

SWIMMER ASSISTANCE POLICY

BACKGROUND

The West Coast Swimming Club recognises that swimmers may achieve qualification times that enable them to compete at elite levels. The West Coast Swimming club seeks to encourage and support swimmers with the potential to produce elite level performances. National representation recognises the achievements and potential of elite swimmers and provides a platform for them to act as role models.

PURPOSE

This policy provides a framework of support for the provision of coaching, organisational and individual financial support to swimmers attending Swimming Australia's national level age group or open competition (inclusive of able bodied and multiclass competition).

SCOPE

There are two pathways providing the opportunity for national representation currently available to competitive swimmers, being

- a) Educational Institutions (schools and universities), and
- b) Swimming Australia sanctioned events.

West Coast Swimming Club members who are selected to represent educational institutions, such as the School Sport South Australian Team to contest the National School Sport Championships or their University at the Uni Sport Nationals which are held annually in conjunction with the NSW Open Championships are not eligible for financial, coaching or administrative support from West Coast Swimming Club. Swimmers at these events are not representing the West Coast Swimming Club. Team chaperones, administration and coaching support are coordinated through School Sport SA or Universities and hence fall outside the scope of this policy. See the 'Further Funding Opportunities' section to explore for other funding sources.

This policy aims to aid West Coast Swimming Club members who have achieved the Australian Age or Australian Open Qualifying Times allowing entry into the National Age (LC) and National Open (LC and SC) Competitions in the current swimming year of competition. Swimming Australia also hosts National Age and Open Water Competition and opportunities to trial for the Olympic Team in selected years. Participation in these events recognises the swimmers' achievements thus far and their journey of development and potential, as a member of the West Coast Swimming Club. Swimmers in these competition categories are eligible to apply for resourcing to support their participation.

POLICY STATEMENT

Swimmers attending national swimming competitions (meets) will be provided with appropriate coaching and team manager support. Financial support for coach attendance is addressed in the ***Coaching and Competition Support Policy***.

Financial Support may be provided to attend National Meets providing:

- a) The swimmer currently trains in the club squad program.
- b) The swimmer has achieved the qualifying entry time for the meet; and
- c) The swimmer attends the meet.

National Meets Include:

- a) Australian Age Championships
- b) Australian Open Long Course Championships
- c) Australian Open Short Course Championships
- d) Australian Open Water Championships
- e) Australian Trials for the Olympic Games
- f) Consideration will also be provided for swimmers where additional opportunities have been developed by Swimming Australia to engage at a national or international level and where the swimmer is identified as a continuing representative of the West Coast Swimming Club.

Following completion of the event, the swimmer is requested to provide a brief report to the West Coast Swimming Club committee and/or speak at a Time Trial or End of Year Presentation event outlining their experiences and learning from national participation. This provides further opportunity to acknowledge the swimmer's achievements, to inspire and encourage others and to acknowledge the support by the Club. The Club may also publicise the swimmer's attendance, achievements and the West Coast Swimming Club in the local media and social media.

GUIDELINES

Applications for financial support for the current swimming year of competition are to be made via the application and are to include a break down estimate of the funds required for their participation. Personal hardship and/or other special considerations may be documented on the form.

Applications are to be assessed as part of committee meetings. Applications that are submitted for events occurring before the next committee meeting will be assessed at the next scheduled committee meeting and should not lead to out-of-meeting/Executive Committee decision unless there are pressing circumstances.

The committee may approve applications to a maximum value of \$500 per eligible swimmer.

Swimmers may choose to spend the money on entry fees, personal equipment, travel or accommodation costs that will be incurred for attending the event.

PROCESS

1. Fill out the Swimmer Assistance Application Form

Completed application forms are to be signed by the head coach or club president.

2. Submit the completed form to the West Coast Swimming Club Committee

A scanned copy of the form can be emailed to westcoastswimming@gmail.com or the original form may be submitted in person to the President or Secretary.

3. Application is tabled at Committee Meeting

The committee to assess the application(s) and decide the amount of financial support to be provided. This is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The Secretary to email the applicant or parent/caregiver and advise the outcome of the application.

4. Disbursement of Funds

Following the swimmer's participation in the event, the Treasurer is to transfer the approved amount to the swimmer or their parent/caregiver within 7 days.

DEFINITIONS

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| ASADA | Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority - A government statutory authority tasked to protect Australia's sporting integrity through the elimination of doping. |
| LC | Long Course 50m Pool. |
| Meet | swimming competition. |
| SC | Short Course 25m Pool. |
| Swimming year | The same as the period of registration for the current year of competition, noting that the swimming year runs from 1 st October in one year to 30 th September of the following year. |

FURTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Swimmers attending as representatives of the School Sport South Australia Team, or their university are encouraged to apply for funding support through the Local Sporting Champions Program or the Flinders Port Youth Travel Grant Scheme.

Swimmers receiving financial assistance via this policy are also encouraged to consider separate applications to the following funding programs.

1. Local Sporting Champions Program.

The Local Sporting Champions program provides financial assistance for coaches, officials and competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international championships. Successful applicants will receive \$500 as a base grant. Additional travel distance and rural location funding is available.

https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/local_sporting_champions

2. Flinders Ports Youth Travel Grant

Applicants must be between the ages of 10-18 years and living in the Flinders Electorate. Grants of up to \$100 may be available per person per year. Funds are limited and discretionary. Applications must be received at the Flinders Electorate Office (currently Sam Telfer) at least two weeks prior the event to be considered. Contact: 8683 0722

3. SASI Country Athlete Award

The IAP provides a 12-month athlete scholarship including financial support and targeted performance support services to individuals competing in an Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games sport. Due to the cyclical nature of this funding the Office of Sport and Recreation website link is not functioning. Search 'SASI Country Athlete Award' in your internet browser.

APPROVAL

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| Approved: | 30/04/2024 |
| Date of next review: | 30/04/2026 |