COACHING CONNECTION



Connect With Team Services

Team Services is meeting clubs and coaches across the country. Take advantage of the opportunity and reach out to say hello while they are in your area. Check dates and locations below.

Beth Winkowski, Lead Senior Team Services Advisor:

- November 16-20 | Middle Atlantic Club Visits
- December 2-5 | PVS Club Visits/Meet
- December 9-11 | Juniors East @ Indianapolis, IN





Jamie Bloom, Team Services Advisor:

- November 16-18 | NC Club Visits
- November 19-22 | Women's Leadership Conference @ Black Forest, CO
- December 9-11 | Speedo Juniors East @ Indianapolis, IN



Mark Hesse, Senior Team Services Advisor:

- December 10-12 | Speedo Juniors West @ Austin, TX
- December 13-18 | Minnesota Club Visits



Jay Chambers, Senior Team Services Advisor:

- December 9-11 | Speedo Juniors East @ Indianapolis, IN



Mike Novell, Senior Team Services Advisor:



Terry Jones, Senior Team Services Advisor:

November 17-28 | HQ for Block Party Discussions
- December 10-12 | Speedo Juniors West, Austin, TX
- December 14-18 | Arizona Club Visits

November 18-22 | Wyoming Club Visit/Meet
December 2-6 | Utah LSC Championship Ceet
December 10-12 | Speedo Juniors West , Austin, TX/Club Visits

Please Update Your Team's Coaches, Staff, and Board Members

This is the time of year when clubs and Local Swimming Committee's (LSCs) elect new board members and onboard new staff. Teams must take the time to update their coaches and staff (including Board of Directors) on their Club Detail page in SWIMS. Anyone with Club Administrator access can assign club roles and add new non-athlete members to your team. Go to your club page after logging into SWIMS, click on the "Team Management" tab, click on the "Staff" bubble, and then "Add Staff."

We would like to remind you that ALL club board members are required to be non-athlete members-in-good-standing of USA Swimming. Additionally, it is critical for the success of the club for all new members to engage in onboarding and/or orientations to the team. For Board members, the USA Swimming Club Leadership and Business Manage School 101 course provides information and resources to support club leadership with business and governance side of running a club. Club leaders will be prompted throughout the course to reflect on how their club operates, assess where they can improve, and determine what resources will help them build a successful club.

Club leaders will learn the importance of seeing their club as a business and not just a swimming team, building a solid foundation for long-term success, and items specific to their club model that need to be considered. The course is free and takes 75-90 minutes to complete. There are separate courses for Coach-Owned, Institution-Owned, and Non-Profit Owned Clubs. **For more information, log in to your SWIMS account, click on the Education tab, and search CLBMS.**

USA SWIMMING UNIVERSITY

Virtual Opportunities Supported by USA Swimming University

- Three new coaching mini courses are launching on November 17: Season Planning for Developmental Programs, Marketing Your Club Locally, and Unpacking Why Clubs Fail. Find these and all coaching mini courses in the University.
- Did you know that USA Swimming University offers a Head Coach Certification? It is comprised of 29 micro-courses. Completing any 17 of the 29 earns you a Bronze Head Coach Certification. Browse the courses in the University.

USA Swimming Recognizes 2026-27 Club Excellence Recipients

USA Swimming has named the top 200-clubs in the 2026-27 Club Excellence program, which recognizes the clubs doing the best job developing athletes 18 and under. This year, 21 clubs earned Gold, 79 earned Silver, and 100 earned Bronze.

Nation's Capital Swim Club moved up from sixth last year to take the top spot with 75,451 points, earning Gold status for the 24th time.

Top five clubs:
1. Nation's Capital Swim Club – 75,451
2. Pleasanton Seahawks – 60,051
3. Long Island Aquatic Club – 54,784
4. Carmel Swim Club – 51,668
5. SwimMAC Carolina – 49,128

CSP Tideriders and Laker Swim earned Gold for the first time, and 18 clubs earned Club Excellence status for the first time. Eleven clubs were also named Podium Clubs for earning Gold four years in a row.

See the full list of recipients



USA Swimming, USPOC Announce the Launch of USA Para Swimming

USA Swimming and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee announced today that U.S. Paralympics Swimming will join USA Swimming as USA Para Swimming, effective January 1, 2027. Olympic and Paralympic swimming will now be under one National Governing Body.

