



USA Swimming National Open Water Select Camps

Description and Purpose:

In June of 2009, USA Swimming will sponsor The 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 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, 2008 and December 1, 2008.
- ◆ Athlete must be registered with USA Swimming.
- ◆ All athletes must be US citizens.
- ◆ 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 in Ft. Myers. An 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:

USA Swimming will select the staff for each camp. 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:

The includes long course workouts, salt water workouts and fresh water workouts in addition educational sessions. The athletes will also be entered into the National 5k event as part of the camp. They will represent their home teams. Athletes are required to stay the entire time and must stay onsite in the accommodations provided by the host.

Notification:

Selection of athletes will begin December 15. 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.