



## **USA Swimming Zone Select Camps..... New in 2005-2006**

### **Description and Purpose:**

Beginning in the spring of 2006, USA Swimming will sponsor four Zone Select Camps. These camps replace the current Regional Select and Regional Distance Camps. USA Swimming seeks to identify the emerging young athletes in each Zone, offering them a unique motivational and educational experience. The Zone Select Camps are viewed as an integral step for athletes to move from the local and Zone level onto to the national scene.

### **Eligibility:**

28 male and 28 female athletes will be selected in each of the four Zones. Selected girls must be age 12-13 at the time of selection. Selected boys must be age 13-14 at the time of selection. Age at time of performance (May-August) determines eligibility. The fastest swimmer in each Zone in each Olympic event (excluding the 50 free, including the 800 and 1500 for both sexes) will be invited for a total of 13 male and 13 female athletes. An additional 15 athletes of each sex will be selected based on IMX point scores according to the following:

- ◆ 8 girls age 12 and 8 boys age 13
- ◆ 7 girls age 13 and 7 boys age 14

USA Swimming seeks to identify the fastest swimmer in each event in each Zone. USA Swimming also seeks to identify athletes who successfully compete in a full menu of events. Athlete selected based on IMX scores will be those not already selected for an individual event.

### **Other criteria:**

- ◆ Long course times only will be considered.
- ◆ Times must be achieved between May 1 and August 31.
- ◆ Athlete must be registered in an LSC within the Zone at the time of the qualifying swim.
- ◆ All athletes must be US citizens.
- ◆ Athletes who qualify for or are selected to National Select Camp, National Junior Team or any USA Swimming National Team are not eligible for Zone Select Camps. Athletes who have ever attended a National Select Camp or been a member of any USA Swimming National Team are not eligible for Zone Select Camps. Athletes can attend one Zone Select Camp. An athlete who turns down the opportunity would be eligible the following year if he/she still meets the age 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.

**Location:**

Four sites, one per Zone, 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 Memorial Day weekend. Facility availability may dictate that the camps be held the weekend immediately before or after Memorial Day weekend. A Memorial Day weekend camp will begin on Friday PM and end midday on Monday. Without the use of a holiday weekend, the camp would begin on Thursday PM and end midday on Sunday.

**Costs:**

All athlete expenses at the camps will be covered by USA Swimming. Athletes will be responsible for their own transportation arrangements and expenses. Some LSCs aware of this new program have expressed interest in assisting athletes with travel expenses.

**Staff:**

USA Swimming will select a head coach for each camp. Assistants and managers will be selected from the LSCs within each Zone on a rotating basis. Each camp will have four assistant coaches and two managers. In addition, one male and one female National Junior Team athlete will attend each camp. Two members of the USA Swimming National Headquarters staff will attend each camp to conduct educational sessions.

**Gear and Materials:**

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

**Camp Schedule:**

Camps will include six long course workouts, four educational sessions and recreational activities. Athletes are required to stay the entire time and must stay onsite in the accommodations provided by the host.

**Notification:**

Selection of athletes will take place no later than October 30. Personal coaches will be notified and have "right of refusal" for their athletes. Athletes will then be notified of selection and will be given a reasonable amount of time to accept or decline the invitation. 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.