



## USA Swimming National Open Water Select Camp

### **Description and Purpose:**

USA Swimming annually sponsors a National Open Water Select Camp. USA Swimming seeks to identify the best distance swimmers, offering them a unique motivational and educational experience. The National Open Water Camp is viewed as an integral step for athletes to move from the pool to Open Water, then on to the international scene.

### **Eligibility:**

12 male and 12 female athletes will be selected off of the top times in the Swims database in the 1500 meter freestyle.

### **Other criteria:**

- ◆ Only Long Course times will be considered.
- ◆ Times must be achieved between January 1, 2007 and the 2008 Missouri Grand Prix Meet (2/15/2008).
- ◆ Athlete must be registered with USA Swimming.
- ◆ All athletes must be US citizens and eligible to represent the US in international competition.
- ◆ Athletes who have ever attended a National Open Water Select Camp or been a member of any USA Swimming National Open Water Team are not eligible for Camp. Athletes can attend one National Open Water Select Camp. An athlete who turns down the opportunity would be eligible the following year if he/she still meets the time criteria. An athlete who accepts the invitation and does not attend is not eligible the following year unless an alternate was able to attend in his/her place.

### **Home Coaches**

The coach of a selected athlete is invited and strongly encouraged to attend the National Open Water Select Camp. A separate educational track, conducted by the Open Water National Team and staff, has been developed for the home coaches. This focuses on strategies to develop both your elite level athlete and the other athletes in your program.

### **Location:**

The camp location will be solicited and selected by USA Swimming. First preference will be college campuses that can provide on campus housing and dining accommodations. Private sites will be considered if college sites cannot be secured.

### **Dates:**

The preferred date for the camps is around the Open Water Nationals.

**Costs:**

All athlete expenses at the camps will be covered by USA Swimming. Home coaches will be reimbursed up to \$200.00 for travel to the camp. Once on site all housing, meals and ground transportation will be covered by USA Swimming.

**Staff:**

A USA Swimming committee composing of the National Team Director, Open Water staff liaison and a small task force appointed by the staff liaison will select a Head Coach for each camp. Potential assistant coaches must complete an application. A committee composed of the National Team Director, Head Coach for the camp and the Open Water staff liaison in consultation with the Sport Development Consultants will select the three assistants. At least one male and one female assistant must be on the staff. In addition, one National Open Water Team athlete will attend the camp and at least one member of the USA Swimming National Headquarters staff will attend to assist with educational sessions.

**Gear and Materials:**

USA Swimming will provide each athlete and staff member with appropriate gear, equipment and educational materials.

**Camp Schedule:**

Camp will include salt water training, fresh water training, pool training, classroom sessions, filming and team building activities. Athletes are required to stay the entire time and must stay onsite in the accommodations provided by the host.

**Notification:**

Personal coaches will be notified and have "right of refusal" for their athletes. In the case of a refusal, either by a coach or athlete, the next eligible athlete will be invited until all slots are filled in each camp.

**Additional Information:**

Check the USA Swimming website in the Camps and Clinics section for additional details.