



OSI SENIOR ATHLETE TRAVEL AND CLUB TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

Ohio Swimming provides limited financial assistance to any registered OSI athlete who has met the required meet attendance requirement during the season for which assistance is being requested. The applicable meets eligible for Travel support will be published annually by the Senior Travel Committee.

GENERAL

1. OSI will provide travel assistance to athletes participating in USA Swimming (USA-S) championship level meets, including Olympic Trials, World Trials, USA-S Senior National Championships, USA-S Junior National Championships, and other comparable meets which are designated by the Travel Fund Committee (TFC) and approved by the OSI Board of Directors.
2. Assistance is also available for participants at designated USA-S and International Open Water and Disability competitions, as approved by the TFC and approved by the OSI Board.
3. The travel assistance program is managed by the OSI Travel Fund Committee (TFC). The TFC shall be appointed annually as provided in OSI Board Manual. The responsibilities of the TFC are also defined in the OSI Board Manual.
4. For travel assistance purposes, the 'year' shall be from June 1 through May 31. Meets will be categorized under 'Summer', 'Winter' and 'Spring' Seasons. 'Summer Season' will include Summer LC meets from the previous OSI fiscal year. 'Winter and Spring Season' will include Championship meets in the current OSI fiscal year. Season meets and dates will be determined by TFC.
5. Travel assistance for meets not published by the TFC will be considered by the OSI Board only. Such requests must include a complete description of the meet and justification for why it should be supported.
6. A swimmer will be eligible to receive travel assistance for only one meet during each 'Season', with the exception that an athlete may receive additional travel assistance for participating in the USA Swimming Olympic Trials or World Trials Meets.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

1. Athlete must be a registered member of Ohio Swimming.
2. Athlete must have competed in at least one individual event at the funded meet. Participation only in a Bonus event at the meet shall NOT satisfy this participation requirement. Swimmers who take a DFS or are DQ'd for failure to swim a deck-seeded event after they have checked in, or who fail to swim at Finals in an event for which they have qualified except if for a medical or other reason that has been excused by the Meet Referee, may not count that event toward participation.
3. Relay-only swimmers are eligible for 25% assistance.
4. Time Trial only events at the eligible meets are not eligible events for funding.
5. Athletes on international or fully funded USA Swimming sponsored trips are ineligible for assistance.
6. Athletes must have met the requirement of attending the respective number (listed below) of OSI team-hosted sanctioned meets (except as noted below for 2025 LC Summer requests) for the respective season that funding is being requested for, and have competed in at least one (1) individual event at each meet during the period for which assistance is requested^:
 - To request funding for meets that fall between June 2025-Aug 2025, athletes must have attended minimum two (2) OSI/LESI team-hosted sanctioned* meets from 2025 Long[#] Course calendar to be eligible for funding.
 - **Current Ohio Swimming Athletes:** Must have attended minimum of two (2) Long Course Meets on the published 2025 OSI Long Course Calendar to be eligible for funding.
 - **#Current Lake Erie Swimming Athletes:** Must have attended a minimum of two (2) meets on the 2024-2025 LESI meet calendar (this applies to Summer of 2025 only).
 - To request funding for meets that fall between Dec 2025-May 2026, athletes must have attended minimum three (3) OSI team-hosted sanctioned* meets from the 2025-2026 OSI Short Course calendar to be eligible for funding.

7. Non-collegiate Swimmers registered prior to their 18th birthday, and holding consecutive annual Ohio Swimming membership, shall be eligible to receive the respective maximum amount of assistance.
8. The travel assistance provided to each swimmer shall be based on the number of years the swimmer has held continuous Ohio Swimming registration:
 - a. First registration year with OSI – not eligible for assistance.
 - b. Second registration year with OSI – 25% of the published assistance.
 - c. Third registration year with OSI – 50% of the published assistance.
 - d. Fourth registration year with OSI – 75% of the published assistance.
 - e. Fifth and subsequent years with OSI – 100% of the published assistance.
 - f. Collegiate Athletes who were registered 5 years or more in Ohio Swimming prior to attending college are eligible for the maximum funding amount, as long as they are not funded by other sources. They must also represent (or dual represent) the Ohio team at the meet where funding is being requested.
9. Enrolled Collegiate Athletes are not eligible for assistance during the short course season (NCAA restriction).
10. Must not be funded by other sources.

