



## 2024 CLUB EXCELLENCE PROGRAM INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

### **Club Excellence Program Recognition Levels**

Clubs may qualify for one of three levels of recognition:

1. Gold
  - The top 20 point-scoring USA Swimming member clubs in 2024; and
  - A minimum of one 18 & Under athlete from the club must achieve a Gold time standard.
2. Silver
  - USA Swimming member clubs who do not achieve Gold status and rank in the top 21-100 point scores in 2024.
  - At least one 18 & Under athlete registered with the club must achieve the Silver time standard.
3. Bronze
  - USA Swimming member clubs who do not achieve Gold or Silver status and rank in the top 101-200 point scores in 2024.
  - At least one 18 & Under athlete registered with the club must achieve the Bronze time standard.
4. Podium Club
  - Any club achieving the Gold Medal level for a fourth consecutive year will earn additional recognition by being named to the Podium Club.

Club Excellence funding will be calculated from the final Club Excellence Scores.

### **Club Eligibility Requirements**

*For the 2024 Club Excellence season only, the Club Recognition Program and Safe Sport Recognition Program requirements will be modified due to the timing of the SWIMS 3.0 release in August/September.*

1. There is no Club Recognition Program requirement for the 2024 Club Excellence program.
2. To be eligible for the 2024 Club Excellence program, member clubs must have initiated the USA Swimming Safe Sport Club Recognition program no later than **August 31, 2023**. Information can be found on the USA Swimming website at [www.usaswimming.org/ssrp](http://www.usaswimming.org/ssrp).

### **Athlete Eligibility Requirements**

1. Athletes must be USA Swimming members at the time of all performances to be included in point scoring.
2. Athletes must be 18 years old or younger at the time of all performances to be included in point scoring.
3. Athletes must be U.S. citizens who are eligible to represent the USA in international competition(s).
4. Article 203.3 (60-day rule) applies. Only times swum while an athlete legally represented a team in competition will be included. Any time swum while an athlete was unattached will not be eligible for consideration.
5. An athlete's times are not eligible if the athlete trained or competed with a collegiate program (e.g., NCAA, NJCAA or NAIA) prior to August 31, 2023. Performances from athletes who have not begun their freshman year in college (e.g., high school seniors who graduated from high school in May/June 2023 and started college in August/September 2023) are eligible to represent their clubs in the Club Excellence program.
6. All clubs awarded recognition in the 2024 Club Excellence program must have at least one 18 & Under athlete who achieves the time standard in the level at which the club is recognized.
7. All performances must be achieved between September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023, be LCM times (unless open water achievement is considered per the below) and must be verifiable within the USA Swimming Times database.

Time Standards for 2024 CE Program (Long Course Meters ONLY)

WOMEN			2023	MEN		
Gold	Silver	Bronze		Bronze	Silver	Gold
25.64	25.99	26.59	50 Free	23.99	23.09	22.81
55.59	56.39	57.59	100 Free	51.99	50.49	49.85
2:00.64	2:01.79	2:04.29	200 Free	1:54.29	1:51.29	1:49.86
4:15.05	4:16.89	4:21.39	400 Free	4:02.79	3:57.79	3:54.93
8:48.09	8:48.09	8:58.69	800 Free	8:23.09	8:12.99	8:12.75
16:49.19	16:49.19	17:11.29	1500 Free	16:05.09	15:44.89	15:42.58
1:01.92	1:02.89	1:04.39	100 Back	58.79	56.59	55.83
2:14.21	2:15.59	2:18.29	200 Back	2:06.99	2:03.29	2:02.56
1:09.70	1:10.99	1:13.29	100 Breast	1:05.89	1:03.29	1:02.16
2:30.54	2:33.79	2:38.29	200 Breast	2:23.29	2:18.09	2:15.50
1:00.09	1:00.89	1:02.39	100 Fly	56.49	54.39	53.67
2:13.40	2:14.59	2:16.99	200 Fly	2:05.09	2:01.69	2:00.42
2:16.27	2:17.99	2:20.99	200 IM	2:08.29	2:04.69	2:03.47
4:49.92	4:53.19	4:57.29	400 IM	4:33.09	4:26.89	4:26.00