USA Swimming will put money into the program right away: higher athlete stipends, more staff and high-performance resources, and expanded promotion heading into LA28. The USOPC will remain a partner, and current competition schedules and training plans are not expected to change.

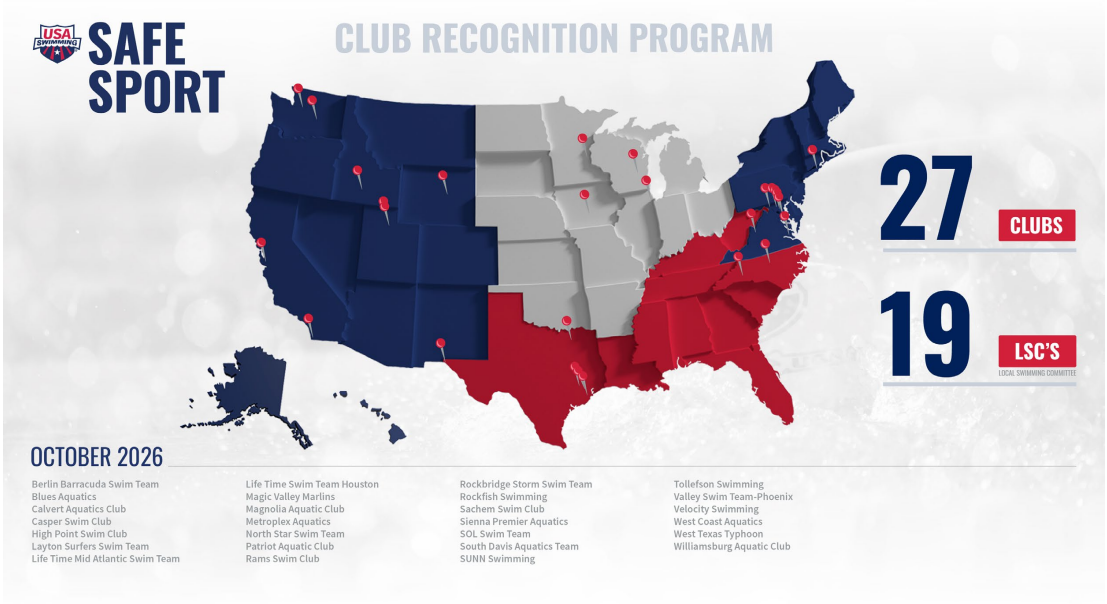
Team USA is the most decorated nation in Paralympic swimming history, with 754 medals since 1960, including 30 at Paris 2024.

Read the full announcement here.



Safe Sport Club Recognition - October 2026

Congratulations to the 27 clubs from 19 different LSCs who were approved for Safe Sport Club Recognition in the month of September!



Bring Your Team to Toyota Nationals

June 8-12, 2027 | IU Natatorium, Indianapolis

Plan a summer team trip to the 2027 Toyota National Championships. Your athletes can watch the U.S. National Team and the country's top swimmers race up close and meet them at evening autograph sessions.

Tickets go on sale in April 2027. Hotel, group housing and team trip details are on the event page.

Plan your team's trip



Block Party: Turkey Classic and Reindeer Relays

Block Party meets are about more than rankings. They give swimmers a chance to race, support their teammates and have fun, and you can make them your own. Add 25s for newer swimmers, throw in relays, or invite a neighboring team. Your meet can be as big or as small as you'd like.

Turkey Classic (November)

- Swim all four 50s (free, back, breast and fly) at one Block Party meet in November to land on the Turkey Classic National Leaderboard.
- Each swimmer's four times are combined, and the lowest total wins, with rankings by individual age from 6 & under through 15 & over.
- The four 50s are the only requirement. Add festive decorations, silly awards or a post-meet potluck, then upload your results to SWIMS so your swimmers count.

Reindeer Relays (December)

- 'Tis the season for relays. Get the team together for a holiday meet built around whatever relays you want, and use the Block Party resources page to get your reindeer racers ready.

Sanction your Block Party meet



Club Business Network: Onboarding Parents

Parents shape an athlete's experience, and clubs that educate them on their philosophy see stronger team culture and better retention.

On Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 12:30 p.m. ET at the Club Business Network, three coaches will share

their best practices for parent meetings:

- Rob Ricconon, West Hartford Aquatic Team (CT)
- Erin Crabtree, Lawrence Swim Team (IN)
- Aleks Fansler, Zionsville Swim Club (IN)

Register here

Upcoming Events

- Women's Leadership Conference (Black Forest, CO)
  - November 20 - 22, 2026
- Toyota U.S. Open Championships (Austin, TX)
  - December 2-5, 2026 | Tickets
- Speedo Winter Junior Championships (Indianapolis, IN | Austin, TX)
  - December 9-12, 2026
- Speedo Sectionals (Walnut, CA)
  - December 18-21, 2026

View all events here.

From Our Partners



USA Swimming Fan Shop

A new way to rep USA Swimming has arrived. The limited USA Swimming x Vuori gear brings elevated everyday comfort with sweatshirts and t-shirts. Whether you're heading to practice, traveling to your next meet, or relaxing on a recovery day, these pieces are designed to fit seamlessly into your day.

Limited sweatshirts and t-shirts are available now on the USA Swimming Fan Shop while supplies last. Secure yours today!



Downy

Smell good, feel good. Just squeeze and sniff to find the scents that you love most, so you can start every day fresh with Downy Boutique Botanicals.

Click here for more info.

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Union 1

Finance a new or used vehicle with no payments for the first 90 days on eligible loans. Plus, get flexible financing with competitive rates and easily manage your loan with Digital Banking. View full details and disclosures and apply online today by clicking here.



Endless Pools

Experience swim-in-place innovation powered by Hydrodrive™ Pro Technology, trusted by elite athletes to build strength, refine technique, and train at peak performance year-round.

Visit EndlessPools.com to access exclusive USA Swimming member discounts and discover how Endless Pools can elevate the way your swimmers train, recover, and live.

Learn more about Endless Pools.



OneAmerica Financial

Prepare for tomorrow while focusing on today.

Planning for long-term care may not be top of mind today, but preparing for the future can make a meaningful difference tomorrow. At OneAmerica Financial, our long-term care strategies can help bring peace of mind by offering protection for the people and moments that matter most. With trusted guidance, you can move forward with greater confidence and one less thing to worry about.

To learn more, click here.

NCSA College Recruiting Workshop

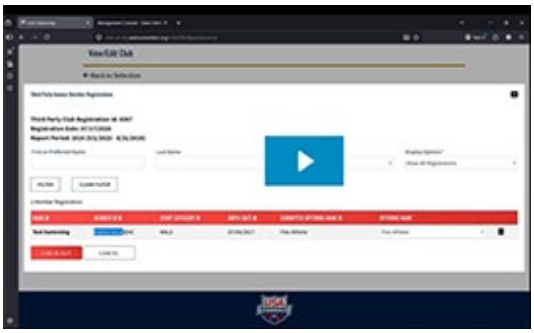
Paying for college doesn't have to be overwhelming. Join NCSA's Paul Putnam, a former collegiate athlete and Senior Director of Recruiting Education, to learn how athletic and academic scholarships work together, explore grants and financial aid options, and



understand eligibility requirements.

You'll walk away with practical strategies to help you and your family navigate the process with confidence and make the most of your opportunities to fund a college education.

Join the workshop on Zoom!



See How USA Swimming Registration Works in SportsEngine Motion

This short video walkthrough shows coaches and club administrators how to manage USA Swimming registration batches efficiently in SportsEngine Motion. From setup and athlete status review to batch submission and final confirmation, the video highlights how the process works across SportsEngine Motion and USA Swimming systems. Watch the full video here.



Bag Tags

Durable, personalized, and professional - the perfect way to showcase your swimmers and keep every meet organized. Learn more, customize, and purchase here.



Mack's Ear Plugs

Keep water out of your ears and help prevent swimmer's ear infections with Mack's® Earplugs, USA's #1-selling and #1 Doctor-Recommended earplug brand. Get off the bench and back into the water with Mack's® waterproof swimming earplugs. When it comes to ear health, trust Mack's®, the brand ear doctors trust. Mack's® is the Official Ear Care Supplier

of USA Swimming.

Find out more here.

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