
Update to USA Swimming Transfer Policy - Mandatory Unattached Period

March 19, 2021



Limited Partial Waiver of Article 203.3

USA Swimming recognizes that member athletes have been displaced from their clubs due to the extraordinary and monumental challenges the COVID-19 pandemic. USA Swimming believes enabling displaced athletes to be included as part of a team is important in recovery. Therefore, USA Swimming requested and was granted a limited waiver of Article 203.3 for a limited period of time and for a specific purpose pursuant to the authority granted to the Rules and Regulations Committee. The purpose of these waivers, effective immediately, is to temporarily eliminate or shorten the time that must elapse before a swimmer is permitted to represent a USA Swimming team in a USA Swimming open competition.

First, a waiver of Article 203.3 was granted to any athlete who is returning to a club from which they transferred between March 15, 2020 and May 31, 2021. This permits an athlete who transferred to a new club during this period to return to their original club without incurring the 120-day penalty. LSC Membership/Registration Chairs will manage this manually consistent with existing processes.

Second, a reduction of Article 203.3 time period from 120 days to 60 days was granted for any athlete who transferred to a new club with a last date of attachment between November 15, 2020 and August 31, 2021. This permits athletes who are currently within the 120-day window and who participated in open competition on or before to January 15, 2021, to attach immediately to their new club. This also permits athletes to attach to a new club 60 days after the last date of open competition while representing a member club through the 2021 long course season. USA Swimming will automatically attach athletes who are currently within the 120-day window for the period of this waiver.

The express purpose of these waivers is to temporarily eliminate or shorten the time that must elapse before a swimmer is permitted to represent a USA Swimming team in a USA Swimming open competition. Nothing in the waivers is intended to affect the prohibition against improper recruiting set forth in Article 304.3.11.

Please contact your LSC Membership/Registration Chair or membership@usaswimming.org with any questions.