

## 4.0 Travel

### 4.1 Athlete Travel Assistance

#### A. General

1. Middle Atlantic Swimming (MAS) will provide **Travel Assistance** to athletes traveling to and participating in USA Swimming National Championship meets (“Nationals”), Olympic and/or World Championship Trials (“Trials”), the USA Swimming Junior National Championships (“Juniors”), the NCSA Junior National SC Championships (“NCSA Jrs”), the US Open (“Open”), the Eastern Zone Speedo Champions Series Meets (“Sectionals”), the USA Swimming Open Water National Championships (“OW Champs”), the USA Swimming Adapted National Championships (“Adapted”), or any other comparable meet designated and approved by the MAS Board of Directors (the “**MEETS**”).

To receive **Travel Assistance** for any of the **MEETS**, an athlete must qualify for and participate in (see 4.1.A.2 below) at least one Individual Event at that **MEET**. Bonus events at the MEET shall not qualify to meet this participation requirement. Athletes applying for **Travel Assistance** to a Sectionals meet must meet an additional Time Standard requirement (see 4.1.B.2 below.)

“Nationals” shall be understood to include the USA Swimming National Championships (LC), the USA Swimming Short Course Championships, the USA Swimming Spring Championships, and the US Open (when held in lieu of a National Championship.) “Juniors” shall be understood to include both the LC and SC USA Swimming Junior National Championships. The “Trials” meets are understood to be held separately from a National Championship (‘Nationals’) meet.

MAS also provides travel support for swimmers attending the Eastern Zone (EZ) SC and LC Age Group Championships (see section 4.1.C.5 below). On a year-by-year basis, funding may also be available for designated International Open Water and Adapted competitions.

2. Participation in a meet is defined as competing in at least 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 take a Declared False Start, or are disqualified for failure to swim a deck-seeded event after they have checked in, or who fail to swim at Finals in an event for which they have qualified, except when such non-participation is for a medical or other reason that has been excused by the Meet Referee, may not count that event (i.e., a swimmer may not scratch from Finals in an event for which they have qualified and count that event toward participation.) Swimmers who are disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct or because of a violation of a safety rule may receive travel support only after review and approval by the MAS Board of Directors.
3. Travel Assistance will be provided to a swimmer for one **MEET** from each Group (i.e., season - see Table 4.1), except as follows:
  - a) Swimmers who attend separate ‘Nationals’ and Olympic/World Championship ‘Trials’ meets in the same season can receive **Travel Assistance** for both Meets.
  - b) Only swimmers who attend and receive **Travel Assistance** for a ‘Nationals’ (or ‘Trials’) meet or a ‘Juniors’ meet in the WINTER season may also receive **Travel Assistance** for a **MEET** in the SPRING season.
  - c) Swimmers who receive **Travel Assistance** for a Sectional meet may also receive support for an EZ Age Group Championships.
4. When there is no ‘Nationals’ level meet in the SPRING season, a swimmer with ‘Nationals’ qualifying times (i.e., eligible to participate in an Individual Event at the most recent prior ‘Nationals’ meet) may attend any approved MEET in the SPRING season and receive the Bonus and Destination award for a comparable ‘Nationals’ meet, unless that swimmer had attended a ‘Nationals’ meet in the prior WINTER season in which case they are subject to the limitations of section 4.1.A.5 .

- 4a. When there is no 'Juniors' level meet in the SPRING season, a swimmer with 'Juniors' qualifying times (i.e., eligible to participate in an Individual Event at the most recent prior 'Juniors' meet) may attend any approved MEET in the SPRING season and receive the Bonus and Destination award for a comparable 'Juniors' meet, unless that swimmer had attended a 'Juniors' meet in the prior WINTER season in which case they are subject to the limitations of section 4.1.A.5.
5. Any swimmer that attends a travel meet in BOTH the WINTER and SPRING seasons shall have their Award (Bonus + Destination) for the SPRING Meet limited to 50% of the **Granted Meet Award** given to other swimmers attending that Meet. ~~(Note: only swimmers attending 'Nationals' meets are eligible for support for both a WINTER and SPRING meet — see 4.1.A.3b above.)~~
6. When approved by the Board of Directors, **Travel Assistance** ~~(at the 'Sectional' support level)~~ may be provided for participation at alternative meets in lieu of the EZ Sectional Meets (i.e., "Sectionals"), including Sectional meets outside of the EZ. The level of support will be determined by the Board at the time the meet is approved.
7. The Bonus and Destination Award for any supplemental meet approved by the Board of Directors shall be specified at the time such Meet is approved for support.
8. The **MAS Travel Fund Committee (TFC)** shall be appointed annually as provided in Article 607.3.16 of the MAS ByLaws. The responsibilities of the **TFC** are defined in Article 607.4.10 of the ByLaws.
9. **Travel Assistance** is not automatic. All awards are subject to review by the MAS TFC, the Senior Committee and the Board of Directors.

*Proposed revision – Feb09 Board mtg*