

Foreign Athlete Table of Contents

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All forms in this section should be faxed, mailed or emailed to:
USA Swimming
ATTN: Denise Thomas
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5770
(E) denise.thomas@usaswimming.org
(F) 719-866-4050

You will find FINA rules and the addresses and phone numbers of national federations on FINA's website at www.fina.org.

Foreign Federation Athlete Member Joining USA Swimming

A member of any FINA Federation who applies for athlete membership in USA Swimming must complete the **Notification of Membership in USA Swimming** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair. The athlete must provide official documentation from that federation confirming his/her last day of competition for an organization within that Federation.

Reference: USA Swimming Rules 203.9.2 and 203.4

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide the athlete with the Notification of Membership in USA Swimming form.
2. Process the athlete as unattached until you receive confirmation from the federation as to the last date of competition in the federation. **It is the athlete's responsibility to get written confirmation from the federation.** USA Swimming's rulebook states:

203.9.2 A swimmer who has competed for an organization within a foreign federation must provide official documentation from that federation confirming his/her last day representing that organization in competition. One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after a swimmer represents any organization before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club. If documentation is not provided at the time of registration, the one hundred and twenty (120) days will commence from the date of registration. Foreign swimmers who are competing for a secondary school, college or university shall be automatically released, in accordance with 203.4.

3. Sign the completed Notification of Membership in USA Swimming form and submit it to National Headquarters.
4. Keep a copy of the form and all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the LSC Registration Chair.

Notification of Membership in USA Swimming

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

USA Residence _____
Street Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

I am a citizen of _____

I am now or have been a member of the following FINA Federation _____

The date of my last competition as a member of that Federation was *(athlete must provide written confirmation from the federation as to the last date of competition in the federation)*:

Club Competition Date: _____

National/International Competition Date: _____

I make application for status as (circle one): Attached Unattached

in _____
Local Swimming Committee

If attached, give name of USA Swimming Member Club: _____

Athlete or Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Registration Date _____

ID # _____

Submit form and written confirmation from federation to LSC Registration Chair.

LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair – sign form and fax, mail or scan and email to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation

An athlete member of USA Swimming who applies for membership in any other FINA Federation must complete the **Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair. Upon return to the United States, the athlete must provide written documentation from the Federation confirming his/her last day of competition representing a foreign club.

Reference: USA Swimming Rules 203.9.2 and 203.4

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide the Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation form to the athlete when requested.
2. Sign the completed Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation form and submit it to National Headquarters.
3. Keep a copy of the form and all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the LSC Registration Chair.

When the athlete returns to the United States, the 120-day rule will be in effect if the athlete has represented a foreign club at a meet. The athlete must provide written documentation from the federation confirming his/her last day representing the club at a meet. USA Swimming's rulebook states:

203.9.2 A swimmer who has competed for an organization within a foreign federation must provide official documentation from that federation confirming his/her last day representing that organization in competition. One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after a swimmer represents any organization before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club. If documentation is not provided at the time of registration, the one hundred and twenty (120) days will commence from the date of registration. Foreign swimmers who are competing for a secondary school, college or university shall be automatically released, in accordance with 203.4.

USA Swimming

Release for USA Swimming Athlete Joining a Foreign Federation

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

USA Residence _____
Street Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ ID # _____

USA Swimming Club affiliation _____

Local Swimming Committee _____

Last date representing USA Swimming Club in USA Swimming competition _____

I request a written release from USA Swimming in order to join the Swimming Federation of

Country

Athlete or Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*When the athlete returns to the United States, the 120-day rule will be in effect if the athlete has represented a foreign club at a meet. **The athlete must provide written documentation from the federation confirming his/her last day representing the club at a meet.** One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after an athlete represents a foreign club before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club at a meet. Athletes who are competing for a secondary school, college or university will be automatically released. See Article 203.9.2 in USA Swimming's rulebook.*

Submit form to LSC Registration Chair.

LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair – sign form and fax, mail or scan and email to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

USA Swimming Representative Signature Date

Foreign Travel by USA Swimming Members

To ensure compliance with FINA GR 3.1 and GR 3.2, clubs and athletes wishing to compete abroad in countries (other than those with which USA Swimming has an “open border” policy) must complete the **Foreign Travel Permit Request** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair.

