

Athlete Travel Assistance Program
Middle Atlantic Swimming

A) General

- 1) Middle Atlantic (MA) funds will be provided to support athletes traveling to and participating in USA Swimming National Championships (Nationals), Olympic and World Championship Trials (when held as separate Meets), Eastern Zone Sectionals, the US Open, Open Water National Championships, Adapted National Championships and Zone Age Group Championships. On a case by case basis, funding may also be available for International Open Water and Adapted competitions.
- 2) Participation at the above Meets is defined as competing in a minimum of one individual event at the specified Meet. Swimmers who are disqualified from an event for either a stroke or turn violation or a false start may count that event for participation. Swimmers who are disqualified for failure to swim a deck-seeded event after they have checked in may not count that event. Swimmers who fail to swim in a Finals event for which they have qualified may not count that event; scratching from the Finals event (except for medical reasons) is not an acceptable reason to not swim. Any Swimmer disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct or because of a violation of a safety rule will receive travel support only after review and approval by the Senior (or other relevant) Committee. Travel allowances are not automatic. All awards are subject to review by the Senior Committee.
- 3) Travel Assistance will be provided to any Swimmer for only one Meet during each Spring and Summer season, except as follows:
 - a) Swimmers who attend separate Nationals and Olympic/World Championship Trials in the same season can receive assistance for both Meets.
 - b) Participation in the U.S. Open does not count as either a Spring or Summer Meet.
 - c) Swimmers who receive assistance for Sectionals may also receive assistance for Zone Age Group Championships.

B) Requirements

- 1) Registration
 - a) A Swimmer must have current registration in MA at the time of any funded travel.
 - b) A swimmer must have been registered by MA for at least one period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months within the five-year period immediately preceding travel.
 - c) The length of registration will determine amount of travel assistance for National level Meets, as follows:
 - (1) First registration (calendar) year in MA – no reimbursement.
 - (2) Second registration year in MA – 70% of Destination Award.
 - (3) Third registration year in MA – 100% of Destination Award.
 - (4) Fourth and subsequent registration years in MA – 100% of Destination Award plus Bonus Award.
- 2) Time Standards for Eastern Zone Sectionals
 - a) For Spring Sectionals, an athlete must achieve a **MA Sectional Travel Award Time Standard** between March 1 of the previous year and the entry deadline for the Spring Sectional Meet, and participate in that event at the Sectional meet.
 - b) For Summer Sectionals, an athlete must achieve a **MA Sectional Travel Award Time Standard** between August 1 of the previous year and the entry deadline for the Summer Sectional Meet, and participate in that event at the Sectional meet.

Note: the **MA Sectional Travel Award Time Standards** are equivalent to the qualifying Time Standards for the last (i.e., 2000) Junior Championship.

- 3) MA Meet Participation
 - a) To receive Travel Support funds, a swimmer must have participated in at least six (6) Middle Atlantic Sanctioned meets within the two-year period immediately preceding travel. Participation is defined the same as in paragraph A.2 above.
 - b) Participation must be in Open Middle Atlantic Sanctioned meets. Participation in Time Trials, Dual, Intra-Squad, and other Closed meets does not qualify toward the participation requirement.
 - c) As participation at MA Meets is designed to present a positive role model experience to other swimmers, all applicants are expected to put forth a good faith effort in their MA swims.
 - d) Exceptions:
 - (a) College students must participate in a minimum of three (3) MA-Sanctioned individual events in the approximately twelve (12) month period preceding the Meet for which support is requested. This qualifying period shall begin on December 1 of the preceding year for the US Open, March 1 of the preceding year for the Spring Nationals/Sectionals, and August 1 of the preceding year for the Summer Nationals/Sectionals – and ends with the first day of the respective Meet.
 - e) Zone All-star Team and Adapted Swimming:
 - (1) Participation in six (6) meets within the two-year period immediately preceding travel.
 - (2) Exception: Swimmers with only one (1) year of registration must participate in a minimum of four (4) meets.

