

6.0 Travel Fund Assistance Policy

6.1 Athlete Travel Assistance

6.1.1 General

1. Middle Atlantic Swimming will provide travel assistance to athletes who meet eligibility requirements and participate in meets designated on the “Meets and Levels” document that is approved by the MASI Executive Director.
2. For travel assistance purposes, the year shall be the same as the MASI fiscal year – i.e., from September 1 through the following August 31. Meets will be designated for the Winter (generally September – December), Spring (generally January – April) and Summer (generally May – August) seasons. When held as a separate meet, a trials class meet is considered separately and is not included with other meets designated in that season.
3. All designated meets must be USA Swimming/LSC-sanctioned meets and must be open to all MASI athletes that have achieved a qualifying time for the meet.
4. A swimmer is eligible to receive travel assistance for only one meet during each season, with the following exceptions:
 - a. A trials class meet does not count toward any season.
 - b. An Open Water swimmer may receive funding for a pool event and an open water event during the same season, but may receive no more than three awards during a year.

6.1.2 Travel Assistance Support

1. The amount of a travel assistance award provided to swimmers is based on qualifying time standards, and not on the meet that they attend. The three levels of time standards will be the qualifying time standards for specific USA Swimming Championship meets.
2. A swimmer will receive a travel assistance award based on their highest level of time achievement during the qualifying period established in this document as they enter the meet; if a higher level is achieved at the meet, the higher-level award may be requested.
3. The award for each qualifying time standard is noted in the Meets and Levels document.
4. Travel assistance for Olympic Trials shall be distributed separately from the support of other meets.

6.1.3 Eligibility Requirements

MASI Registration

1. To receive travel assistance a swimmer must be currently registered in MASI at the time of the meet.
2. The travel assistance based on registration will be awarded as follows:
 - First registration year in MASI – not eligible – no award.
 - Second registration year in MASI – 25% of award.
 - Third registration year in MASI – 50% of award.
 - Fourth registration year in MASI – 75% of award.
 - Fifth and subsequent years in MASI – 100% of award.
3. Credit for a registration year in MASI will be based on registration status on December 1 of each year.

MASI Meet Participation

1. Pool swimmers: To be eligible to receive travel assistance, a swimmer must have participated in at least two MASI sanctioned meets that are open to all MASI swimmers within the one-year period immediately preceding the meet for which an award is requested. Participation in only a bonus event at the sanctioned meet shall not satisfy this participation requirement. Swimmers who are disqualified from an event for either a technical stroke/turn violation or a false start may

- count that event for participation. Swimmers who take a Declared False Start, or are disqualified for failure to swim a deck-seeded event after they have checked in, may not count that event.
2. Open Water swimmers: OW swimmers do not need to participate in a MASI sanctioned meet during the qualifying period, but must satisfy the Qualifying Time Standard in either the 800m/1000yd or 1500m/1650yd Freestyle event for one of the meets as defined in section 7.1.3.1.
 3. College swimmers: this section for future use

Funded/Supported Meet Participation

To receive travel assistance, a swimmer must qualify for and participate in at least one individual event at a designated meet. Participation in only a bonus or relay event at the meet shall NOT satisfy this participation requirement. Swimmers who are disqualified from an event for either a technical stroke/turn violation or a false start may count that event for participation. Swimmers who take a Declared False Start, or are disqualified for failure to swim a deck-seeded event after they have checked in, may not count that event.

MASI Qualifying Time Standards

1. Time Standards for levels of support will be the qualifying time standards for specific USA Swimming Championship meets:
 - The Bonus Level, available only in the summer season is the qualifying times for the summer USA Swimming National (LC) Championships.
 - Level 1 is the qualifying times for the current season for the USA Swimming (SC) Winter National Championships.
 - Level 2 is the qualifying times for the current season for the USA Swimming (SC) Winter Junior Championships.
 - Level 3 is the Bonus qualifying time for the current season USA Swimming (SC) Winter Junior Championships.
2. The qualifying period for achieving a time standard shall be no earlier than the following dates one calendar year prior to the meet for which travel assistance is requested (i.e., approximately 12-16 months prior to the meet):
 - Winter September 1
 - Spring January 1
 - Summer June 1
 - Open Water June 1
 - Olympic Trials January 1

6.1.4 NCAA and post-High School swimmers

1. Swimmers are eligible to receive travel assistance for a period of four years following graduation from high school, not counting the summer season immediately following graduation. If a swimmer does not graduate from HS, the year of their presumed graduation will be decided by the Travel Fund Committee (TFC) and used for this purpose. In certain situations (e.g., a swimmer with a remaining year of college eligibility), a swimmer may apply for an additional period of travel assistance by submitting specific justification to the TFC; such request must be submitted prior to any meet for which support is to be requested.
 2. Swimmers participating in a college program are eligible to receive travel assistance only during the Summer season or for a Trials class meet, provided they meet the eligibility requirements
- Note: College and university athletes are reminded that Middle Atlantic Swimming is not responsible for compliance with NCAA rules.*
3. In order to receive travel assistance, a college/university swimmer must be registered with MASI and must represent Middle Atlantic at the meet for which support is requested, regardless of where the athlete is training; the MASI representation may be part of a dual representation when permitted by the meet.

