



# USA Swimming FAQ



- **What is USA Swimming?**
  - USA Swimming is a separate swimming circuit that is governed by the national USA swimming organization and organized by the states and zone organizations (Michigan Swimming is in the Central Zone).
- **Is USA Swimming required for the Bucs?**
  - No. USA Swimming is totally voluntary and up to you and your swimmer(s).
- **What is required to sign up for USA Swimming?**
  - USA Swimming requires a separate registration from our team registration. For swimmers under 16, a parent must create a profile with USA Swimming and then register their minor swimmer. Swimmers must be registered with USA Swimming to participate in any USA sanctioned event.
- **Does USA Swimming cost extra?**
  - Yes. There is a yearly membership fee for USA Swimming that must be renewed annually. Meets are also pay-to-swim. Each meet has their own fee structure and swimmers pay per event. As a team, we also charge a coach's fee and a mileage fee to each participant.
- **When is payment due?**
  - Invoices will be charged to your account as soon as our meet entries are confirmed by the host club. Payment is then due by the first day of the meet. Once your meet entry is accepted by the host club, your fees become Non-Refundable. You are responsible for payment even if your swimmer decides to scratch an event or you don't show up. This is non-negotiable.
- **When and where are the meets?**
  - Typically, USA meets will run Friday to Sunday with morning and afternoon sessions. For the higher-level meets, they will run Wednesday to Sunday or Thursday to Sunday. Swimmers have the option to compete in as many or as few days as they wish. Meets take place across the area and the state.
- **How long are the meets?**
  - For each session (morning and afternoon), you should plan on 4-5 hours from check-in to completion. But once your swimmer has finished their events, you are not required to stay to the finish of the session.
- **Is my swimmer good enough for USA Swimming?**
  - USA Swimming does a great job of grouping swimmers with similar skill-level opponents. The goal is to develop swimmers and guide them to higher levels of competition.
- **Are there time standards my swimmer has to meet?**
  - Only for certain meets. Usually state, regional, sectional and national championships. Local USA meets usually don't have minimum time standards.



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- **How are USA meets different from our regular league meets?**
  - USA meets offer events that are different from our normal league meets. All four strokes are offered at every USA meet and there are events in distances that we don't normally see in league meets. Swimmers also have the option to choose their events if desired.
- **What is the meet format?**
  - The meet will be broken into two sessions by age group. 12U swimmers are usually in the morning session and 13+ will swim in the afternoon "Open" session. Swimmers are classified by their age on the first day of the meet. Swimmers will swim against competition of similar skill levels and qualifying times. 12U swimmers may swim in the Open session if desired.
- **What should I expect when I arrive at a USA meet?**
  - Parents will not be allowed past the admissions area. Your swimmer will navigate their own way to the check-in area and locker room.
  - Your swimmer will be required to check-in. If they do not check-in, they will be automatically scratched.
  - Parents are not allowed in the locker rooms or on the pool deck. There are no exceptions to this and if you are caught breaking those rules, you will be asked to leave the meet. USA Officials are very strict about these Safe Sport regulations.
  - Seating will be at a premium. Plan to arrive early to make sure you have a seat.
- **I see my swimmer was disqualified from an event, why?**
  - USA swimmers are expected to swim each stroke legally. Kicks, touches, turns, etc. all have to be legal. If an official sees your swimmer do something illegal, they will be DQ'ed. These decisions are final.
- **What level of club is RBST-MI compared to other clubs?**
  - We are a small club in the USA ecosystem. We continue to grow and elevate our club, but we are still in our infancy as a USA member club. USA clubs range from our size (less than 40 members) up to clubs with 1000+ members.
- **What are the benefits of USA Swimming?**
  - Competition is at the heart of swimming. The best way to get better is to compete against your peers. USA Swimming offers opportunities to compete against your peers from all over the area, the state, the country, and the world. USA Swimming also strives to help develop a love of swim, self-esteem, and physical well-being. It also offers an opportunity to build lifelong friendships with like-minded people.
- **Is USA Swimming important if my swimmer is thinking of swimming in college?**
  - Yes. Most of the better swimmers that have collegiate aspirations swim USA. It is the best avenue for top competition and to get noticed by college coaches at sectional and national meets.