^Maximum one (1) Pro Swim Series Meets may be used for participation/eligibility requirement – one each during the short course and long course seasons respectively. (Sectionals, Jr Nationals, Senior Nationals are not eligible as a 'participating/eligible meet' if hosted within OSI boundaries.)

*'Sanctioned' meets do not include: Approved or Observed meets and Time Trial only sanctions. Only one (1) Sanctioned Dual or intra-squad meets are allowed per funding season.

NCAA COMPLIANCE

The total of any monies received in addition to Ohio Swimming assistance shall not exceed the athlete's out-of-pocket trip expenses. Athletes funded for more than trip expenses risk amateur status and NCAA eligibility. NCAA Division I bylaw 12.1.2.1.4.3 allows for an LSC to provide competition related expense assistance to athletes without jeopardizing NCAA eligibility. However, for those athletes looking to participate at the Division I level, it is critical that the athletes keep detailed receipts documenting their expenses throughout the calendar year and are aware of all sources that can cover competition related expenses (USA Swimming, LSC, prize money, USA Swimming team). Actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual who is participating in the event.

ATHLETE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND APPLICATION

1. The travel assistance budget will be approved annually.
2. The amount of travel assistance provided to swimmers is based on the meet that they attend.
3. Athletes will be eligible for assistance for the 'up to' the amount allocated for that meet.
4. Each 'Season' will have an established budget amount determined by the Travel Fund Committee.
5. Deadlines for submission of a travel assistance request:
 - a. Summer Season – Sept 30
 - b. Winter Season – Mar 31
 - c. Spring Season – Jun 30
6. During each season, travel assistance shall be paid first to all swimmers attending a Level 1 meet; then to those swimmers attending a Level 2 meet; then to those swimmers attending a Level 3 meet.
 - a. If there are not sufficient budgeted funds within any season to grant the full assistance to all eligible swimmers at each respective level, then the available budgeted funds shall be equally distributed to those eligible swimmers at that Level, taking into account any reductions as noted in the ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY section above. Any remaining funds after granting the funding in each season shall be added to and be available for assistance during the next season. However, such un-awarded funds shall not be carried over from one year to the next (i.e., from Spring to the following Summer 'season'.) Un-awarded funds will be allocated to the Olympic Trials fund.

7. Travel assistance applications will be processed by the Permanent Office ***when all applications have been received for that season.*** All travel funding requests will be reviewed and approved by the TFC, Treasurer and/or Finance Vice Chair.

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES:

To qualify for assistance from Ohio Swimming, the following process shall be followed:

1. Athletes will need to request funding assistance via the published application. The burden of providing the required information resides with the Athlete.
2. The funding will be for the athlete's portion of expenses only. In certain cases (e.g. College Athletes) special consideration will be given to provide subsidy to the club to comply with requirements of other organizations such as NCAA. See Chapter 12.2.1 for travel assistance process.
3. Travel assistance for the eligible funded USA Swimming meets shall be distributed to those teams and swimmers whose base practice pool (team) or permanent residence (unaffiliated swimmer) is located 45 miles or more from the meet site as determined by current Google Maps routing and mileage.
4. The Travel Fund Committee will establish funding levels each year. OSI reserves the right to change future funding levels as dictated by available budget.

