

USMS National Championship Bidding Process

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last Updated: August 26, 2025

1. How do I obtain a bid packet and bid application?

To receive a bid packet and application contact Jay Eckert, Sr. Director of Business Development at jeckert@usmastersswimming.org.

2. May I contact previous hosts?

Yes. Please contact the Championship Committee Chair for details (contact info above). You may also find contact information for various events through the [USMS Pool National Championship page](#).

3. How many swimmers have attended recent USMS Nationals?

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring - Short Course</u>	<u>Summer - Long Course</u>
2014	Santa Clara (2,249)	Maryland (1,024)
2015	San Antonio (1,888)	Cleveland (963)
2016	Greensboro (1,790)	Oregon (1,287)
2017	Riverside (2,026)	Minnesota (1,016)
2018	Indy (2,376)	Not held due to Pan Ams in Orlando
2019	Mesa (1,997)	Mission Viejo (1,391)
2021	Greensboro (859)	Cleveland (705)
2022	San Antonio (1,814)	Richmond (1,079)
2023	Irvine (2,474)	Sarasota (1,187)
2024	Indianapolis (2,316)	Mission Viejo (1,281)
2025	San Antonio (1,744)	Federal Way (1,107)
<i>Historical Average</i>	<i>~ 2,100</i>	<i>~ 1,150 swimmers</i>

*2020 not held and 2021 attendance limited due to COVID-19 pandemic

4. Where will Nationals be held in 2026 and beyond?

2026 USMS Spring Nationals will be in Greensboro, NC (April 30 – May 3), 2026 USMS Summer Nationals will be in Sacramento, CO (August 5-9), and 2027 USMS Spring Nationals will be held in Irvine, CA (April 29 – May 2). At this time, we are soliciting bids for 2027 USMS Summer Nationals. The deadline to bid is October 1, 2025.

5. Is there a bid fee required to host the Championships?

There is no fee or deposit required to bid.



6. Do you have any travel statistics for your participants?

Here are results from a post meet survey given to recent participants:

Where did you stay for the event?

- Irvine (2023 Spring): hotel (65%), AirBnb/VRBO (14%), home (13%), friend/family (7%)
- Sarasota (2024 Summer): hotel (45%), AirBnb/VRBO (25%), home (16%), friend/family (13%)
- Indy (2024 Spring): hotel (67%), AirBnb/VRBO (21%), home (5%), friend/family (7%)
- Mission Viejo (2024 Summer): hotel (53%), AirBnb/VRBO (14%), home (21%), friend/family (9%)

What transportation did you use?

- Irvine (2023 Spring): rental car (45%), own vehicle (39%), Uber/Lyft (11%), shared with friends (13%)
- Sarasota (2024 Summer): rental car (40%), own vehicle (52%), Uber/Lyft (3%), shared with friends (7%)
- Indy (2024 Spring): rental car (20%), own vehicle (50%), Uber/Lyft (25%), public transit (1%), shared with friends (13%), other i.e. walkable from hotels (8%)
- Mission Viejo (2024 Summer): rental car (41%), own vehicle (43%), Uber/Lyft (11%), shared with friends (13%)

How did you get to the event?

- Irvine (2023 Spring): flight (70%), drove (21%), live locally (9%)
- Sarasota (2024 Summer): flight (49%), drove (46%), live locally (5%)
- Indy (2024 Spring): flight (47%), drove (52%), live locally (2%)
- Mission Viejo (2024 Summer): flight (53%), drove (42%), live locally (4%)

How much did you spend per day on food/entertainment outside of the event?

