

Swimming and Your Taxes

Thanks to the Aquadarts swim team for the information below. They've attempted to answer some common questions. The answers are NOT to be taken as tax advice and you should check with your tax professional for guidelines specific to your situation. The document has been modified for HSA.

1. Is Heartland Swimming Association a non-profit? Yes, HSA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.
2. Are my fees tax deductible? No, your fees paid for your swimmers to take part in our programs are not tax deductible.
3. What about my child care/educational expense deduction? No, fees cannot be submitted as an educational expense or a childcare cost.
4. Aquafest: Yes, Aquafest is a contribution made to the program that you should be able to deduct. You can only deduct what you personally paid – not what you got friends/family to donate.
5. Can I get a statement of my payments? No, we don't have the ability to provide individual swimmer statements for tax purposes. You can use your cancelled checks as support for your donations.
6. What about parent participation? There are some elements of volunteer work which can be deducted. For instance, if you work as an official at a swim meet you can deduct the mileage to/from the meet and any associated costs (parking, etc). You must maintain a written record of the event(s) worked. The hours worked (or driven, for that matter) do not provide a donation. Certain other out of pocket expenses can also be deducted. If you are reimbursed for any of these expenses you need to report the reimbursement as well. Volunteers may deduct the cost of phone calls, postage stamps, stationery, computer paper, and other out-of-pocket costs incurred with their volunteer work. For volunteers who are required to wear a uniform, the cost of buying and cleaning is deductible if the uniform is unsuitable for normal wear.
7. What if I donate money towards a scholarship or the team? Yes, outright donations to the team can be deducted. It's a great way to help the program and helps keep costs down for the swimmers.

Again, please check with your tax professional for guidelines specific to your situation.