deck access to international coaches will be permitted, provided they show a valid coach membership card from their home country.

Please note that the requirement to become a USA Swimming coach member applies only if the coach is supervising and coaching USA Swimming registered athletes. According to the "open border" policy, if the athletes are representing their home

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country or their home club, the coach would only have to show coach membership from their home country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc: Cathy Durance  
Pam Lowenthal  
Mike Unger