

Chapter 2

2.0 Membership

Middle Atlantic Swimming (MAS) is comprised of Clubs, Organizations, Affiliated Groups, Athletes and Non-athletes, as defined in Article 602 of the Middle Atlantic Swimming By-Laws. Any of the above may become members of Middle Atlantic Swimming by completing the requirements set forth in Registration Section 2.1 of this Policy Manual. All memberships in Middle Atlantic Swimming 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) A swimmer must be a current member of USA Swimming in order to participate in any sanctioned USA Swimming meet, including Middle Atlantic meets. Swimmers may compete representing their Club or as an UNattached swimmer.
- (b) Athlete memberships are valid January 1 through December 31. Registrations received after September 1 are valid through December 31 of the following year. Current annual dues are shown in Table 2.1.
- (c) Applications for membership are available from each MA 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 that there are no unpaid fees. This signature is required even if a Club is dissolving.
 - (iii) Transfer forms are available from each MA 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.
 - (v) If a swimmer is unable to obtain a signed Release Form due to the prior Club's refusal to sign the release, such swimmer may send notification to the MAS Board of Review. The Board will conduct a hearing to determine whether the Club has cause to refuse the

Chapter 2

transfer. Swimmers remain subject to the 120-day rule toward participation for another Club regardless of the reason for leaving the previous Club.

- (e) The registration fee for any Athlete that registers at a Middle Atlantic sanctioned meet and registers with a Middle Atlantic Club affiliation shall pay twice the registration fee, as shown in Table 2.1. This extraneous fee is intended to encourage athletes to register through their Club to insure consistent registration information. The additional fee shall not apply to athletes that register UNattached and compete as such at the meet, nor to swimmers registering with another LSC.
(approved 4/14/08)

2. Outreach Athlete

Non-Athlete 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).
 - (3) satisfy the USA Swimming Background Screen (BGS) requirement.

(ii) Coach Membership Cards

(1) *Valid To* Cards

Coach membership cards will be valid until December 31 of the current year or until the first expiration date of a Coach BGS or 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

Chapter 2

(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) 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 after September 1 are valid through December 31 of the following year.

(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.)

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 of prior year	\$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 only of 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 October 15 of the prior year shall be eligible for a discount, as follows:

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

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

(approved 4/8/02; Revised 7/05 and 5/06)

Table 2.1
Registration Fees

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Club	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00*
Affiliated Group	100.00	100.00
Athlete	57.00*	57.00*
On-site meet registration		114.00
Outreach	5.00	5.00
Coach (non-Athlete)	57.00	57.00
Non-Athlete	57.00	57.00
Family non-Athlete	100.00	100.00

* Eligible for Early Registration Discount, per Section 2.1.3

Chapter 2

2.2 Insurance

2.2.1 Club

USA Swimming provides insurance coverage to Clubs subject to their compliance with USA Swimming regulations.

2.2.2 Organization (Affiliated Group)

USA Swimming provides NO insurance coverage to Affiliated Group members.

2.2.3 Individual

Individual membership in MAS includes membership in USA Swimming. USA Swimming provides liability and secondary medical insurance coverage.

2.3 Voting members to House of Delegates

2.3.1 General

In accordance with the ByLaws of Middle Atlantic Swimming, Inc., the following members are eligible to vote at any House of Delegates meeting:

- Club Member Representatives (one of each, per Club)
 - Coach Representative
 - Athlete Representative
 - Non-Coach Representative
- Members of the Board of Directors
- At-Large House Members

2.3.2 Club Members

Each Club Member of MAS shall appoint from its membership three representatives that shall be one Coach, one Athlete and one (non-Coach) non-Athlete member. Each designated Representative shall have one vote at all meetings of the MAS House of Delegates. Representatives must be declared on the Club's membership application; alternate Representatives must be submitted in writing to the MAS office, according to Article 604.1.1 of the ByLaws.

Affiliated Group Members shall have voice, but no vote at MAS House of Delegates meetings.

2.3.2 Board of Directors

The members of the MA Board of Directors shall be as provided in the MA ByLaws, and are generally elected by the MA House of Delegates. The present MA Board of Directors consists of:

General Chair	Admin Vice-Chair
Senior Vice-chair	Age Group Vice-chair
Operations/Development Vice-chair	Finance Vice-chair
Secretary	Treasurer
Technical Planning Chair	Safety Chair
Coach Representatives (2)	At-Large (2)
Athlete Representatives (3)	

Chapter 2

2.4 Meetings

2.4.1 House of Delegates

1. Middle Atlantic House of Delegates meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each of the following months: November and June.
2. Items for consideration (i.e., the Agenda) and unapproved minutes will be posted on the Middle Atlantic website (www.maswim.org) fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Any items not on the published agenda must be approved by a 75% majority of those present and voting in order for the item to be added to the Agenda, and will require a subsequent 75% majority for adoption.

2.4.2 Board of Directors

1. Middle Atlantic Board of Directors meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each of the following months: September, January, February, April, May and July.
2. Items for consideration and unapproved minutes will be sent to all members of the Board of Directors and posted on the MA website fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Any items not on the published agenda must be approved by a 75% majority of those present and voting for the item to be added to the Agenda, and will require a subsequent 75% majority for adoption.