- GR 3.1 A competitor competing at a competition in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated thereto. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.
- GR 3.2 All competitions must have received sanction by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Clubs and athletes wishing to compete abroad must complete the **Foreign Travel Permit Request** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair.
2. The LSC Registration Chair checks the form to see that all the athletes and clubs on the form are current members of the LSC/USA Swimming.
3. The LSC Registration Chair signs the form in the appropriate place and submits it **along with the foreign federation invitation and the meet information** to National Headquarters. (The foreign federation invitation and meet information are very important and will require follow-up from USA Swimming Member Services if it is not received with the form.)
4. Keep a copy of the form and all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the LSC Registration Chair.

USA Swimming has an "open border" policy with Puerto Rico, Canada, Bermuda and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Travel documents are not necessary for their athletes or clubs traveling to the United States and are not necessary for USA Swimming's athletes traveling to these countries.

USA Swimming Foreign Travel Permit Request

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

The athletes, judges, officials, trainers, and coaches listed on the attached or below, is/are registered members of their Local Swimming Committee and USA Swimming.

Local Swimming Committee _____

Participants _____

Note: In accordance with FINA rule GR 2.4, no U.S. athlete can be designated a member of the "USA Swimming Team" unless selected as such by USA Swimming.

They/he/she plan to participate in sanctioned competition in

Country to be visited _____ Dates _____

Name of meet _____ Location _____

Meet Dates _____

All competitions must be sanctioned by the FINA Federation where the competition takes place.
This request must be accompanied by an invitation from the foreign federation and complete meet information.

Group Leader _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Submit form with copy of foreign federation invitation and complete meet information to LSC Registration Chair.

LSC Registration Chair Signature _____ Date

LSC Registration Chair: After confirming all participants are current members, sign form and fax, mail or scan and email form, invitation from the foreign federation and meet information to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

USA Swimming Representative Signature _____ Date

Inviting Foreign Athletes/Teams

LSCs or clubs wishing to invite FINA Federation members (other than those with which USA Swimming has an "open border" policy) to participate in a competition must complete **the USA Swimming Invitation to Foreign Athletes/Teams** form and submit it to the LSC Registration Chair. The formal invitation to participate must be issued by USA Swimming to ensure compliance with FINA GR3.1 and 3.2.

- GR 3.1 A competitor competing at a competition in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated thereto. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.
- GR 3.2 All competitions must have received sanction by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.

Steps for the LSC Registration Chair to follow:

1. Provide the **Invitation to Foreign Athletes/Teams** form to the person who wishes to invite a foreign team or members of a foreign team to participate in a meet within your LSC.
2. The completed form must be submitted to the LSC Registration Chair along with the meet information. **It is the responsibility of the LSC to verify through SWIMS that foreign coaches accompanying the foreign athletes/teams are not banned from USA Swimming.** The LSC Registration Chair signs the form and submits it and the meet information to National Headquarters. (The meet information is very important and will require follow-up from USA Swimming Member Services if it is not received with the form.)
3. Keep a copy of the form and all related correspondence you receive regarding this specific athlete.

After USA Swimming Member Services receives the form and processes it, the foreign federation will be notified. All related correspondence will be copied to the host club and the LSC Registration Chair.

USA Swimming has an "open border" policy with Puerto Rico, Canada, Bermuda and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Travel documents are not necessary for their athletes or clubs traveling to the United States and are not necessary for USA Swimming's athletes traveling to these countries.

USA Swimming Invitation to Foreign Athletes/Teams

(Please print clearly and provide all requested information.)

USA Swimming, on behalf of _____
USA Swimming Member Club

and _____
Local Swimming Committee

invites the following athletes/teams to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned competition.

Names of athletes/teams to be invited _____

Names of foreign coaches accompanying athletes (**must be provided**) _____

from _____
Name of Country

for _____
Name of Event

at _____
Location

on _____
Dates

USA Swimming Club Contact _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Submit with copy of complete meet information to LSC Registration Chair.