4. College swimmers will maintain their credit for a registration year for all prior registration years with MASI.
5. In order to remain eligible to receive the full MASI travel assistance in each subsequent Summer seasons, a college swimmer must maintain their MASI registration. For each Summer season in which a college/university swimmer does not meet this requirement, their travel assistance in subsequent years shall be reduced by 25% of the otherwise eligible support.
6. Swimmers participating in a college program are required to submit a Travel Support Declaration which acknowledges any financial support that the swimmer has received or will receive for meet expenses; such support includes any meet expenses which have been paid by their college program. The amount of travel assistance will be reduced by the amount of any such additional support.
7. Swimmers age nineteen (19) or older at the time of the Meet, including swimmers that are participating in a college program, are eligible only for Level 1 or Level 2 travel assistance.

6.1.5 Open Water Athletes

MASI will provide travel assistance to swimmers attending designated Open Water (OW) Championship events.

1. OW swimmers not presently competing in pool competition or who have met a Time Standard prior to the qualifying period may request waiver of qualifying period requirement by submitting a request to the TFC with the request for funding.
2. Any swimmer on a current USA Swimming National OW Team, or one who finishes no lower than eighth (8th) place at the current National OW Championship meet (either 5K or 10K race), shall receive the Level 1 Award for the meet – including if the swimmer does not have a current OW qualifying time.

6.1.6 Disability / Paralympic Athletes

Travel assistance is available for swimmers that attend certain disability swimming events, such as Paralympic Championships. Contact the TFC for additional information regarding these meets.

The amount of support for athletes attending these meets will be equivalent to the support provided to other swimmers for comparable meets.

6.1.7 Application / Payment

1. Travel assistance awards will be paid to the swimmer's respective club. A club representative must submit the request for travel assistance form to the MASI Office and include all documentation as required on the form.
2. Unattached swimmers with no club association at the time of the meet must contact the MASI office regarding their support.
3. Travel Assistance Awards are distributed each travel season up to the budgeted amount. Awards will be given in the following order:
 - Summer Bonus
 - Level 1
 - Level 2
 - Level 3
4. If there are not sufficient funds within any season to grant the full award to all eligible swimmers at each level, remaining funds shall be equally distributed to swimmers at the underfunded level. Any remaining funds after granting the awards in each season shall be added to and be available for awards during the next season. They will not be carried over from one year to the next.
5. When there is a funded meet outside the three seasons, (Open water, Disability, a National Trials meet, Olympic Trials or other funded meet) the request deadline will be 15 days after the meet.

6. At the completion of the Summer season, appeals or late applications for the current year will be considered and any remaining funds will be distributed to swimmers that did not previously receive a full award. Late requests and appeals must be received at the MASI office no later than October 1. Requests and appeals received after October 1 will not be considered.
7. All travel assistance awards must be reviewed and approved by the Finance Vice-Chair before payment to any club or individual.

6.1.8 Appeals

An appeal of any decision regarding travel assistance may be made to the TFC by submitting a letter to the MASI Office; such appeal must be submitted by October 1 following the meet in question. Appeals of a decision by the TFC may be referred to the MASI Administrative Review Board for resolution.

6.2 Travel Assistance – Club

6.2.1. General

1. Travel assistance will be provided to eligible MASI clubs that send at least one coach and one swimmer to a USA Swimming LC National Championships, an Olympic or World Championship Trials, a LC US Open, or a LC Junior National Championships held during the summer
2. The Club must be registered with MASI at the time of the meet. The coach must be currently certified and registered with MASI at the time of the meet. At least one swimmer registered with the Club must represent and participate in the meet according to the requirements stated above.

6.2.2 Support

1. Each MASI Club shall be eligible to receive only one award during each year.
2. The amount of support available to each club is based on the level of achievement in the USA Swimming [Club Recognition Program](#) as of the first day of the meet. The award amount is found on the Meets and Levels document.
3. Applications for Club Travel Assistance must be submitted to the MASI Office by the deadline noted on the form.
4. Late requests and appeals will be considered according to the same procedures as described for athlete support.