

USA SWIMMING
SWIMMER SELECTION PROCEDURES
2017 FINA Open Water World Championships
Lake Balaton, Hungary
July 15-21, 2017

Defined Terms- The following common definitions shall apply to these Swimmer Selection Procedures:

- A. Available Swimmer. "Available Swimmer" shall mean a swimmer who, at the time of selection and through the Championships, (i) is a registered athlete member of USA Swimming in good standing; (ii) is a citizen of the United States who is eligible to represent the United States at the Championships; (iii) has a valid passport by July 1, 2017 that remains valid through six months after the end of the Championships; (iv) satisfies all applicable FINA, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) and USA Swimming eligibility requirements (according to FINA rules swimmers must be at least 14 years of age, anytime during the calendar year, for all FINA Open Water Swimming events); (v) indicates that he or she will accept an invitation to become a member of the Team and swim in at least one event for which he/she qualifies if and when that invitation is offered by USA Swimming; and (vi) continues to train for peak swimming performance. If a swimmer does not satisfy these requirements, then he/she will not be considered an Available Swimmer.
- B. Championships. The "Championships" means the 2017 FINA Open Water World Championships to be held July 15-21, 2017 in Lake Balaton, Hungary.
- C. Head Coach. Unless otherwise indicated, "Head Coach" refers to the head coach of the Team.
- D. National Team Director. "National Team Director" refers to the USA Swimming National Team Director or his designee.
- E. Qualifying Competition. The "Qualifying Competition" means the 2017 USA Swimming Open Water World Championship Trials (10K and 5K events) to be held on May 19 and 21 at Castaic Lake, California.
- F. Team. "Team" means the 2017 FINA Open Water World Championship Team to be announced by USA Swimming on or about June 1, 2017.
- G. Time of Selection. The official "Time of Selection" will be May 19 and 21, 2017 upon completion of the Qualifying Competition.
- H. World University Games. The "World University Games" means the 2017 World University Games to be held in Taipei, Chinese Taipei.

I. Additional Requirements upon Selection.

- A. To ensure that USA Swimming selects the best possible team for the Championships, a swimmer who has qualified to swim in the Championships in the 10K event, as described in Section II.B.1 below, and who has accepted the invitation to swim in the Championships must swim in the 10K event at the Championships and may not swim in the 10K event at the World University Games.
- B. All swimmers selected to the Team must comply with all applicable rules and requirements of FINA, WADA, USADA, and USA Swimming. This includes, without limitation, a requirement that each swimmer selected to the Team shall sign and abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the USA Swimming Competition Forms (See Attachment A) and conform to all USA Swimming policies and protocols, including without limitation those policies and protocols dealing with Team preparation and participation.

II. Initial Team Selection- Making and Filling the Team.

- A. Team Size. The maximum allowable Team size is six (6) men and six (6) women. The actual Team size will be determined once these Selection Procedures have been implemented. If, for any reason, the Team size is less than six (6) men or six (6) women, no additional swimmers will be added to the Team, and USA Swimming will be under no obligation to take a full Team to the Championships. For purposes of these Selection Procedures, the men's and women's components of the Team will be considered separately, unless otherwise stated.
- B. Performance Criteria for Team Selection. FINA rules allow up to two (2) competitors per country in each event. The Team will be selected from the Available Swimmers from the following events at the Qualifying Competition (please note that anyone who qualifies to compete in an event pursuant to this Section II.B will be added to the Team):
 - 1. **10K Qualifying Competition.** The 10K event at the Qualifying Competition will select the following Available Swimmers for the following events at the Championships:
 - a. First Place Finisher. The best finishing Available Swimmer in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition will be selected to the Team and to compete in the 10K at the Championships. He/she will also have the option of competing in the 25K. Additionally, he/she will have the option of competing in the 5K event should it remain available after Section II.B.2 below.
 - b. Second Place Finisher. The second best finishing Available Swimmer in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition will be selected to the Team and to compete

in the 10K at the Championships and will have the option in competing in the 25K. Additionally, he/she will have the option of competing in the 5K event should it remain available after Section II.B.2 and Section II.B.1.a.