LSC Registration Chair Signature Date

LSC Registration Chair – sign form and fax, mail or scan and email form and meet information to National Headquarters.

Valid only when endorsed by official representative of USA Swimming.

USA Swimming Representative Signature Date
Revised 2/2016 8F

Foreign Athletes Who Train with USA Swimming Clubs

When an athlete member of a FINA Federation wishes to come to the United States and train with a USA Swimming club, the foreign athlete does not have to become a USA Swimming member if the athlete will be training with the club for **less than 30 days**. USA Swimming's insurance will provide liability coverage for the athlete, the USA Swimming club and coach during this 30 day period. The Mutual of Omaha Excess Accident Medical policy will provide coverage while the athlete is training or competing in USA Swimming sanctioned meets.

If the athlete will be in the United States more than 30 days training with a USA Swimming club and competing in USA Swimming meets, he/she must become a USA Swimming member.

United States Citizens Residing Outside of the United States

Upon request to National Headquarters, USA Swimming will register athletes and non-athletes living outside the specified LSC boundaries provided the individual is a citizen of the United States.

USA Swimming wants to be responsive to athletes and non-athletes who are United States citizens and who happen to reside outside the United States. Often those athletes make special trips to the United States to participate in USA Swimming meets and would like their times to be counted for Top Times purposes, Age Group Records, etc. However, there is a major concern about insurance and coverage in those situations we cannot adequately monitor. The following is in effect:

- When a request is made, USA Swimming will register athletes and non-athletes living outside the specified Local Swimming Committee (LSC) boundaries if the individual is a United States citizen. Registration will be done through National Headquarters, Member Services Department. USA Swimming insurance coverage for registered athletes and non-athletes will be in effect only when the individual is participating in practices, meets or other USA Swimming activities within the LSC boundaries. USA Swimming insurance coverage will not apply outside the LSC boundaries.
- If FINA (the international federation for aquatic sports) has recognized a territory, federation or possession (i.e. Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands) as having a separate governing body, then USA Swimming does not have jurisdiction and cannot register swim clubs in the area.

Representation

**By Carol Zaleski, Chairman
FINA Technical Swimming Committee**

USA Swimming National Headquarters receives many inquiries about "foreign athletes" and the representation rules.

It is important to distinguish between FINA (the international aquatic federation) rules and USA Swimming rules. Let us deal with the FINA representation rules first:

FINA Rules:

Club Representation

According to FINA, an athlete may join as many clubs within the same country as he wishes but can only represent one at a time. Each federation, however, may have more restrictive rules relative to representation.

An athlete who temporarily or permanently moves to a new country may join a federation club in that country.

International Representation

The rules regulating international representation and competition are, as you would expect, somewhat different. To compete representing a country or sport country, the athlete must be selected by the national federation belonging to FINA.

What is a "sport country?" As defined by FINA, sport country means a geographical territory or region which, though not recognized as a country, has certain aspects of self-government at least to the extent in being autonomous in the control of its sports, and is recognized as such by FINA. For example, Puerto Rico is a sport country.

To represent a country, the athlete must be a citizen of that country. In the case of a naturalized citizen, the athlete must have established a residence in that country for one year.

Athletes who have two nationalities, according to the laws of the two countries, may choose a "sport nationality." They do so by representing the chosen country (competition representing a country, not a club). Once having chosen a sport nationality and competed representing a country, the athlete must wait 12 months before being able to represent a new country. The athlete who wishes to represent any new country must notify the federations involved, establish residence in the new country and wait 12 months.

USA Swimming Rules:

All of the above is different and distinct from the USA Swimming rules — rule 203.3, "For a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must have elapsed without the swimmer having represented any other USA Swimming club in USA Swimming competition...." — rule 203.9.2, "....One hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must elapse after a swimmer represents any organization before he/she can represent a USA Swimming club."

The FINA rules must be considered in those sections that refer to "foreign swimmers." The USA Swimming glossary defines foreign swimmer as, "an athlete member of a FINA member-country federation, other than USA Swimming, or an athlete member of USA Swimming who is not eligible to represent the United States in international competition due to FINA sports citizenship requirements."