

Pacific Northwest Swimming Rules and Procedures	PNS Economic Inclusion
Index AD-17-01	Effective Date 6/15/20
Original: 4/24/2017 04/30/18: 250% and 125% of national poverty level 04/27/20: Changed Voucher C to Form C. Changed short course due to March 15. 06/15/20: Removed "Arena" from the Pro Series name.	

1. In order to accomplish the PNS vision of *Achieving Excellence While Fostering Growth*, it is imperative that Pacific Northwest Swimming promotes equal access to training resources and competition opportunities to all athletes, regardless of their individual means. Since PNS recognizes that national and international success in swimming depends on access to substantial resources, Pacific Northwest Swimming has created a process and funding mechanism that provides swimmers of limited means with additional club and LSC resources.

2. Outreach Membership
 - a. Any swimmer who provides documentation demonstrating a family income less than 250% of the federal poverty level will be registered as a USA Swimming outreach athlete member through PNS at no cost to themselves. For offset purposes, such swimmers shall be considered "Partial Offset Athletes."
 - i. Swimmers must provide documentation to the club registrar and the club registrar will provide PNS with a signed affidavit of the validity of documentation.
 - ii. Documentation allowed as proof of income below 250% of national poverty level is either a Federal 1040 tax return or proof of participation in: Federal reduced hot lunch program, SNAP (food stamps), WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations), TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program), Section 8 low income housing, Washington's Apple Healthcare, SSI (Supplemental Security Income), and JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills), YMCA/Parks Department low income memberships, or any similar program as approved by the PNS Diversity and Inclusion Chair.
 - iii. An athlete who cannot meet the qualifications specified in ii above can appeal to the PNS Diversity and Inclusion Chair who may grant a waiver and authorize registration of the athlete.
 - b. Any swimmer who provides documentation demonstrating a special situation status (such as foster child, homeless, runaway, or migrant), will be registered as a USA Swimming outreach athlete member through PNS at no cost to themselves. For offset purposes, such swimmers will be considered "Partial Offset Athletes".
 - i. Swimmers must provide documentation to the club registrar and the club registrar will provide PNS with a signed affidavit of the validity of documentation.
 - c. Any swimmer who provides documentation demonstrating a family income less than 125% of the federal poverty level will be registered as a USA Swimming outreach athlete member through PNS at no cost to themselves. For offset purposes, such swimmers will be considered "Full Offset Athletes."
 - i. Swimmers must provide documentation to the club registrar and the club registrar will provide PNS with a signed affidavit of the validity of documentation.
 - ii. Documentation allowed as proof of income below 125% of national poverty level is either a Federal 1040 tax return or proof of participation in the Federal free hot lunch program.
 - iii. An athlete who cannot meet the qualifications specified in ii above can appeal to the PNS Diversity and Inclusion Chair who may grant a waiver and authorize registration of the athlete.

3. Meet Offsets (Vouchers)

- a. For meets paying a tap to PNS, teams must submit a completed "Voucher A" with their entries. Meet hosts will subtract submitted voucher amounts from their owed tap before submitting payment to PNS. "Voucher A" may not be used to pay for deck entries, time trial and/or relay fees.
 - i. Partial Offset Athletes will pay the athlete surcharge for the applicable meet, and PNS will offset the individual event entry fees.
 - ii. Full Offset Athletes will receive both the athlete surcharge and individual event entry fees offset by PNS.
- b. For Senior Sectionals, Futures, Pro Series, Junior Nationals, Nationals, US Open, Olympic Trials, Open Water Nationals, World Championship Trials, Para Can Am and Paralympic Trials, and other championship Online Meet Entry meets as approved by the PNS Diversity and Inclusion Chair, teams must submit a completed "Voucher B" to the PNS office within 60 days of meet conclusion. PNS will issue a reimbursement check to the team covering the "Voucher B" amount. "Voucher B" may not be used to pay for deck entries, time trial and/or relay fees.
 - i. Partial Offset Athletes will pay the athlete surcharge for the applicable meet, and PNS will offset the individual event entry fees.
 - ii. Full Offset Athletes will receive both the athlete surcharge and individual event entry fees offset by PNS.

4. Training Offsets (Team Training Support)

- a. Teams may apply for PNS offset to help offset training fees offsets they provide outreach swimmers. Teams must submit a completed "Form C" for each athlete by March 15 for the short course season, and by August 15 for the long course season. There should not be an expectation that full reimbursement will be provided by PNS.
 - i. Athletes must:
 - (1) be members in good standing.
 - (2) attended 60% of all workouts provided for their training group.
 - (3) participated in a minimum of two (2) competitions sanctioned by PNS for that season.
 - ii. Teams must:
 - (1) Provide proof of all practices attended by the applicants, as well as proof of all practice opportunities provided.
 - (2) Provide proof of at least two (2) competitions sanctioned by PNS in which the applicant participated.
 - (3) Provide proof of all amounts paid by applicant that were applied to their training fees.
 - (4) Provide proof of the cost of the training group the applicant participated in paid by other athletes on the team during the same time period.
- b. Each Full Offset Athlete applicant meeting the above criteria will be awarded one (1.00) offset share for each dollar the team supplemented (calculated by (3) above subtracted from (4) above) for that athlete. Each Partial Offset Athlete applicant meeting the above criteria will be awarded a three-quarters (.75) offset share for each dollar the team supplemented (calculated by (3) above subtracted from (4) above) for that athlete. Teams will be reimbursed per share, the lesser of either: The total amount budgeted for Team Training Support for that season divided by the total number of shares from all qualifying athletes; or \$1.00.