FUNDED EXPENSES

1. Flights
 - A. Only the athlete ticket will be funded. Ticket receipt must include athlete's name.
 - B. Flights, where possible, should be booked 14 days in advance.
 - C. Tickets purchased with a frequent points program will NOT be funded. Payment receipt for ticket must also be included to be eligible for assistance.
2. Lodging
 - A. No subsidy will be issued for hotels secured with frequent points programs.
 - B. Lodging assistance will not exceed beyond the dates of the meet other than day-before meet check-in and day-after last swim check-out (subject to Senior Chair approval).
 - C. Receipts must be provided. Where the individuals' family has attended, only the costs pertaining to the athlete will be eligible for assistance.
 - D. If multiple athletes are traveling to the same event and lodging is shared among families, assistance will be based on percentage of occupants.
 - E. Only 1 hotel room per family will be funded per request.
2. Allowance for Meals & Incidental Expenses
 - A. Athlete shall be funded at a rate of up to \$50.00 per day while at the meet and up to \$25.00 on travel days, for meals and incidentals. Funding will only be for the dates the traveler attended the meet plus travel days. Receipts must be submitted, and the athlete portion must be clearly marked. If receipts are not clearly marked, they will not be accepted.
 - B. Receipt dates of the meals must be within the dates/location of the meet, including travel days.
 - C. Grocery items will not be eligible for funding (subject to Senior Chair approval).
3. Travel by Vehicle (personal vehicle)
 - A. If standard mileage is taken, fuel is not subsidized. If both fuel and mileage are submitted, the lesser of the expense will be used.
 - B. Mileage will be calculated from home team pool to meet pool attended. Mileage to restaurants, hotels, etc. during the stay are not funded.
 - C. Standard mileage will be funded up to the amount of a standard round-trip 14-day advance flight to the meet location.
 - D. If multiple families share a ride to the meet, only the percentage of occupation will be funded. If the same family travels in a single vehicle, only the athlete(s) portion will be funded.
4. Travel by vehicle (rental car)
 - A. Rental car assistance will not exceed the standard 14-day advance purchase flight to meet location.
 - B. Only 1 rental car will be reimbursed per funding request.

- C. Funding will be for meet dates only, plus 1 day either side (subject to senior chair approval)
 - D. Fuel receipts need to be within the dates of the meet to qualify for funding.
 - E. Car rental receipt must include dates and mileage travelled during rental.
 - F. Car rental funding is the athlete portion only.
 - G. Funding for shared expenses will be a percentage of the space occupied by the athlete(s).
5. Miscellaneous Expenses
- A. Venue Parking: Parking will be funded only for the dates the athlete attended the meet at a rate for up to \$10.00/day. Receipts must be submitted for funding.
 - B. Airport Parking: Parking will be funded at a rate for up to \$10/day for meet dates only, including 1 day either side to match the traveler's flight itinerary.
 - C. Shuttle to/from airport: Shuttle fees will be funded at a reasonable rate. The traveler should exercise diligence in using reasonable economic options for shuttles. Receipts will be needed.
 - D. Checked bags: the traveler will be funded for 1 checked bag each way to/from the event for the amount charged by the airline for standard (non-oversized) luggage. Receipts will be needed.
 - E. All receipts must have the family name and dates of travel on them. If the receipt does not print with that information, then a supplemental billing statement showing the charge must be provided.

ITEMS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE

- 1. Meet Entry Fees
- 2. Personal items
- 3. Alcoholic beverages
- 4. Non-business-related entertainment
- 5. Expenses incurred by family members
- 6. Change Fees/penalties

RECEIPTS: Bank statements are not an acceptable form of a receipt. Only the original receipts will be accepted.

Lodging, airfare and car rental receipts must contain the name of the traveler, form of payment and show that it is paid.

Reservation receipts are not acceptable.

2025-2026 OHIO SWIMMING TRAVEL ASSISTANCE – ATHLETES

Swimmers must meet all criteria for travel assistance per the current OSI travel fund policy. Eligible Level 1 meets will be awarded a share of the budget up to the maximum amount as a first priority. Eligible Level 2 meets will be awarded a share of the remaining funds up to the amount of full funding for that level; this is priority two. Eligible Level 3 meets will be awarded a share of the remaining funds up to the amount of full funding for that level.

