



2018 CLUB EXCELLENCE PROGRAM INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

Following are the club eligibility, athlete eligibility, time standard and performance requirements for the 2018 Club Excellence program.

Club Scoring and Eligibility

- A. **Recognition Levels** - Clubs may qualify for one of four levels of recognition:
1. **Gold:** The top 20 point-scoring clubs. At least one 18 & Under athlete from the club must achieve a Gold time standard.
 2. **Silver:** Clubs not achieving Gold status through #100. At least one 18 & Under athlete must achieve the Silver time standard.
 3. **Bronze:** Clubs ranked #101 through #200 and/or not achieving Gold or Silver status. At least one 18 & Under athlete must achieve the Bronze time standard.
 4. **Podium Club:** Effective in 2016, any club achieving the Gold Medal level for a 4th consecutive year will earn additional recognition by being named to the Podium Club.
- B. **Performance Scoring** - Every club that submits an application will be ranked according to the Performance Scoring component of the program. Scoring is based on the FINA Points Table, a power point rating system that assigns point values to swimming performances. In order to be eligible to score points, athletes must achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze standard as shown in the chart on page 2. **Points for Gold swims will be multiplied by a factor of 2.0; points for Silver level swims will be increased by a factor of 1.5.** All performances must be long course meters; no conversions accepted.
- C. **Medal Status** – Medal recognition and status is for one year only, through 12/31/2018. See “Rules for Promoting Club Excellence Achievements” on page 3.
- D. All clubs applying for the 2018 Club Excellence program must have successfully completed at least Level 1 of the Club Recognition Program.

Athlete Eligibility Requirements

- A. **USA-S Member** – Athletes must be members of USA Swimming at the time of all performances submitted for point scoring consideration.
- B. **Age 18 & Under** - Athletes must be age 18 & Under at the time of the performance(s) submitted for consideration. Performances by true high school seniors who turn age 19 prior to August 31, 2017 will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- C. **US Citizen** - Athletes must be U.S. citizens who are eligible to represent the USA in international competition.
- D. **Representation Provision** - The USA Swimming 120 day eligibility requirement applies. If the athlete legally represented a team in competition, the athlete’s time can be submitted by that club. Any time swum while an athlete was unattached may not be used.
- E. **Limited Eligibility for College Athletes** – An athlete is not eligible if he/she trained or competed with a collegiate program (NCAA, NJCAA or NAIA) prior to August 31, 2017. Performances from athletes who have not begun their freshman year in college are eligible (i.e. any HS Seniors who graduated from HS in May/June 2017, and started college in August/September 2017) are eligible to represent their clubs in the Club Excellence program.
- F. **Pool Performance Eligibility Time Standards** – All clubs applying for the Club Excellence program must have at least one 18 & Under athlete who achieves the time standard for one of

the three levels: Gold, Silver or Bronze. All performances must be achieved from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017 and must be verifiable with the USA Swimming times database.

Time Standards for 2018 CE Program (Long Course Meters ONLY)

WOMEN			2018	MEN		
Gold	Silver	Bronze		Bronze	Silver	Gold
25.60	26.19	26.69	50 Free	24.09	23.29	22.76
55.57	56.59	57.79	100 Free	52.19	50.79	49.8
2:00.02	2:02.39	2:04.69	200 Free	1:54.69	1:51.89	1:49.47
4:13.83	4:17.99	4:22.19	400 Free	4:03.59	3:58.69	3:54.33
8:44.61	8:49.99	9:00.29	800 Free	8:24.69	8:15.49	8:12.76
16:40.04	16:52.99	17:14.29	1500 Free	16:08.09	15:49.99	15:35.98
1:01.81	1:03.39	1:04.59	100 Back	58.99	57.19	55.83
2:13.36	2:16.59	2:18.69	200 Back	2:07.39	2:03.99	2:02.03
1:09.50	1:11.59	1:13.49	100 Breast	1:06.29	1:03.89	1:02.01
2:30.32	2:34.99	2:38.69	200 Breast	2:23.69	2:18.99	2:14.88
59.95	1:01.19	1:02.59	100 Fly	56.69	54.79	53.59
2:12.87	2:15.29	2:17.39	200 Fly	2:05.49	2:02.29	2:00.38
2:15.81	2:18.69	2:21.39	200 IM	2:08.69	2:05.29	2:03.12
4:48.45	4:54.99	4:58.09	400 IM	4:33.89	4:27.99	4:24.12

