

Outreach Membership Criteria

Accessibility, Affordability

Age: Outreach membership should be available to athletes of all ages.

Eligibility: Families qualify by being eligible for the following programs - not that the family proves they are enrolled in the program. For example, families who home school their children or their children attend private schools or even public schools not enrolled in the Federal free or reduced hot lunch program cannot qualify for outreach membership if they must show proof that the children are enrolled in the Federal free and reduced hot lunch program.

Eligible Programs:

- Federal free and reduced hot lunch program
- SNAP (food stamps)
- WIC -- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- FDPIR -- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- TANF -- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program
- Participation in Head Start
- Foster children
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant.
- Household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- Section 8 low income housing
- Medicaid and other low income needs based health insurance programs including CHIP (children's health insurance program).
- Medicare -- especially for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- SSDI -- Social Security Disability Insurance
- SSI -- Supplemental Security Income
- LIEAP -- Low Income Energy Assistance Program
- JOBS -- Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (job training)
- Member of a club on a reduced or free scholarship
- Similar needs based programs
- Disability -- allow all athletes who are disabled under USA Swimming definitions to qualify for an outreach membership.
- Consider YMCA/YMCA or Parks & Rec low income memberships. If athletes qualify for these memberships, have the applicant submit the income standards for the membership for consideration.
- For cases not falling under these guidelines, the LSC should have an appeals process in place such as appealing to the Outreach Chair or the General Chair.

Documentation:

Submit proof of qualifying for the program OR submit proof the family is eligible for the program such as submitting a copy of the tax return or other documents need to show eligibility for the program.

Submitting Documentation:

- Clubs submit application and copies of documentation to the LSC membership and registration chair.
- Clubs verify documentation and submit a letter or form to the LSC membership and registration chair stating the documentation submitted, documentation was verified by the club, and confirm the athlete qualifies for an outreach membership.
- Many families are ashamed of their financial status and are reluctant to come forward asking for assistance. Families are much more likely to do so if the proof of outreach membership is handled by the club.
- Privacy issues are also a concern. Families are concerned medical insurance information or Social Security numbers or other private information may be made inadvertently available to others. Families felt if the information was given only to the club and the club had strict policies safe guarding privacy, this would be more acceptable than providing the information to the club and the LSC.
- Outreach membership information should remain confidential which includes outreach meet fee waivers and other information.