

Chapter 2

2.0 Membership

Clubs, Organizations, Affiliated Groups, Athletes and Non-athletes, as defined in Article 602 of the Middle Atlantic Swimming By-Laws, may become members of Middle Atlantic/USA Swimming by completing the requirements set forth in the Registration Section 2.1 of this Policy Manual. All memberships in Middle Atlantic Swimming (MAS) include membership in USA Swimming.

2.1 Registration

2.1.1 Group Membership

1. Club

Applications for Club membership may be obtained from the MAS office. Annual dues are as shown in Table 2.1. Membership is for a calendar year, although applications received after September 1 are valid until December 31 of the following year. The affiliations of at least one Athlete member and one properly credentialed Coach member are required for Club membership. A Club member is entitled to compete in its own name and to field relays at sanctioned meets.

2. Affiliated Group

An Affiliated Group (AG) membership is available to any group that supports the sport of competitive swimming and the objectives and programs of MAS. AG members are not required to have coach and athlete members. Applications for AG membership may be obtained from the MAS Office. Annual dues are as shown in Table 2.1. Membership is for a calendar year, although applications received after September 1 are valid until December 31 of the following year.

2.1.2 Individual Membership

1. Athlete

- (a) Athlete memberships are valid January 1 through December 31. Registrations filed between September 1 and December 31 are valid through December 31 of the following year. Current annual dues are shown in Table 2.1.
- (b) To participate in sanctioned MA meets, swimmers must be current members of USA Swimming. Swimmers may compete representing their Club or as an UNattached swimmer.
- (c) Applications for membership are available from each Club, from the Middle Atlantic web site or the MAS office.
- (d) Transfers
 - (i) An athlete transferring from one Club to another, from representing a specific Club to UNattached status, or from one LSC to another, must submit a Middle Atlantic Swimming Transfer/Release Form signed by the athlete and parent. The purpose of this form is to record the affiliation intent of the swimmer. USA Swimming Rule 203.3 requires that 120 days must pass from the date of last competition representing the prior Club before a swimmer may represent a new Club in competition.
 - (ii) MAS requires that any swimmer leaving a club must leave behind no unpaid fees. The Transfer/Release Form must be signed by the releasing Club representative to confirm a reconciled account. This signature is required even if a Club is dissolving.
 - (iii) Transfer forms are available from each Club, from the Middle Atlantic website or from the MAS office and should be returned to the MAS office. A fee of \$10.00 is required to process the transfer of an Athlete from one Club to another Club or from a Club to UNattached. There is no fee for changing from UNattached to be attached to a specific Club.
 - (iv) Indication of an Athlete's intent to transfer to another Club (through receipt of registration materials from the new Club, for instance) will be cause to UNattach the Athlete pending receipt of the proper Transfer Forms and fee.

2. Outreach Athlete

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Outreach Athlete membership is available to qualified athletes in accordance with USA Swimming guidelines. The purpose is to make membership available to athletes who might otherwise not be able to afford regular membership. The current Outreach Athlete membership fee is shown in Table 2.1. Other than the membership fee, an Outreach Athlete member is not distinguishable from an Athlete member. USA Swimming guidelines for Outreach Athlete membership are: eligible for food stamps, eligible for free or reduced price school lunch programs, or eligible for similar need based programs, proof of which must be submitted with application and fee.

3. Non-Athlete

(a) Coach Members

- (i) To be a Coach member of USA Swimming, an individual must be a Non-Athlete member and must
 - (1) present the current safety credentials required by USA Swimming (Rule 502.4.3). Photocopies of the front and back of coach credentials (current CPR, First Aid, and Red Cross Safety Training for Swim Coaches) must be submitted along with the registration form.
 - (2) present proof of satisfactory completion of the USA Swimming coach education requirements before registration for the second year of coach membership. (Exemption: individuals who can provide proof of coach membership in the 1998 or prior registration year shall not be required to complete education requirement)

(ii) Coach Membership Cards

(1) *Valid To* Cards

Beginning with the 2000 Membership year, Coach membership cards will be valid until December 31 of the current year or until the first expiration date of a Coach Safety credential (CPR, First Aid, or Safety Training for Swim Coaches), whichever occurs first. The *Valid To* date will be printed in large bold characters on the face of each Coach membership card.

When a Coach member submits new credentials with a changed expiration dates on a timely basis (i.e., before the *Valid To* date is past), a new card will be printed and mailed to the Coach. There is no additional fee for this service.

(2) Expired *Valid To* Cards

If the required safety credentials are not provided before the passage of the *Valid To* date, the coach will lose all coach privileges and authorities. The individual will not be permitted on deck at a meet and risks lapsed insurance coverage for the club.

(3) Reinstatement

Coach status will be reinstated on submission of valid and current safety credentials and the payment of a \$5.00 processing fee. A replacement card, with a new *Valid To* date, will be prepared and mailed to the coach

(b) Non-Athlete, Non-Coach Members

- (i) Any person interested in the purposes and programs of Middle Atlantic Swimming is eligible to be a Non-Athlete member.
- (ii) Deck Officials (Starter, Referee, Stroke & Turn Judge) must be Athlete or Non-Athlete members of USA Swimming.
- (iii) Safety Marshals must be Athlete or Non-Athlete members of USA Swimming.
- (iv) Voting Members of the House of Delegates and Club Representatives to the House of Delegates must be members of USA Swimming.

- (c) Non-athlete registrations are valid January 1 through December 31. Applications received between September 1 and December 31 will be valid through December 31 of the following year.

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- (d) Registration forms may be obtained from and should be returned to the MAS Office. The current annual membership fees for individual and family Non-Athlete members are shown in Table 2.1. (Note: Family memberships are not valid for combining Athlete and non-Athlete memberships.)

Table 2.1
Registration Fees – 2008

Club	\$ 100.00*
Affiliated Group	100.00
Athlete	57.00*
Outreach	5.00
Coach (non-Athlete)	57.00
Non Athlete	57.00
Family non-Athlete	100.00

* Eligible for Early Registration Discount, per Section 2.1.3

2.1.3 Early Registration Discount

1. Club – beginning with the 2009 registration year, the annual Club registration fee is increased to \$300 with discounted fees as follows for registrations received at the MAS office prior to January 1 of the registration year:

Registration prior to November 1	\$100.
Registration between November 1 and December 31	150.

The annual Registration Fee for Clubs registering for the first time, and for college clubs consisting of only college swimmers, shall be \$100. *(approved 2/11/08)*

2. Athlete (except Outreach Athlete) membership applications received electronically (via e-mail or on disk) at the MAS office before November 1 of the prior year shall be eligible for a discount, as follows:

	<u>Discount</u>
Electronic registration received by October 15	\$ 2.50
Electronic registration received by November 1	1.50

The discount amount shall be determined annually. No discount will be given to any membership application received on paper.

(approved 4/8/02) Revised discount deadline 7/05