



Athlete Outreach Policy

The Outreach Committee of Ozark was formed to promote the sport of swimming to minorities and disadvantaged youth in the Ozark Region. It reinforces the USA Mission Statement on a local level.

- Mission Statement-to provide resources for and to promote the sport of swimming to the under-represented and economically disadvantaged youth in the Ozark Region.
- Qualification of Swimmers: The yearly income guidelines that are used by school districts to qualify children for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program are also used to qualify Ozark Outreach swimmers. These are the same guidelines used by USA Swimming. A swimmer does not have to participate in the actual lunch program in order to qualify. A copy of one of the following items must be provided in order to show proof of need:
 - a. Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program Verification Form
 - b. Medicaid Card
 - c. Food Stamp Letter
 - d. Current signed Federal Tax Return that shows the guidelines have been met.
 - e. Other documentation consistent with the income eligibility guidelines for the National School Lunch Program
- Application Procedure for Outreach Membership:
 - a. The swimmer applies to a club for Outreach Membership.
 - b. The club reviews documents to determine qualification for Outreach Membership.
 - c. The club submits an Outreach Membership request to the Ozark Registration Chair indicating the type of qualifying documentation it has received. If the club uses guidelines other than those listed above, an explanation of the process used needs to be sent to the Registration Chair and updated on an annual basis.
 - d. The Registration Chair approves Outreach Membership or, if needed, requests to review the qualifying documentation. An unattached swimmer who is not affiliated with a club should submit the qualifying documentation to the Ozark Registration Chair directly.
 - e. If an individual has already registered for a different type of athlete membership, they have 30 days to change it to an Outreach membership.
- Reduced Meet Fee Guidelines
 - a. The Outreach program swimmer's family will pay the meet

surcharge plus all applicable relay entry fees for all Ozark sanctioned meets.

- b. The host team forgives 50% of the swimmer's individual entry fees.
- c. The Outreach program will pay for 50% of the swimmer's individual entry fees for all Ozark sanctioned meets, if funds are available within the budget.
- d. Meet fees paid by Outreach program swimmers' family are non-refundable.
- e. Meet fees will only be reimbursed for meets after the date of when the Outreach membership was applied for.

- Steps to Apply for Reduced Meet Fees

- a. When submitting a meet entry, coaches should include a separate list of the number of Outreach swimmers and number of events that will be swum in the meet by these swimmers to the host club. **No names should be included!!** The total cost of the individual entry fees for these swimmers deducted from the team's payment for the meet. The meet surcharge and any applicable relay fees for these swimmers included in the team's payment.
- b. Before an upcoming meet, the coach or designated representative should submit the Outreach Meet Fee Support request online. This form **includes the names** of the outreach swimmers entered into the meet and the number and cost of the individual events to be swum. Reimbursement will be sent by the Treasurer, if funds are available. If no funds are available, clubs will be notified by the Treasurer, and the club must submit payment for 50% of the swimmer's individual event fees to the meet host club. The discount of the other 50% from the meet host club is still in effect.
- c. **Within 10 days after the meet has concluded**, the coach or designated representative must send a copy of results for the Outreach swimmer to the Ozark Treasurer. Reimbursements are not made for events not swum, including when the swimmer misses and event due to illness, lack of attention, arriving late or leaving early, if the swimmer is entered in a limited event and does not make the cut, and if results are not sent within 10 days after the conclusion of the meet. If the Treasurer confirms there were Outreach events not swum and reimbursement has already been made, the Treasurer will notify the meet host club who will then send the reimbursed funds back to the Treasurer.
- d. The athlete and club have the right to appeal any decision regarding reimbursements to the Ozark Swimming Finance Committee.