C) Level of Support

- 1) The Finance Committee shall propose a **Meet Support Amount** for each eligible meet, and shall be approved as part of the annual MA Budget process. The **Meet Support Amount** shall be based on the level of the Meet, as well as the location and expected cost for travel to the Meet location.
- 2) The Travel Support for each Swimmer (except US Open) shall consist of two parts: the **Bonus Award** and the **Destination Award**.
 - a) The **Bonus Award** is awarded to all swimmers who meet the eligibility (see B.1.c.4) and participation criteria for that Meet. The **Bonus Award** is based on the level of each Meet, and shall be as follows:

Olympic and World Championship Trials (when held as separate Meet)	\$150
National and Open Water Championship	\$100
Sectionals	\$ 50
Adapted	\$ 50

(Note: the **Bonus Award** shall be awarded to all eligible swimmers, regardless of the total funds which were budgeted for that Meet.)

- b) The **Destination Award** for each Meet is arrived at by multiplying the number of swimmers receiving the **Bonus Award** times the **Bonus Award** amount and subtracting that amount from the **Meet Support Amount**. The remainder is then divided by the number of swimmers eligible to obtain the **Destination Award**. (When appropriate, the number of swimmers shall be adjusted to account for swimmers who are only eligible for a partial **Destination Award**.) The **Destination Award** shall not exceed a maximum amount per Swimmer to be established by the Senior Committee annually for each meet.
- 3) Travel support for the US Open will be computed based on a maximum allowance for transportation costs as determined by the Finance Committee, or the annual budget amount divided equally among participants, whichever is less. Actual travel award to each qualified applicant will not be determined until after the Meet.

- 4) Travel support for Zone Teams will be determined by the Age-Group and/or Zone Committee. Total costs for the Spring All-Star Team will be estimated by the Zone Committee, and partially offset by the MA budgeted amount. Each Team member will be allocated an equal share of the remaining costs. MA support for the Summer Zone Team will be to cover Coaches and administrative costs only; each participating Swimmer is responsible for their own travel, housing and meal expenses.

D) Application Procedure

- 1) Zone Team travel: Athletes who have been selected for the Spring Team based on current year performances in accordance with the Zone All-Star Team policies will be charged a flat fee to cover their portion of the trip costs. No further application for funding is required. There is no individual reimbursement or support for Summer Team participants.
- 2) All other travel:
 - a) All Travel Support funds shall be paid to each swimmer's Club. The Club representative shall submit a completed Request for Travel Assistance form, a copy of the Meet entry form, and proof of participation to the MA Office, Attn: Travel Administrator; the form shall include UNattached swimmers associated with the Club. True UNattached swimmers (i.e., without a Club) shall provide the same information and should contact the MA Office regarding the nature of the reimbursement.
 - b) Deadline for submission of a completed application is as follows:
 - (1) U.S. Open – December 31 of that year.
 - (2) Spring Sectionals / Nationals – April 30 of that year.
 - (3) Summer Sectionals / Nationals – fifteen (15) days following the last day of the Meet.

E) Waivers / Appeals

- 1) In extenuating circumstances, certain eligibility or participation requirements may be waived. An Application for Waiver should be submitted by the Club representative (or Unattached swimmer) to the MA office and will be referred to the appropriate committee, as follows:
 - a) Senior committee: Nationals, Olympic and World Championship Trials, U.S. Open and Sectionals
 - b) Age Group committee: Zone Age Group Championships
 - c) Open Water: all Open Water competition
 - d) Adapted: all Adapted competition
- 2) College students who are required to attend summer classes outside the MA boundaries may apply for waiver of the Meet requirement. A copy of the student's summer transcript must accompany the application.
- 3) Appeals to the decision of a Committee may be made by the Club representative or Unattached swimmer to the Board of Directors by submitting an appropriate request to the MA Office.