



Open Water Travel Support Program

The Illinois Swimming Open Water Travel Support Program provides financial support for those participating in designated USA Swimming Open Water national championship meets and other competitions previously approved.

The Open Water Travel Support Program requires a submitted application for funding for all designated and preparation competitions. This application requires receipts to be attached with all other required documents/proof of performance and must be submitted no later than fourteen (14) days after the conclusion of the competition.

**Purpose:**

The Illinois Swimming Open Water Travel Support Program provides financial support for those participating in designated USA Swimming National Championship Meets. Other competitions *may* be designated for support based upon recommendation by the Open Water committee and upon approval by the House of Delegates or the Board of Directors.

Method Of Funding:

Eligible athletes/clubs will receive funding according to the formula approved by the House of Delegates or Board of Directors. On an annual basis, the Board of Directors will determine the schedule for disbursement of funding.

Eligible Club:

All clubs receiving funding through the Open Water Event Travel Support Program must be members in good standing of USA Swimming and Illinois Swimming at the time of competition and participate in the competition designated for funding.

Eligible Athletes:

- Athletes must have been continuously registered with ISI for 18 months immediately preceding the competition.
- Athletes participating in collegiate programs (NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA and others) are not considered eligible during the period September 1 – May 31 of each year. Athletes participating in collegiate programs may be considered eligible during the period June 1 – August 31 provided they are a member of and training with an Eligible Club. The Board of Directors may request verification of membership and training status.
- Only Eligible Athletes representing an Eligible Club may be considered for funding unless otherwise exempted in the approved funding formula. Eligible Clubs may request that the Board of Directors designate an athlete competing with UNATTACHED status as an Eligible Athlete.
- Eligible Athletes may only be considered once, at the highest level of competition, each season in the approved funding formula.

All competitions, both designated and preparation, must have an application submitted for reimbursement with receipts. Application must be received 14 days after the last day of competition. Please contact travelsupport@ilswim.org or the Performance Committee if you have any questions.

Designated Competitions (September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026):

To be considered for funding in a Designated Competition, Eligible Athletes must compete in one or more individual events. “Relay Only” participants are not Eligible Athletes.

USA Swimming Championships

USA Swimming Open Water National Championships
10K Race
Sarasota, FL April 2-4, 2026
\$500.00 per Eligible Athlete

USA Swimming Open Water National/Junior National Championships
7.5K or 5K Races
Sarasota, FL April 2-4, 2026
\$400.00 per Eligible Athlete

Coaches:

- Clubs with an eligible swimmer participating in a “Designated Competition” will be eligible for one (1) coach to receive travel support.
- Coaches eligible for support can receive the assigned value for their eligible swimmer at that competition. Coaches may apply once per year for support if swimmers are qualified & compete in the meets listed above.

Payout Timelines:

- Checks will be issued no more than sixty (60) days after submission and no later than August 31, 2026.