2025 SUMMER SEASON ELIGIBLE MEETS Application Deadline: Sept 30, 2025		AWARD*
Budget		\$90,000
Level 1: - Toyota National Championships (Indianapolis, IN) Jun 3-7, 2025 - TYR Summer National Champs (Irvine, CA) Aug 5-8, 2025 2025 Para Nationals (Boise, ID) June 19-22, 2025		\$500 \$1000 \$1000
Level 2: - Speedo Junior Nationals (Irvine, CA) Jul 30-Aug 3, 2025 2025 Futures Championships (Greensboro, NC) Jul 23-26, 2025		\$800 \$500
Level 3: 2025 Summer Sectionals (Columbus, OH) Jul 17-20, 2025		\$100
*Up to amounts		

2025 WINTER SEASON ELIGIBLE MEETS Application Deadline: March 31, 2026		AWARD*
Budget		\$55,000
Level 1: Toyota US Open (Austin, TX) Dec 3-6, 2025		\$800
Level 2: Winter Junior Nationals (Indianapolis, IN) Dec 10-13, 2025		\$400
*Up to amounts		

2026 SPRING SEASON ELIGIBLE MEETS Application Deadline: June 30, 2026		AWARD*
Budget		\$5,000
- Open Water Nationals (Sarasota, FL) Apr 2-4, 2026 - US Para Nationals (Indianapolis, IN) Apr 2026		\$600 \$500
*Up to amounts		

2025-2026 OHIO SWIMMING TRAVEL ASSISTANCE – CLUBS / COACHES

Ohio Swimming provides travel assistance to clubs who send swimmers and coaches to USA Swimming National Championships, including Olympic Trials. This assistance is separate from the travel funding allotted for swimmers and will help Ohio Swimming clubs defray the costs of sending coaches to these meets.

FUNDING GUIDELINES:

1. Up to two coaches representing one or more swimmers eligible for funding shall receive financial assistance per the table below through the last day for which a Coach has a swimmer in competition. A copy of the hotel receipt will be required for proof.
2. Travel funding shall be given only to the coach whose base practice pool (team) or permanent residence (unaffiliated coach) is located 45 miles or more from the meet site as determined by current MapQuest routing and mileage.

COACH FUNDING	Amount
For meets within Ohio Swimming LSC	\$50 / coach / day*
For meets within the Central Zone (outside OSI)	\$75 / coach / day*
For meets outside the Central Zone	\$100 / coach / day*
*cannot apply for funding if less than 45 miles from meet site. Policy covers up to 2 coaches per OSI club	

Club Travel assistance is contingent on the following:

1. The club must have met the HOD attendance requirement for clubs for the current year (waived for Summer 2025 only).
2. Coach(es) attending the meet must be in good standing with USA Swimming and attached to their club. This proof can come in the form of airline boarding passes or receipts indicating the coach as a passenger on the flight, hotel receipt, credit card bills, etc., anything that can indicate the coach was in fact at the location of the meet during the time of the meet.
3. The club must have a swimmer(s) who competed in an eligible individual event in the meet (not time trial only events) at the meet funding is requested. THE SAME STIPULATIONS REGARDING MEET PARTICIPATION FOR SWIMMER TRAVEL ASSISTANCE HOLD TRUE FOR CLUB TRAVEL ASSISTANCE (i.e., club must have attended required # of OSI meets, etc.).
4. University affiliated clubs are eligible for assistance provided the club did not receive ANY funding from the University/College for the trip; the coach is the primary coach for at least one swimmer meeting the participation requirements for the program and that swimmer MUST be representing the Ohio LSC at the meet. This may include dual representation when permitted by the meet however OSI must be the "primary" LSC represented.
5. The Travel Assistance application must be submitted with supporting documentation by the stated deadline for the Season. Late applications will not be considered.
6. Travel Assistance shall be given to teams whose base practice pool (team) is located 45 miles or more from the meet site as determined by current Google Map routing and mileage.