



2022 FINA World Championships (25m) Selection

What follows is a brief explanation of USA Swimming's strategy around FINA World Championships (25M) and our selection method for the 2022 Championships, referred to in this document as SCWC.

From a competitive standpoint USA Swimming's priority is success at the Olympic Games. This focus influences everything we do and every decision we make, including how we select teams for other international competitions like SCWC.

We want to swim well and win as many medals as possible at any meet where we send a team, but our main objective at SCWC is to provide international racing experience to athletes likely to contribute to our next Olympic team. For this reason, among others, we will select the 2022 SCWC team from LCM results, as we have done for the past several iterations of this competition.

Our entire developmental system, of which SCWC is a piece, is structured to support performance at the next Olympics. While selecting a SCWC team from SCM times might improve that team's performance, providing the racing experience to athletes based on LCM results will be more impactful to our eventual Olympic team.

In addition, short of holding a SCM selection meet in early November there is no fair method by which to select this team from short course times. We have discussed the idea of a SCM trials with many athletes and coaches and they are not in support of adding another selection meet to the calendar at this time.

A short course based paper selection method would not be viable because the vast majority of short course swimming in the US, including the entire high school and college systems, is contested in yards, which FINA will not accept for qualifying. Discretionary selection, where USA Swimming selects athletes based on subjective criteria such as recent SCM results, is also not a viable method. One of the strengths of our system is that it is objective, and we do not "pick" our teams or athletes – all our selections are objective, clear, and based on performances in the pool and we want to keep it that way.

USA Swimming has not developed this selection procedure in a vacuum. We have discussed these plans with numerous coaches and athletes including our Steering Committee and Athletes Advisory Council and the majority prefer and understand the rationale behind a LCM based selection. We understand that some short course specialists are disadvantaged by our procedures. That is not by any means intentional, it is simply a byproduct of our focus on providing opportunities to athletes who are likely to be impactful for us at the Olympic Games.