

5.2 Athlete Travel Assistance

Date of adoption / Last revision: November 10, 2025

MASI provides financial travel assistance to eligible athletes who participate in designated championship-level meets. The assistance is tied to the MASI fiscal year (September 1 – August 31) and applies to Winter, Spring, and Summer seasons, with Trials-class meets treated separately.

Eligible meets must be USA Swimming/LSC-sanctioned and open to all MASI athletes with the required qualifying times. Athletes may receive assistance for one meet per season, with exceptions allowing additional support for Trials-class and Open Water events.

Travel assistance is determined by the swimmer's highest qualifying time standard, not the specific meet attended. Awards are tiered into levels based on USA Swimming Championship standards, with the exact amounts outlined in the annual Meets and Levels document. Olympic Trials travel assistance is managed separately from other meets.

To receive travel assistance, a swimmer must qualify for and participate in at least one individual event at a designated meet. Participation (declared false start (DFS) is not considered participation) in only a bonus or relay event at the meet shall NOT satisfy this participation requirement.

Athlete Travel Assistance	
Eligible Athletes who participate in designated Championship-level meets	
General	- Meets designated by season: Winter (Sep–Dec), Spring (Jan–Apr), Summer (May–Aug). Trials meets considered separately. - Eligibility: one meet per season, except: Trials meets don't count toward a season; Open Water swimmers may receive up to 3 awards/year (pool + OW in same season).
Travel Assistance Support	- Awards for each level noted in the Meets and Levels document. - Assistance for Olympic Trials shall be distributed separately from the support of other meets.
Eligibility Requirements – MASI Registration	- Must be currently registered with MASI at time of meet. - Award levels by registration year: 1st – none; 2nd – 25%; 3rd – 50%; 4th – 75%; 5th+ – 100%. - Credit for registration year determined as of December 1.
Eligibility Requirements – Meet Participation	- Pool swimmers: must compete in 2 MASI sanctioned meets in prior year (DQ for stroke/turn or false start counts; DFS or no-show does not). - Open Water swimmers: exempt from MASI meet requirement but must meet OW qualifying times (800/1000 Free or 1500/1650 Free).
Eligibility Requirements – Qualifying Time Standards	- Bonus Level (Summer only): Summer USA Swimming National Champs (LC). - Level 1: USA Swimming Winter Nationals (SC). - Level 2: USA Swimming Winter Juniors (SC). - Level 3: Winter Juniors (SC) - bonus standard. - Qualifying period is no earlier than the following dates one calendar year prior to the meet: Winter (September 1), Spring (January 1), Summer (June 1), Open Water (June 1), Olympic Trials (January 1). - All time standards can be found on the annual Meets and Levels document posted by the Travel Fund Committee (TFC) at least 30 days prior to the season.

NCAA & Post-High School Swimmers	• Eligible up to 4 years after HS graduation (summer immediately after graduation is not considered NCAA & post high school). • Eligibility extensions possible with approval from TFC. • College swimmers: eligible for Summer or Trials meets only, if MASI registered and representing MASI. • Swimmers are responsible for ensuring their own compliance with NCAA rules and regulations. • Must maintain annual MASI registration; otherwise future awards may be reduced by 25%. • Must submit Travel Support Declaration for any other financial support received. • Swimmers 19+ years eligible only for Level 1 or 2 assistance.
Open Water Athletes	• MASI provides support for designated OW Championships. • Waivers may be available if not currently competing in pool competition or if time standard achieved prior to qualifying period. • National OW Team members or top-8 finishers at Nationals receive Level 1 award.
Disability/Paralympic Athletes	• Support available for designated disability/Paralympic meets. • Amount equivalent to support for comparable meets.
Award Payment	• Awards paid to swimmer's club; request form with documentation required. • Unattached swimmers must contact MASI office directly. • Awards distributed per season up to budgeted amount, prioritized as: Summer Bonus > L1 > L2 > L3 • All awards are subject to Executive Director approval.
Deadlines	• All deadlines are found on the travel assistance request form. • Off-season funded meets are 15 days after meet the last day of the meet. • October 1 of the fiscal year immediately following the Summer season for late requests.
Appeals	• Appeals must be submitted to MASI Office by October 1 of the fiscal year immediately following the Summer season. • Any further appeals may be referred to MASI Administrative Review Board.