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## Y SWIMMING NEWS – FEBRUARY 2024

Monthly highlights, updates and reminders for YMCA Swimming coaches, volunteers, and supervisors

### YMCA National Meets

Championship season is here! The respective meet committees are working diligently to ensure a memorable experience at each of the upcoming events. Please see the individual meet pages for more information.

### YMCA National Short Course Championships

With the meet only six weeks away, there is much information being posted on the [meet site](#) each week. Please check regularly for updates and new information, including:

- [Travel Assistance](#) applications are now being accepted. These must be submitted by the head coach. **Deadline: March 25**
- There will be an **Athlete Dinner** on Tuesday, April 2, following the afternoon meet session, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Hall B of the Special Events Center. Olympian Ashley Twitchell will be the guest speaker and will be available for autographs before and after the dinner (pasta, grilled chicken, salad, bread)
- The Greensboro Aquatic Center is offering [Team Meals](#) immediately following Finals on Wednesday-Saturday nights. Use the link for more information. **Deadline: March 20.**
- Athlete volunteers are needed to [offer a Reflection or perform the National Anthem](#) prior to each session. Athletes may also sign up to carry their [State Sign](#) in the Parade of Athletes on Wednesday night.
- [Senior Recognition](#) **Deadline is March 23.** Submit names, photos and future plans for your graduating seniors in the meet.
- [Timers](#) are needed for the meet. Those working four or more sessions during the meet will be provided a complimentary parking pass and free admission to the spectator area when they are not working.
- **Officials** are also needed. Interested certified YMCA or USA Swimming officials should contact [Ted Rauth](#).
- There is a new **Insurance Certificate submission** process this year. DO NOT send to finance@ymca.net. Your YMCA's CEO or

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### Link Question of the Month

*When does your fall/winter (short course) season end? Does your entire team stop or take a break at the same time or stagger based on the last meet for each swimmer? Share your input [HERE](#).*

### Team and Coach Registrations Hit Post-Pandemic High



YMCA team and coach registrations for the 2023-24 season are already the highest since the COVID pandemic. As of February 15, 2024, there are 515 YMCA teams and 1,819 coaches registered. The highest number of teams ever registered was 639 in the 2016-17 season.

Remember that only registered teams and coaches may participate in YMCA sanctioned meets, including the YMCA National Championship meets.

Click [HERE](#) to register a team or coach.

MOYP administrator uploads the certificate directly to the Data Collection Hub (the same place they submit their annual report). Using this system, they can be checked immediately and more frequent updates can be listed.

- There will be a **College Coaches Forum** on Tuesday, April 2 from 11:00 am to Noon in Hall B of the Special Events Center. Hosted by Glenn Neufeld, athletes, parents and coaches will learn about college swimming at different levels, recruiting and the search process. This is free.
- Also available on the [website](#) – Eligibility Waiver Request form, Coach Authorization form, Attestation forms for CEOs/EDs, Athletes, Parents, Coaches.

### YMCA National Masters Meet

- The entry system is open. *Deadline: April 25.*
- Several new hotel listings with special event rates have been posted on the meet web page.
- This year's meet will feature a *Reception* on Saturday before participants go out for dinner. It will feature light hors d'oeuvres, beverages and games so that the Masters community can come together casually and build fellowship.
- Check out the [VisitLauderdale](#) site for visitor's information

### YMCA National Diving Championships

- The entry system is open. *Deadline: May 1.*
- Several new hotel listings with special event rates have been posted on the meet web page.

### YMCA National Long Course Swimming Championships

The hotel booking site for the YMCA National Long Course Swimming Championships will go live on **Friday, February 23**. The link will be emailed to all registered coaches and posted on the [meet web page](#).

Please use this site to book your hotel rooms for the event. By doing so, you not only ensure low rates and secure booking but you also support the Travel Assistance Program that provides funds to swimmers who would not otherwise be able to afford to travel to the meet.



### Award Applications and Nominations Now Open

Several annual awards are presented at the YMCA National Short Course Swimming Championships. Applications and/or nominations for the following are now open:

### YMCA Swim Coaches Forum

Tuesday, March 19 @11:30 am EST. Find link [HERE](#).

Did you miss the January Forum (Aquatics & Swim Team Working Well Together) or the February Forum (Navigating the End of Season + Guest Presentation from Swimmingly's Charlie Houchin)? Check out the [recording](#).



### USA Swimming Opportunities for Coach Development

USA Swimming has three active [coaching networks](#) (10&U, 11-14 and Senior) that provide current information, expertise, discussion and community-building for coaches.

This year's [Coaches Leadership Summit](#) is focused on *Leading Through Change* and includes three virtual and one in-person session in March and April.

### YMCA Changemakers Summit

Do you have athletes who are also interested in leading change in their community? The Changemakers Summit is an annual opportunity for high school students to propose a project addressing a critical issue or need. If their proposal is accepted, they will present it during the Summit in Washington, D.C. in June. Find more information [HERE](#).

### YMCA Swimming Coach of the Year

This award is announced at the meet, but the recipient does NOT need to be present. Coach of the Year is given to a YMCA coach who has demonstrated lasting impact on their athletes, YMCA and community and who exemplifies the YMCA's core values in the promotion of achievement, belonging and positive relationships.

*Deadline: March 15*

### Adolph Kiefer YMCA Youth Character Award

Presented to two YMCA swimmers who for their excellence in academic achievement and their commitment to healthy living and social responsibility through YMCA competitive swimming. The selected individuals will be granted \$2,500 each to be issued directly to their respective institutes of higher learning.

*Deadline: March 1*

### Joseph G. Rogers Award

Presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in transformational volunteer leadership in the YMCA Swimming and Diving program.

*Deadline: March 31*

## **YMCA Supervisor Essentials Series**

Y-USA has bundled several learning resources for supervisors into the *Supervisor Essential Series*. There are e-learnings, instructor-led trainings and a podcast to help you develop as a supervisor. Topics include performance management, conflict management, emotional intelligence, building an effective team and more. Find hyperlinks and a broader description [here](#).



### **Did You Know...**

The YMCA National Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee is commissioned by YMCA of the USA and its Board of Directors to advise on program development, best practices and national championship events.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives of the various constituencies within YMCA Swimming. Current members include:

**Bob McDowell**, Chair and facilitator of the CEO/COO Partners (PA)

**Bob Turner** (outgoing), National Events (FL)

**Jon Saxton** (incoming), National Events (OH)

**Jamie Bloom**, Coaches at-large (NC)

**Mike Leonard**, Coaches Association Executive Committee (OH)

**Judy Sharkey**, Officials (NJ)

**Mike Gobrecht**, Regional Representatives (PA)

**Karina Weiss**, Regional Representatives (TX)

**Eli Edmondson**, Athlete (NC)

**Ariel Grannis**, Athlete (KY)

**Jim Ryan**, Y-USA Technical Advisor for National Aquatic Events

**Meredith Griffin**, Y-USA Manager, National Competitive Events