

Sebastopol Sea Serpents

SSS Access, Outreach & Retention Program

2026–2027 Financial Assistance Policy & Household Application



PURPOSE

Sebastopol Sea Serpents (SSS) provides confidential, need-based financial assistance so that financial hardship does not prevent an athlete from participating. All swimmers participate equally in the SSS program regardless of whether assistance is received. Assistance is supported by fundraising, sponsorships, grants, donations, and the budget approved by the Board of Directors.

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

A household may request assistance with one or more of the following:

- USA Swimming/Pacific Swimming Outreach athlete membership (\$5 for 2026–2027, when the athlete meets Pacific Swimming eligibility requirements)
- SSS annual team registration fees
- Monthly training dues
- Other approved team costs described in the application

Minimum family contribution: an approved family shall contribute at least \$20 per month per athlete toward monthly dues. The executive officer may establish a higher contribution based on documented need, household circumstances, and available funding.

ELIGIBILITY & REVIEW

- One parent or guardian may submit a single household application listing all participating swimmers.
- The household must reasonably demonstrate financial need. A recent change in financial status may be considered, but a recent change is not required.
- Applications are reviewed confidentially by the SSS Executive Officer or another reviewer designated by the Board of Directors.
- Awards are determined case by case and are subject to available funding and the financial-assistance budget approved by the Board.
- Assistance is not guaranteed and may differ from the amount requested.

PACIFIC SWIMMING OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP

SSS financial assistance and Pacific Swimming Outreach membership are related but separate. A household may be considered for SSS assistance even if an athlete does not qualify for Outreach membership. To receive the \$5 Outreach athlete membership, the household must provide documentation satisfying Pacific Swimming's current criteria.

Current qualifying categories include CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, Covered California Silver 87 or Silver 94 eligibility, Homeless Coalition, Section 8 Housing, SNAP/CalFresh, qualifying household income, and children in foster care. Pacific Swimming's current criteria control if the published list changes.

Current criteria: [Pacific Swimming Outreach Qualifications](#)



FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide complete and accurate information and any documentation needed to evaluate the request.
- Pay the approved family contribution according to the agreed billing arrangement.
- Meet the attendance expectations for each athlete's assigned practice group, allowing for illness, injury, school obligations, and other circumstances addressed with the Executive Officer.
- Complete the same Service Hour requirements that apply to other year-round team families unless the Executive Officer approves an exception.
- Remain in good standing under SSS policies, including expectations for conduct and sportsmanship.
- Notify the Executive Officer within 30 days of a material improvement in the household's financial circumstances or another change that may affect the award.

PAST-DUE AMOUNTS & MISSED PAYMENTS

Outstanding registration fees, dues, or meet fees do not automatically prevent a family from applying. If an approved contribution is late or unpaid, assistance will not end automatically. The Executive Officer will contact the family and review the circumstances. Assistance may be modified, suspended, or withdrawn if the family does not respond or does not fulfill the approved payment arrangement.

DURATION & CHANGES TO AN AWARD

Unless a shorter term is stated in the written approval, assistance is effective for the 2026–2027 swim year and expires August 31, 2027. Families must submit a new application each swim year. An award may be adjusted or withdrawn when funding changes, information is materially inaccurate or incomplete, eligibility changes, or the household does not meet the responsibilities above. When practicable, SSS will contact the family before changing an award.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applications and supporting documents will be maintained confidentially by the Executive Officer or Board-designated reviewer and used only to evaluate eligibility and administer assistance. The Treasurer will receive only the approved billing terms needed to apply charges, credits, or payments. The full Board may receive aggregate reports, such as the number of athletes assisted and total assistance awarded, without applicant names or personal financial information. Information may be disclosed when required by law or authorized by the applicant.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Directors approves the overall financial-assistance budget. The Executive Officer administers this policy, reviews applications, establishes award terms, and communicates decisions. The Executive Officer may consult a Board-designated reviewer when necessary while limiting disclosure of identifying and financial information.

Submission: Send the completed application and any supporting documents directly to the SSS Executive Officer. Do not submit financial documents to the full Board or through a public team folder.



Household Financial Assistance Application

APPLICANT & ATHLETE INFORMATION

One application per household • Assistance expires August 31, 2027 • Information is confidential

1. Parent or Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Athletes in the Household

Athlete name	Age	Current/expected group

List additional athletes on an attached page if needed.

3. Assistance Requested

☐ USA Swimming/Pacific Swimming Outreach athlete membership (\$5 per qualifying athlete)

☐ SSS annual team registration fees

☐ Monthly training dues

☐ Other team cost(s): _____

Amount the household can contribute toward monthly dues: \$_____ per athlete, per month

The minimum contribution is \$20 per month per athlete. You may propose a higher amount that is sustainable for your household.

4. Pacific Swimming Outreach Qualification

Complete this section only if requesting the \$5 Outreach athlete membership. Check each category that applies and include one current qualifying document. Do not include more personal information than needed to demonstrate eligibility.

☐ CalWORKs	☐ Medi-Cal
☐ Covered California Silver 87 or 94 eligible	☐ Homeless Coalition
☐ Section 8 Housing	☐ SNAP/CalFresh
☐ Qualifying household income	☐ Child(ren) in foster care



5. Financial Circumstances

Briefly describe why assistance is needed, including any circumstances you would like the Executive Officer to consider. You may attach an additional page.

6. Applicant Acknowledgements

- ☐ I certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I understand that assistance depends on available funding and is not guaranteed.
- ☐ I agree to pay the contribution established in the written approval and to contact the Executive Officer promptly if I cannot make a payment.
- ☐ I agree to follow the attendance, conduct, and Service Hour responsibilities described in the policy, unless an exception is approved.
- ☐ I will notify the Executive Officer within 30 days of a material improvement in my household's financial circumstances.
- ☐ I understand that the award expires August 31, 2027 and that my household must reapply for the next swim year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application	Date received: _____ ☐ New ☐ Renewal
Decision	☐ Approved ☐ Approved with changes ☐ Denied
USA Swimming membership	☐ Outreach (\$5) ☐ Premium ☐ Other: _____
Approved billing terms	Team registration: \$_____ Monthly contribution: \$_____ per athlete
Award period	Start: _____ End: August 31, 2027
Notes / other assistance	_____ _____
Executive Officer or Board-Designated Reviewer:	_____
Signature	_____
Date:	_____