- c. Third Place Finisher. The third best finishing Available Swimmer in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition will have first priority of any remaining events after Section II.B.2 and II.B.1.a-b.
 - e. Remaining Finishers. In the event that there are not two Available Swimmers placed in the 5K, 10K and 25K at the Championships after applying the procedures set forth above, the next best finishing Available Swimmer(s) in the 10K event from the Qualifying Competition will be added to the Team until those spots are filled.
2. **5K Qualifying Competition.** The 5K event at the Qualifying Competition will select the following Available Swimmers to the 5K event at the Championships:
- a. First Place Finisher. The best finishing Available Swimmer in the 5K event at the Qualifying Competition will be selected to compete in the 5K at the Championships.
 - b. Second Place Finisher. The second best finishing Available Swimmer in the 5K event at the Qualifying Competition will be selected to compete in the 5K at the Championships.
 - c. If either the First Place Finisher or the Second Place Finisher decline the 5K event at the Championships the event will be filled by swimmers from the 10K Qualifying Competition as listed above in Section II.B.1. until the position is filled.
- C. **Team 5K.** Any Available Swimmer who is selected to the Team will be a candidate to swim the Team 5K event. Selection of swimmers for the Team 5K will be made by the Head Coach in his/her sole discretion, and whose decision shall not be subject to challenge. In selecting the Team 5K, the Head Coach, in consultation with the assistant coach, shall consider all available information, including but not limited to each Team member's Qualifying Competition performance, team pursuit experience, Championships performances, personal best performances, Championships schedules, individual workload, other recent results and performances, consistency of performances, fatigue, health, fitness levels, training preparation, participation in relay training camps, scientific evaluation, attitude and team chemistry.

- D. Breaking a Tie – 10K. In the instance where there is tie between two or more swimmers in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition, the following methods will be used to break the tie:
1. If there is a two-way tie for first place, both Available Swimmers will be considered the First and Second Place Finishers from the Qualifying Competition;
 2. If there is a three-way (or more) tie for first place, or if a tie occurs for any place other than first place, then the Available Swimmer(s) with the best finish(es) at the Qualifying Competition in the 5K event will win the tie-breaker. If only one of the Available Swimmers in the tie competed in the 5K event of the Qualifying Competition, then that Available Swimmer will win the tie-breaker;
 3. If this does not break the tie, the swimmer with the highest world ranking in the 1500 meter freestyle for the men and the 800 meter freestyle for the women based on FINA.org World Rankings from January 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017, will win the tie-breaker;
 4. If this does not break the tie, the tie will be broken by random draw.
- E. Breaking a Tie – 5K. In the instance where there is tie between two or more swimmers in the 5K event at the Qualifying Competition, the following methods will be used to break the tie:
1. If there is a two-way tie for first place, both Available Swimmers will be considered the First and Second Place Finishers from the 5K Qualifying Competition;
 2. If there is a three-way (or more) tie for first place, or if a tie occurs for any place other than first place, then the Available Swimmer(s) with the best finish(es) in the 10K of the Qualifying Competition event will win the tie-breaker. If only one of the Available Swimmers competed in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition, then that Available Swimmers will win the tie-breaker.
 3. If this does not break the tie, the swimmer with the highest world ranking in the 1500 meter freestyle for the men, and the 800 meter freestyle for the women, based on FINA.org World Rankings from January 1, 2016 – May 1, 2017, will win the tie-breaker;
 4. If this does not break the tie, it will be broken by random draw.

III. Vacancies in Team.

- A. Adjustments to the Team between Time of Selection and Entry Submission (Date & Time – TBD). If, for any reason, an event position becomes vacant between the Time of Selection and the date USA Swimming submits its entries and visa requirements for the Championships (TBD), the opportunity to fill the vacancy will be offered to the next highest placing Available Swimmer(s) from the Qualifying Competition based on the priorities set forth in Section II.B, until the vacancy is filled. If this process results in vacancies in other events (e.g., a swimmer elects to swim in the vacant event and withdraws from another event), then those vacancies will be filled by the same process. Nothing in this section shall have the effect of bumping off the Team a swimmer who has already been selected to the Team.
- B. Adjustments to the Team after Entry Submission. If, for any reason, an event position becomes vacant after USA Swimming submits the entries to FINA, no additional members will be added to the Team. In the event that USA Swimming is permitted to replace the vacant event position, such position will be chosen based on the highest placed Available Swimmer in the 10K event at the Qualifying Competition from among those swimmers already on the Team who agree to compete in the vacant event.

