



Ethnicity On Athlete Application Forms

The Metropolitan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee asks for your help in the effort of USA Swimming to identify the composition of our sport. "According to the organization's 2019-member demographics report, USA Swimming reported 4,841 year-round athlete members who are African American. That accounts for about 1.4% of all USA Swimming year-round athletes. According to the 2010 United States Census, there were around 42 million non-Hispanic African Americans, which made up about 14% of the population" [Note: 34% of athletes did not respond to the ethnicity question on USA Swimming registration form.]

"USA Swimming is committed to increasing multicultural, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity at all levels of the sport to achieve and foster an inclusive swimming environment. As USA Swimming moves forward with new initiatives to grow the participation of under-represented populations in our sport, our ability to measure the progress of these efforts is very important. While we cannot require people to provide that information, we can communicate that this is critical information for swimming to gather and request that our members help us by checking the disability and ethnicity information on the application form. We sincerely appreciate your assistance in helping us measure the effectiveness of our efforts to increase diversity and make our great sport more representative of our society."

Metropolitan Swimming needs to do its part. Please, speak to your team's registrar about following these simple steps:

- 1) Please stress the importance of checking the ethnicity box. While it is not something that can be mandated, the importance of checking the box helps USA Swimming and Metropolitan Swimming identify the population it serves, develop marketing strategies, educate families, and create programming.
- 2) If you are completing a new athlete registration please double check if the ethnicity box has been checked. If they have not, ask if they would be willing to do so. The majority probably did not realize they overlooked it and will check it.
- 3) As you electronically register athletes, make sure that you check the ethnicity box to match what your families have submitted. If you are renewing, it is important to complete all the athlete information including the ethnicity box on the second page.

USA Swimming needs to develop a clear understanding of who makes up our sport regardless if is by ethnicity, income, etc. The only way to create this understanding is to collect the most complete data possible. Please help Metro become one of the leaders in providing complete membership information to USA Swimming.

Thank You,
Lamar DeCasseres
Metropolitan Swimming Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair