

Non-Athlete Membership FAQs for LSC Officials Chairs

At the recent USA Swimming Convention in Dallas, TX, the House of Delegates approved legislation that will require criminal background checks and mandatory athlete protection education. Procedures are being developed for both the background checks and the education but they are not in place yet. The following FAQs were developed in cooperation with the Registration Committee and are intended to help you through the fall registration and training season until final procedures are developed and implemented.

Q1. At our training clinics, I usually collect the membership application and fee. Can I still do that even though the background check and athlete protection education is not yet in place?

A1. You can still collect the fees and forms, but you should explain to these people that they will have to complete and pass a criminal background screen if they want to retain their membership after December 31, 2010, or whenever the new background check process is in place. At present, we don't know when the new background check process will be finalized. It may be later than 1/1/2011. It may be a roll-out process so that everyone doesn't sign on at the same time. Details will be communicated as soon as known.

Q2. After collecting the membership form and fees and upon completion of the clinic, I provide an LSC Training Card for the current year. Can I still do that so the person can continue the training?

A2. Membership is not required to train as an official because the trainee is under the direct supervision of a USA Swimming member official. You may not want to issue any officials certification credentials to new officials until procedures are in place for the 2011 background checks.

Q3. Should I hold onto the membership applications and fees until the procedures are in place or should I send them to the registration person for my LSC?

A3. You should submit the forms and the fees to your LSC registration person.

Q4. Will the LSC registration person hold onto the membership fees until the Criminal Background Check has positive results prior to sending them to USA Swimming?

A4. This is something that has yet to be finalized. USA Swimming is considering adding a "pending" feature so that names, addresses, etc. can be entered into the database before the background check has been passed. LSCs will not want to have a stack of applications waiting for background check confirmations. The Registration Committee is discussing this.

Q5. If they do send the fees for membership to USA Swimming, is this membership fee refundable if they don't pass the Criminal Background Check?

A5. This has not been decided yet.

Q6. How will the Official Chairs of each LSC be notified that these potential USA Swimming Member Officials are certified to work the deck and are now really members of USA Swimming?

A6. This is an open question at this time and is being considered by the Registration Committee as it develops its implementation procedures.

Non-Athlete Membership FAQs for LSC Officials Chairs

Q7. Will "trainees" who want to become USA Swimming Officials be allowed to train on deck before they have their Criminal Background Check? I would assume not, because the training could take a long time and we want to make sure that all non-athlete members who are Officials are certified as members of USA Swimming. In order for Officials to be members of USA Swimming, they will have to have taken the Criminal Background Check.

A7. Officials in training will be under the direct supervision of USA Swimming members (other officials), so they will not be required to be members until their training is over and they become an official.

Q8. Will there be a cost for the background check and the required athlete protection education?

A8. There will be a cost.

Q9. When will the education module be ready?

A9. The module will probably be ready July/August 2011 and will be in place for the 2012 registration year.