

# USA SWIMMING

## USA SWIMMING FINA MARATHON WORLD SERIES & ULTRA MARATHON SWIM SERIES POLICY

*Based on the recommendations from the USA Swimming Open Water review commission, USA Swimming has implemented the following policy regarding USA Swimming athlete members attending FINA Open Water races around the world. The Open Water FINA events are open competition, meaning that an athlete may enter any FINA Open Water event outside of World Championships as long as his or her National Federation endorses the entry form. In order for USA Swimming to endorse an entry form or take any other action to enter an athlete into the competition, an athlete must satisfy the criteria set forth in this document. Any questions can be directed to Kaitlin Pawlowicz, Open Water Development Coordinator, at [kpawlowicz@usaswimming.org](mailto:kpawlowicz@usaswimming.org).*

### OW SELECTION STANDARDS

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In order to qualify for a FINA Marathon World Series or Ultra Marathon Swim Series Event a swimmer must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water National Team from 2012 to present;
- Be named to any USA Swimming Open Water National Junior Team from 2012 to present;
- Finish in the top 15 at a previous year's USA Swimming Open Water 10k Championship; or
- Obtain an official letter of invitation to compete from the event Organizing Committee and provide this letter to USA Swimming before the entry deadline. The athlete and/or athlete's coach are responsible for obtaining this documentation.

### USA SWIMMING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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All entries (and other event forms) must be submitted to USA Swimming for endorsement. Entries will not be endorsed without having a signed letter by a current USA Swimming non-athlete coach member stating that he/she will assume coaching responsibility for the athlete participating in the event. Each athlete will be responsible for providing their own coach to attend the competition at the cost of the athlete and/or coach (unless specified below). According to FINA Open Water rules, a coach may only represent one male and one female during the event. The coach attending the competition must also be in attendance at technical meeting, all training sessions, and competition.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to confirm the travel plans of both themselves and their attending coach prior to the deadlines established by the Organizing Committee. Athletes and coaches must also abide by the USA Swimming Code of Conduct at all times.

USA Swimming recommends that each athlete and coach purchase International Medical Insurance. USA Swimming will purchase this insurance for all current members of the USA Swimming Open Water National Team (including athletes who are members of the National Team in the 800/1500m freestyle). For information on purchasing this insurance please contact Kelcie O'Donnell at [ko'donnell@usaswimming.org](mailto:ko'donnell@usaswimming.org), or call 1-800-732-5309 (you must mention you are with USA Swimming) to purchase your own MEDEX TravMed Abroad policy.

All eligible athletes and coaches desiring to compete in any FINA Open Water race must submit a signed USA Swimming National Team Waiver and Release concurrently with his or her meet forms (including entry).

Due to the ever-changing conditions in open water swimming, USA Swimming recommends that all athletes receive a full examination by a licensed physician before competing in any FINA Open Water races. It is recommended that the athlete receives this physical examination at least once a year to ensure that he or she is still in good health and fit for endurance competitions.

USA Swimming will provide no technical, administrative or financial support, including, but not limited to, the cost of transportation to and from the event, accommodations, meals and other expenses for any eligible athlete and/or his or her coach, except as expressly provided in this policy and the applicable USA Swimming National Team Waiver and Release. USA Swimming will provide only technical and administrative support for National Team members and will not provide coaching support unless the particular event is specifically designated on the USA Swimming quadrennial plan. Current Open Water National Team athletes may be eligible for travel reimbursement and logistical support. For more information regarding travel reimbursement and the quadrennial plan please visit [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org).

Checklist for FINA Open Water Competition:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm coach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase international medical insurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send copy of international medical policy/card to USA Swimming
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send entry and other event forms to USAS for endorsement stamp/signature