- The Bronze Time Standard is equal to the 2023 LCM Speedo Junior National Championships Standards.
  - The Silver Time Standard is equal to the 2023 LCM Speedo National Championships Standards.
  - The Gold Time Standard is equal to:
    - Women: 150th ranked swimmer in the world from the prior year (9/1/2021 through 8/31/2022) – not allowed to be slower than 2023 Club Excellence Gold Standards
    - Men: 200th ranked swimmer in the world from the prior year (9/1/2021 through 8/31/2022) – not allowed to be slower than 2023 Club Excellence Gold Standards
8. 18 & Under athletes who competed in the 5K and 10K at 2023 USA Swimming’s Open Water National Championships and the 5K and 7.5K at 2023 USA Swimming’s Open Water Junior 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 2023 USA-S 10K Open Water National Championship finishing (counting no foreign athletes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 6 for Women &amp; Men 18-Under</li> </ul>	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 800 points toward their team's performance scoring.
Silver	Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2023 USA-S 10K Open Water National Championship finishing (counting no foreign athletes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-10<sup>th</sup> place for Women &amp; Men 18-Under</li> </ul> Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2023 USA-S 5K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 6 for Women &amp; Men 18-Under</li> </ul>	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 760 points toward their team's performance scoring.
Bronze	Any 18-Under athlete who competes in the 2023 USA-S 5K Open Water National Championship finishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-10<sup>th</sup> place for Women &amp; Men 18-Under</li> </ul> Any 16-Under athlete who competes in the 2023 USA-S 5K & 7.5K Open Water Junior National Championship finishing:	Any Club Excellence eligible athlete would score 710 points toward their team's performance scoring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 2 for Women &amp; Men</li> </ul>	
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**Performance Scoring Information**

1. Performance scoring for Club Excellence will be an automated process and therefore will not require an application. Each team’s total score will include all qualifying athletes who are registered to that specific USA Swimming member club on the date of the swim.
2. Only an athlete's four highest scoring events (which equal or better these standards) will count toward the USA Swimming member club point score using the FINA Points Table, a power point rating system that assigns point values to swimming performances. Open Water events will count towards an athlete’s four scoring events.
3. World Record swims in the individual events listed in the time standard chart will be rewarded with an additional 1,000 points per world record.
4. To be eligible to score points, athletes must achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze standard as shown in the chart above. Points for Gold level 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.

**Rules for Promoting Club Excellence Achievements**

Medal recognition and status is for one year only and in 2024, status will go through December 31, 2024. The Club Excellence program is designed to be a competitive contest between USA Swimming member clubs whereby teams earn (and re-earn) their ranking each year. Every year produces a different group of clubs that earn exclusive benefits. To protect the integrity of this competition, it is important clubs follow the stated promotional guidelines and annually update its website with the logo earned that calendar year.

- Recognition includes a vinyl 4’ x 6’ team banner and a results announcement on USA Swimming’s official website and social media platform(s).
- USA Swimming member clubs may use the USA Swimming Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal Club designation and logo through December 31 of the program year. It may also be displayed on the USA Swimming member club’s website, social media, club advertising and promotional materials, team letterhead as well as team apparel.
- After the status expires, USA Swimming member clubs may make ongoing use of vinyl team banner(s) and Club Excellence logo(s) on its respective club webpage or rotating banner specifically featuring current and past team accomplishments. All use of the Club Excellence logo must reflect the relevant year and recognition level (Gold, Silver or Bronze) in accordance with these rules.
- By receiving Club Excellence recognition, the club acknowledges these rules and agrees to abide by them. Failure to comply could impact the USA Swimming member club’s future eligibility to participate in the program.

**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 not limited to, recalculation of results, return of awards, return of grant dollars and/or suspension from the program in future years.

**Timeline for 2024 Club Excellence Program**

- October 2023 – USA Swimming member club rankings announced by USA Swimming; Clubs receiving grant funding to be notified.

- January 2024 - Grant funding distributed.
- February 2024 - Banners to be distributed to Gold, Silver and Bronze level USA Swimming member clubs.

**Best Practices Data Collection**

Club Excellence program participants agree to participate in periodic information gathering surveys conducted by USA Swimming.

**For More Information**

Please contact USA Swimming at (719) 866-4578 or [eparish@usaswimming.org](mailto:eparish@usaswimming.org).