

OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP

OKLAHOMA SWIMMING, INC.

USA Swimming offers a reduced registration fee for athletes from low-income families. The purpose of this program is to provide competitive swimming opportunities to the underrepresented and economically disadvantaged youth in the United States. The Outreach Program reduces the annual membership fee an athlete pays to USA Swimming from *(the most current annual registration fee)* to \$5.00. In addition, Oklahoma Swimming will waive its annual athlete fee of \$5.00. Application for assistance is an annual application which must be renewed each calendar year.

Each LSC determines how it will qualify athletes for Outreach Membership. Oklahoma Swimming will accept proof of qualification **one** of the following:

- *Copy of the letter issued to a child for reduced/free lunch program; or*
- *Copy of proof of reported family income (copy of 1040 income tax form, or paycheck stub and 1040 income tax form if income decreased during current year); or*
- *Copy of the approved application for some other assistance program.*
- *Copy of statement indicating disability assistance*
- *Copy of assistance through government assisted healthcare*
- *Explanation of special circumstances*

Outreach Mission: USA Swimming is committed to increasing multicultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity at all levels of the sport to achieve and foster an inclusive swimming environment.

Outreach Vision: As the national governing body for competitive swimming in the United states, USA-Swimming has a vision to create and maintain an environment that is free from participation barriers for persons from all cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Diversity and inclusion are valuable components that will benefit the organization at all levels. Embracing the strengths and beauty of diversity enhances the mission of USA-Swimming and Oklahoma Swimming, which is to build the base, promote the sport and achieve competitive success.

To reduce potential problems associated with qualifying for scholarships, Oklahoma Swimming recommends that each club certify its own applying athletes and forward the correct documentation and USA Swimming registration form to the Oklahoma Swimming Registrar.

Many Clubs likely have some type of scholarship/reduced fee program already. This Outreach Program is intended to augment such Club programs. While applicants are ultimately responsible, OKS assumes that the host club will be notified of the need by the athlete and/ or parents. The club then indicates those athletes who have been identified as Outreach eligible in the registration process and remits the (\$ Current Membership Fee). The athlete must be indicated in the registration file as “year round”.

Procedures for applying for Outreach Membership

1. The parent of the athlete needs to completely fill out the annual USA Swimming athlete application.
2. The parent returns the application, the \$5 fee, and proof of qualification to the Club's Registration Chair who will mail it with other Club registrations.
3. The Oklahoma Swimming Registrar will return membership cards to the Club Registrar.

Every effort will be made to keep outreach membership confidential.

Oklahoma Swimming, Inc.

ATHLETE "OUTREACH" VERIFICATION

The Oklahoma Swimming / USA Swimming Athlete "Outreach" Registration is a Scholarship program for athletes whose family are currently in need of financial aid from their swimming Club to participate.

The Oklahoma Swimming "Outreach" Registration, an annual reduced registration fee for USA Swimming membership, and with the athletes club giving a reduced monthly club fee, will aid the athlete financially to continue their swimming program.

CLUB: _____ Club Code: _____

Athletes Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parents or Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

School Attending: _____ Public: _____ Private: _____

Type of verification form attached: _____

OR Other Information: _____

Parents or Guardians Signature

Club Coach Signature