

Virginia Swimming, Inc.
BoD Meeting
August 25, 2024
Executive Director Report

2024 Registrations as of 8/23/2024

Premium: 6082 (inc. 284 Upgrades)
Flex: 582
Outreach: 73
Individual Season: 256
Single Meet: 17
Total: 7010
Non-Athletes: 1151 (inc. 78 Administrators)
Clubs & Organizations: 52

2023 (8/24/23)

5997
573
71
239
2
6882
1074
50

Registration Update:

- Athletes Registering Too Early: The 2025 registration season opens on September 1st. As happened last year, we have had 38 new athlete registrations occur in the past two months that are for 2025. Each team has been contacted to ask the family for a receipt so that a refund can be processed. To date, 19 of these registrations have been cancelled and refunds processed but our numbers above include those registrations that have not yet been handled. Families have 30 days from the date of registration to request a refund.
- Options for 2025 Registrations:
 - Bulk Renewal - Teams will once again have the option to bulk renew athletes and non-athletes in 2025. The deadline for teams to opt in for bulk renewal or have their returning members self-renew is 7 pm August 25th. A new integration between USA-S and Team Unify was announced to clubs and registrars on August 16th and will be effective September 1. This integration will allow a TU club that also opted into bulk renewal to register all athletes, new and returning, through its TU platform. Teams are not required to utilize the TU integration but can renew returning athletes through the club portal in SWIMS. Non-athletes must still be renewed through the club portal in SWIMS.
 - Self-Renewal - If clubs elect self-renewal, parents and non-athletes will receive automatic reminders from USA-S in the fall and will be able to renew directly from their member dashboard.
 - New Registrations – Anyone registering for the first time in 2025 or who hasn't registered since September 1, 2022, will follow the process initiated with SWIMS 3.0: the parent creates a login and registers the child directly with USA-S. (except as described in the Bulk Renewal bullet above)
 - Emily and I sent information to our clubs outlining the processes earlier this week.
- Outreach: As has been our practice in the past, clubs identify athletes that qualify for Outreach membership. We provide eligibility guidelines for the clubs to use which include:
 - Free/reduced lunch
 - Medicaid
 - SNAP
 - Clubs can also provide an explanation of the method that they utilize to verify qualification such as YMCA scholarship guidelines.

Clubs are reimbursed for meet entry fees for their Outreach athletes. Because registration is now handled either by the parents or clubs, we do not participate in the actual registration confirmation process as we did prior to SWIMS 3.0. However, in order for the club to receive reimbursement of meet fees, we do still require documentation for each athlete from the clubs as to the eligibility guideline utilized. The date we receive the form is the first date for which meet fee reimbursements are provided.

- **Club Fees:** USA-S will capture LSC club fees this year when clubs renew for 2025. This means that we will not need to invoice clubs separately for our \$30 fee but the amount will be subject to the 4% technology fee charged by USA-S. Currently, if a club does not renew by December 1, we charge an additional \$50 fee. If that occurs, we will need to invoice the club for that amount.
- **Junior Official:** This is a new membership category that has been approved by the USA Swimming Board of Directors and is comparable to the Junior Coach category initiated a few years ago. 16-17 year-old individuals can complete the training and then officiate at meets/sessions for 12 & under athletes. They must meet the same certification requirements as adult officials but do not need to complete the APT or BG check. They must, however, complete a concussion training course as well as the Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13 – 17) course. Athlete membership is not required to register as a Junior Official.
Action Item: Decide if the Junior Official role should be included as one of our LSC offerings and if so, if the LSC registration fee should be the same as for other non-athletes (\$8.00)
- **Satellite Clubs:** We currently have three clubs that have satellite branches: BASS (two satellites), GATR (1 satellite) and NOVA (1 satellite). It has been our practice charge the satellites the same fee that we charge each club - \$100. This was done because prior to SWIMS 3.0 office staff provided the same support to each satellite as it did for every club: registrations, invoicing, meet sanctions, etc. Each satellite was also separately identified on the Club page of our website. With the advent of SWIMS 3.0, things became a little fuzzier for identifying true satellites, but I have had some conversations with the parent clubs this year to gain some clarity on their organizations. Basically, each of the clubs and its respective satellites join together as one team at meets but they have separate governing bodies and keep their finances separate.
Action Item: Do we maintain the current practice of charging each satellite the \$100 club fee and providing a separate listing for each on the Club page of our website?

2026 Eastern Zone Meets: Bids for these meets must be submitted to the EZ Championship Meet Coordinator for consideration at the meeting which will be held in Denver next month. The following teams have expressed interest in hosting meets:

- SC Region 2 Sectionals, March 26-29, 2026: HOKI at CAC
- LC Super Sectionals, May 14-17m 2026: SRVA at CSAC
- LC Age Group Championships, either July 29- August 1 or August 5-8, 2026
 - SRVA at CSAC
 - NOVA at NOVA-Regency

Action Item: Select the host team & location for EZ LC Age Group Champs bid

OME: We used OME for our LSC Championship and Sectional meets. In all of these except the LC Super Sectional meet we set OME up in such a way that payment of entry fees was submitted to us rather than going through USA Swimming. By receiving checks from the clubs or through PayPal, there was at least a 50% savings in credit card processing fees charged by the vendor. Additionally, payment of entry fees collected by USA Swimming took at least 6 weeks from the end date of Super

Sectionals to be paid whereas fees collected through PayPal are available immediately. I was also notified by USA-S that they believe we were overpaid almost \$1600 for our entry fees for this meet. I have not yet reviewed the data but plan to do a deep dive to determine the discrepancy this week.

LC Zones: Again, this year Zone team registrations, team selection, and submitting entries were handled through Team Unify. Cassondre Wilburn, our head coach, felt that the eligibility reports generated through TU assisted greatly in selecting events for our athletes. The entire process from athlete registration to identifying the team to selecting events to collecting fees and refunding those who registered but didn't make the team went very smoothly.

Meet Director & Meet Marshal Workshops: Emily and I will be scheduling these workshops for multiple dates in September. Attendance at the workshops is required once every two years so I don't expect attendance to be quite as robust as last year.

Scholastic All-American: The application period will remain open until September 6th. Information about the requirements and application process can be found at <https://www.usaswimming.org/times/popular-resources/scholastic-all-america>. This year all able-bodied athletes who achieved a qualifying time and their head coach received an email inviting them to apply. Athletes with a disability should check the link above to find the Para Scholastic All American time standards to see if they qualify and follow instructions on that page for submitting an application. USA Swimming does not have a way to identify those athletes and contact them directly. Emily serves as one of the SAA evaluators so please contact her with any questions or if assistance is needed.

Swimmers of the Year: The Senior and Age Group Committees are currently identifying the recipients of the awards. Single age awards are provided for males and females in the 9 – 14-year-old athletes while 15-16 and 17-18 are awarded by age group. This year the awards will be presented at each athlete's individual club practice. Details will be provided to the clubs once the recipients have been selected. The athletes will also be invited to Lunch with the Olympians between the sessions of the athlete clinic that is scheduled for September 15th.

Fall Education Weekend: This year's Swimposium will only feature a session for Officials. Information and registration links are posted on the website homepage and emailed to all officials. The Swimposium will be held at the Henrico Adult Education Center (next door to NOVA – Regency). Lunch to follow at Sloop John B at Regency.

Additionally, there will be an Athlete Clinic will be held on Sunday, September 15th at the NOVA-Regency pool. We are planning to have two Olympians serve as clinicians and are in the final stages of verifying their availability. As mentioned above our 2024 Swimmer of the Year recipients will be invited to attend lunch with the Olympians in recognition of their achievement.