- The Bronze Time Standard is equal to the 2017 LCM Speedo Junior National Standards.
- The Silver Time Standard is equal to the 2017 LCM Phillips 66 National Championships.
- The Gold Time Standard is equal to:
 - Women: 150th ranked swimmer in the world from the prior year
 - Men: 200th ranked swimmer in the world from the prior year

Note: The Gold standards are equal to or faster than the Silver standards and do not get slower from the previous year.

- G. **Open Water Performance Eligibility** – 18 & Under athletes who competed in the 2017 USA Swimming 5K and 10K Open Water National Championships are eligible to score points in the Club Excellence program as outlined in the following chart. Club Excellence rankings for Open Water results will not include foreign participants in the OW National Championships.

Level	Eligibility	Scoring
Gold	Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2017 USA-S 10K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 10 for Women & Men 	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 800 points toward their team's performance scoring.
Silver	Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2017 USA-S 10K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th-20th place for Women & Men Also, any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2017 USA-S 5K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 6 for Women & Men 	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 755 points toward their team's performance scoring.
Bronze	Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2017 USA-S 5K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th-12th place for Women & Men 	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 710 points toward their team's performance scoring.

Timeline for 2018 Club Excellence Program

Sep 1, 2017 - Application period begins. Announcements distributed to all USA Swimming clubs.

Oct 13, 2017 - Deadline for applications from clubs to USA Swimming

Dec 15, 2017 - Club rankings announced by USA Swimming & Grant applications distributed

Feb 16, 2018 - Deadline for grant applications to USA Swimming from qualifying clubs

Apr 13, 2018 - Grant awards announced by USA Swimming

Anti-Doping Provision

All clubs, coaches, swimmers and their related performances shall be eligible for consideration under the applicable and relevant rules of USA Swimming, the USOC, FINA, USADA and WADA (see Article 303). This requirement is acknowledged without reservation and unequivocally upon submission of the application for the Club Excellence Program.

If, subsequent to submitting the application, a swimmer ceases to be eligible to compete for violations of Article 303, that swimmer and their related performances shall be disqualified from the program and the application shall be reviewed by USA Swimming for possible additional action. Such action may include (but is not limited to) recalculation of results, return of awards, return of grant dollars, and/or suspension from the program in future years.

Rules for Promoting Club Excellence Achievements

- A. Clubs earn recognition as a USA Swimming Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal Club for a 1-year period. This recognition includes a vinyl 4' x 6' team banner and a results announcement on the USA-S website and on social media.
- B. Clubs may use the USA Swimming Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal Club designation and logo through December 31 of the program year, on the club website, social media, club advertising and promotional materials, team letterhead, and team apparel.
- C. After the 1-year period, clubs may make ongoing use of vinyl team banner(s) and Club Excellence logo(s) on a club webpage or rotating banner specifically featuring current and past team accomplishments. All use of a Club Excellence logo must reflect the correct year and recognition level (Gold, Silver or Bronze) based on these rules.
- D. By submitting the application for Club Excellence recognition, the club acknowledges these rules and agrees to abide by them. Failure to comply will result in a review of the club's future eligibility to participate in the program.

The Club Excellence program is designed to be a competitive contest between USA Swimming clubs whereby teams earn (and re-earn) their ranking each year. Every year produces a different group of clubs that earn exclusive benefits. In order to protect the integrity of this competition, it is important that clubs follow the stated promotional guidelines and annually update their website with the logo earned that calendar year.

For More Information

Please contact the USA Swimming at (719) 866-4578 or clubdevelopment@usaswimming.org.