- Irvine (2023 Spring): up to \$50 (45%), \$51-200 (37%), \$101-150 (10%), \$150+ (7%)
- Sarasota (2024 Summer): up to \$50 (42%), \$51-200 (38%), \$101-150 (11%), \$150+ (10%)
- Indy (2024 Spring): up to \$50 (39%), \$51-200 (43%), \$101-150 (9%), \$150+ (9%)
- Mission Viejo (2024 Summer): up to \$50 (44%), \$51-200 (37%), \$101-150 (11%), \$150+ (8%)

7. What are the most important factors the Championship Committee will consider?

The Championship Committee first determines whether the facility can accommodate the meet. There are no hard requirements for number of lanes because every facility is unique. But certainly, the facility must be able to accommodate two simultaneous competition courses plus adequate warm up space for Spring Nationals (two courses not required for Summer Nationals). The bare minimum requirement is 16 competition plus 10 warm-up lanes for Spring Nationals, and 8 competition plus 6 warm-up lanes for Summer Nationals (warm-up lanes for both Championships are typically short course yards). A common complaint about USMS Nationals is inadequate warm-up space, so the more lanes the better! The committee also looks to move the meet around from year to year as much as is

practical (for instance, we try not to have the same region of the country host Nationals several years in a row but sometimes we have to work with the bids at hand). The committee also looks strongly at the host's organizing committee structure and how much USMS Nationals can benefit local Masters swimming in that area. The preferred structure for the host committee is a facility representative as the meet director in charge of meet operations, local USMS club(s) providing support and volunteers, and the local sports commission and/or CVB coordinating hotels and social events.

8. Who runs the event?

The host organization that presents the bid runs the event. USMS provides at least one person from the Championship Committee to serve as liaison(s) to your meet. You are also provided with a Meet Director Guide and the final reports from the four prior national championships. These reports generally include detailed "lessons learned" items (what worked well, what they would do differently, financial reports, etc.). The Championship Committee liaison is also a valuable resource for ideas and plans and he/she be in contact at least a year in advance of the event and will make a site visit about 3-6 months prior to your event. USMS also helps with selecting key officials as noted below and appoints a liaison from the USMS Officials Committee to also assist with questions. USMS appoints national office staff representatives to help with items such as organizing and overseeing activities related to processing all entries and creating the meet program, developing the meet information and entry forms, calculating National Qualifying Times, producing event related email updates and coordinating national sponsors. The host provides the personnel to run the actual meet, e.g. timers, runners, registration area personnel, EMT coverage, hospitality, etc.

9. Who supplies the officials and how many are needed?

The host, with USMS assistance, is responsible for recruiting officials. See section 20 of the [sample meet contract](#) for more details. requirements.

10. How many volunteers are needed?

The following is from our Meet Director's Guide for a typical 4-day meet:

Summary of Volunteer Needs (per shift – will vary depending on the number of lanes/courses):

Activity	Day Before	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Registration	4-6	3-4	3	2	1
Solutions	2	2	2	2	1
Distance/Relay	2	2	2	2	1
Event Check-in	1	1	1	1	1
Hospitality	2-4	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10



Safety	2-4	4-8	4-8	4-8	4-8
Timing Operator	None	2	2	2	2
Hy-Tek (staffed by USMS)					
	None	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Results	None	2	2	2	2
Awards	None	1-2	2-3	2-4	3-4
Timers per Course	None	20	20	20	20
Officials	None	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12
Announcing	1	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Approximate totals	~20+	~70+	~70+	~70+	~70+

11. Do you do 2-pool racing?

For a short course meet, two courses are required due to the large number of participants. A separate warm-up area is also required. For long course championships, we do not require two courses, but still require a separate warm-up area.

11. Please clarify the bid process. How and when is the winning bid selected?

The complete bid application and all required attachments are due no later than Oct. 1, 2025 to the Championship Committee Chair (championship@usmastersswimming.org). Please submit your bid electronically by producing a single PDF and making it available on a file sharing site (e.g. Dropbox, Google, etc.).

The committee members will review the bids. Any questions or areas that need clarification will be sent to you for a response. Then a conference call will be set up with a subcommittee of the Championship Committee and any personnel from your host organization that you desire to be on the call. After interviewing the bidders and getting all questions answered about the facility, organization, etc, the subcommittee typically makes a recommendation to the entire Championship Committee as to which site(s) is favored and the entire committee will ultimately make their final. A formal announcement will not be made until the event contract is signed by all parties.

Winning bidders may receive up to \$10,000 from USMS within six months prior to the start of the event to pay for costs associated with hosting the national championship. This advance will be subtracted from entry fees payable to the host per the contract.