IV. Removal from the Team.

- A. Dismissal. Any swimmer may be dismissed from the Team at any time if:
 - (i) the swimmer violates any of the applicable WADA, USADA, FINA, USA Swimming or other rules and regulations applicable to the Team or its members, including without limitation applicable Codes of Conduct; or
 - (ii) the National Team Director, in consultation with the Head Coach, the USA Swimming Steering Committee Chair and the USA Swimming Athletes' Executive Vice President, determines that the swimmer is unable or unwilling to maintain a training regimen that is necessary for peak performance in the Championships.
 - (iii) Right to a Hearing before Removal or Ineligibility. An athlete who is to be removed from the Team or from eligibility to be selected to the Team pursuant to these provisions has the right to a hearing per the USA Swimming Bylaws (usaswimming.org) or the USOC Bylaws, Section 9, before such removal or declaration of ineligibility.
- B. Anti-Doping Violation. If a swimmer is alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, that swimmer will remain on the Team (or remain

eligible to be selected to the Team) until: 1) the swimmer is provisionally suspended or declared ineligible after a hearing conducted pursuant to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing or by FINA; 2) the swimmer voluntarily accepts a provisional suspension or sanction of ineligibility; or 3) the swimmer voluntarily withdraws from the Team or relinquishes eligibility to be selected to the Team. Confidentiality regarding alleged anti-doping rule violations shall be maintained as provided in the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing.

- C. Injury or Illness. USA Swimming may remove a swimmer who has an injury or an illness, as certified by the approved team physician, that is likely to keep him or her from competing at peak levels in the Championships. If a swimmer refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by the approved team physician, his/her injury will be assumed to keep him or her from competing at peak levels in the Championships, and he/she may be removed by the decision of the Head Coach and the National Team Director.

V. Withdrawal from the Team.

Any swimmer may withdraw from the Team at any time by submitting a written letter to USA Swimming’s National Team Director. If a swimmer withdraws due to injury or illness, that injury or illness must be certified by a USA Swimming Medical Staff member in consultation with USA Swimming (National Team Director, Head Coach and Athlete Advisory Representative), as preventing the swimmer from full participation in and/or preparation for the Championships.

VI. Assembly, Training, and Competition.

Swimmers selected to the Team will be required to participate in assembly, training and Championships. Assembly will take place on July 5, 2017 (which will require leaving the U.S. by no later than July 4, 2017), and the Team will remain together through July 22. Specific dates/locations of mandatory training and Competition are subject to change:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>
Various Sites	July 4 or earlier	Depart U.S.A.
Bled, Slovenia	July 5	Team Assembly
Bled, Slovenia	July 5-12	Training Camp
Lake Balaton, Hungary	July 12-14	Training
Lake Balaton, Hungary	July 15-21	Competition
Lake Balaton, Hungary	August 2	Return home

VII. Publicity/ Distribution of Procedures.

These Procedures, when approved, will be published on the USA Swimming website, usaswimming.org.

VIII. Disclaimer.

- A. International Rules and Regulations. These Selection Procedures are based on the latest information available to USA Swimming and are based on FINA and USA Swimming Rules and Regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in FINA or USA Swimming Rules and Regulations or other unforeseen circumstances will be distributed to the affected swimmers immediately.

- B. Priority of Written Procedures. The terms and conditions of these written Selection Procedures shall take priority over any verbal explanation, clarification or interpretation of the Selection Procedures and a swimmer relies on a verbal explanation, clarification or interpretation of these Selection Procedures at his or her sole risk. Any request or question that would involve a formal clarification or interpretation of these Selection Procedures, or that would address an issue not otherwise covered in these Selection Procedures, should be submitted to the USA Swimming National Team Director in writing, and the response to such request by USA Swimming will be provided within five business days in writing to the requestor.

- C. Accidental Nomination of an Athlete. An athlete who is nominated to the Team by virtue of an error or oversight by USA Swimming may be removed from the team at any time.

Attachments

Attachments will be made available by May 1, 2017 and can be found at www.usaswimming.org