

Montana Swimming Outreach Membership Criteria Updated May 24, 2025

Outreach memberships (registration financial assistance) are offered to qualifying low income and/or disability athletes in Montana Swimming. A year-round outreach membership in Montana Swimming is \$5.00 (effective 9-1-25). The outreach membership must be applied for annually. The qualifying documents should be shown to the member's club registrar for verification (or in the case of unattached athletes only to the Montana Swimming DDEI chair who will verify it to Montana Swimming registrar). Clubs and Montana Swimming may not retain the documents.

For low income families to qualify for outreach membership you must show one of the following documents or letters to the club registrar or Montana Swimming DDEI chair: Federal free or reduced hot lunch program, 1040 tax form, Food Stamps (SNAP) program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), TANF, WIC, low income housing (Section 8, housing choice vouchers), low income energy assistance (LIEAP), Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI), private/parochial school based financial needs program, foster children, participation in Head Start, Medicaid, Medicare, Healthy Montana Kids Plus, Healthy Montana Kids, homeless, runaway, migrant, refugee, is a member of the club on a reduced or free scholarship, or their income is within the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Cases not falling under these circumstances may be appealed to the General Chair. Hardship exceptions may also be considered.

Outreach membership registration is also available to athletes who have a disability as recognized under the USA Swimming rules, Article 105. Any athlete with a disability applying for outreach membership must also be registered as a disability athlete. Families must show the club registrar (or in the case of an unattached athlete, the Montana Swimming DDEI Chair who will verify it to the Montana Swimming registrar) information verifying that the athlete is disabled as recognized under the USA Swimming rules Article 105. Medical paperwork does not have to be submitted. Clubs and the LSC may not keep any paperwork provided.

Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Disability athlete registration categories include:

- Legally blind or visually impaired,
- Deaf or hard of hearing (MT only),
- Physical disabilities (such as amputation, dwarfism, cerebral palsy, spinal injury, mobility impairment, limb deficiency, wheelchair bound with high functioning upper body, non-ambulatory (wheelchair bound), limited use of all four extremities), and
- Intellectual/Cognitive disability (such as severe learning disorders, Down Syndrome, autism spectrum disorder).

Disability athletes may register to compete as:

- P1 athletes -- Non-ambulatory (wheelchair-bound), limited use of all four extremities.
- P2 athletes -- Ambulatory with assistance: includes dwarfism, multiple limb deficiency, wheelchair-bound with high functioning upper body.
- P3 athletes – Ambulatory without significant assistance: includes single-limb deficiencies, blind/vision impaired; deaf/hearing impaired (MT only); intellectual, cognitive, and developmental impairments (including autism spectrum disorder and Down Syndrome); and other.