



NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated: May 2025

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee will comprise a (Head) coach from each member club, the VP Pool, the VP-Open Water, and the Technical Director. Each club represented and each Federation appointment has only 1 vote. The VP Pool or the VP Open Water will chair the Selection Committee.

When at all possible at competition, each National Team should be accompanied by a Team Manager, Head Coach (and Assistants), as well as Male and Female Chaperons. Assistant coaches will be First Assistant Coach, Second Assistant Coach, etc. The swimmer's age as of December 31st of the previous year will determine his or her age-group, or as per AQUA rules. The Team Manager or delegation leader will be required to provide a written report to the Federation's Board within 2 weeks of return to Antigua/Barbuda.

The Head Coach for each event should be selected by the Head Coaches of the represented teams and provided to the Federation's Board for approval. Generally, but not absolutely, the Head Coach will be the coach with the majority of swimmers represented on the national team. If the coach cannot do so, one will be chosen by the Federation's board.

All decisions taken by the Selection Committee are recommendations only to the Federation's Board, which has final approval on ALL matters.

FUNDING OF ATHLETES

While every effort will be made to fund travel and daily expenses for athletes representing Antigua & Barbuda, the Federation cannot guarantee this. Each swimmer will be expected to pursue their own fundraising to cover expenses. All qualifiers should be made aware of this as soon as possible.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

OECS Swimming Championships

Must be a Citizen or Bonafide Resident of Antigua & Barbuda

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
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8 & Under	No time standard / Best 2 male and best 2 female swimmers if at an appropriate swim standard.
9 – 10	1 X BB or 2 x B
11 - 12	1 X A or 2 x BB
13 – 14	1 X A or 2 x BB
15 – 17	1 x A or 2 x BB
18 & Over	2 x BB or 1 x B

Times are taken from **USA Motivational Swimming Standards** – the most recent issue, using the two-year format. Swimmers must qualify in events that he or she is eligible to do at the particular meet.

Swimmers will have to make the above minimum qualifying times to be considered for selection to the national team. There will be no exceptions to this rule unless ALL members of the Selection Committee agree.

The ABSF Club's Invitational is held each October, and all interested in making the team should participate. These trials must be advertised by way of an invitational summons to all clubs at least 3 weeks before the event takes place. Certain exceptions for selection will be considered in writing:

- 1) The swimmer is certifiably ill and has been advised by their doctor not to swim
- 2) The swimmer is attending school or work off-island

Other than the above, Swimmers must attend this national event to be eligible for selection to the National Team, which is now dubbed the ABSF Club Invitational. All swimmers vying for selection should compete in all events. For those who cannot for the above-listed reasons, consideration will be given to times achieved by the swimmer from **January of the same year**, as long as it is known that the swimmer has been in a regular and consistent training program since that time.

Eligible times for selection for this championship will be effective annually from **June 1st of the previous year to the ABSF Club Invitational** each year. Converted times (LCM to SCM) will be allowed using the Colorado time converter.

Swimmers who meet the qualifying time criteria will be CONSIDERED for selection to the National Team. While the best swimmer will always be selected, other factors may be taken into account for close calls, such as the swimmer's attitude and training discipline (recommended by coaches), as well as commitment to staying a resident of Antigua & Barbuda. The Selection Committee is under no obligation to send a full team (34 swimmers) to the championships. Coaches should ensure that swimmers are aware of the above.

For close age groups, a point system will be used as is for all swim meets – 9, 7, 6, etc.. Swimmers will be scored against each other and not all swimmers in the age group being analyzed. Generally, the first three swimmers will go through with the 4th, 5th and perhaps 6th place swimmers evaluated on points. Any point difference 4 or greater will automatically see that swimmer go through. Any point difference 3 and below will have the selection committee evaluate the swimmers based on:

- 1) Swimmer's attitude*
- 2) Strength in particular strokes*
- 3) Dedication to the sport*
- 4) Points the swimmer may contribute to the team*
- 5) Swimmer's time trend over the past year*

Foreign-based swimmers will be considered for selection so long as:

- 1) They are bona fide citizens of Antigua and Barbuda or bona fide residents of the same.
- 2) They demonstrate that they have been training seriously leading up to the event

(Bona fide resident is taken to mean resident for Antigua and Barbuda for the last 365 days.)

Alternates to the team will be selected and must continue to train with the team, should their presence with the team be required. There is no maximum number of alternates, but only one swimmer per age group and gender will be considered. Alternates must have met the minimum qualifying standards.

Goodwill Swimming Championship

Swimmers eligible for the Goodwill Swimming Championship:

1. Must be a Citizen or Bona fide Resident of Antigua & Barbuda
2. Must not have made the selection for CARIFTA or CCCAN, or a higher-level meet in the year of competition.
3. Athletes in the 10 and under category do not need to meet a specific time standard. The selection will comprise the top four males and top four females in each age category (8 and under; 9-10).
4. Athletes in the 11-12 to 15-17 age groups should have at least one BB and/or two B times.

CARIFTA Swimming Championships

Must be a Citizen or Bona fide Resident of Antigua & Barbuda

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
8 & Under	Not Admissible
9 – 10	Not Admissible
11 - 12	2 X AA or 1 X AAA
13 – 14	2 X AA or 1 X AAA
15 – 17	2 x AA or 1 X AAA
18 & Over	Not Admissible (Unless ratified by regional congress)

Times are taken from USA Motivational Swimming Standards- most recent issue, using the two-year format. A swimmer must qualify in events that he or she is eligible to do at the particular meet. If two (2) or more swimmers qualify in a particular event, then the top two swimmers based on current times will swim the event. This means that in some situations, a swimmer may not be able to swim an event in which he or she qualifies. The swimmer may choose to swim in other events that he or she did not qualify for in these special circumstances. However, the swimmer must have qualified in two events based on the USA Motivational Swimming Standards mentioned above.

The Federation will endeavour to hold a CARIFTA National Trials each March, which has been dubbed the ABSF Nationals. It is, however, incumbent upon each swimmer to keep their times current and continually work towards making the required qualifying standard. Times must be achieved at a sanctioned meet within the last eleven (11) months, and evidence of this provided if requested. The swimmer must demonstrate that he or she has been training seriously leading up to the event. Time standards may be made in any type of course (Yards, SC Meters, or LC Meters), but these times may not be converted for purposes of setting a qualifying standard.

Age groups can have as many as eight (8) competitors per gender, with a total team size limit of thirty-six (36) swimmers. Selection is restricted to swimmers between eleven (11) and seventeen (17) years.

The winners - male and female (aged 14 -18 yrs) – of the National OW Event automatically qualify for the OW session at Carifta. Others may be selected so long as they fall within the age limits of fourteen (14) – eighteen (18) years

Foreign-based swimmers will be considered for selection as long as:

- 1) They are bona fide citizens of Antigua and Barbuda or bona fide residents of the same.
- 2) They demonstrate that they have been training seriously leading up to the event
- 3) They meet the qualifying standards for selection

**50's TIME STANDARDS FOR CARIFTA 2025 +
13 & OVER
SHORT COURSE METRES**

Age Group	50 Backstroke – AA (SCM)	50 Breaststroke-AA (SCM)
13-14 Girls	32.30	37.09
13-14 Boys	30.13	34.05
15-16 Girls	31.56	36.35
15-16 Boys	28.61	32.48
17-18 Girls	31.15	35.94
17-18 Boys	27.69	31.75

Age Group	50 Freestyle – AA (SCM)*	50 Butterfly -AA (SCM)
13-14 Girls	29.49	32.16
13-14 Boys	27.09	29.90
	50 Freestyle – AAA (SCM)*	50 Butterfly -AAA (SCM)
15-16 Girls	27.59	30.13
15-16 Boys	24.59	27.32
17-18 Girls	27.19	29.67
17-18 Boys	23.89	26.35

USA Motivational times 2025-2028

All other times, please refer to the USA Motivational times 2025-2028 posted with this qualifying criteria.

CCCAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Must be a Citizen of Antigua & Barbuda

Age Groups	Qualification
8 & Under	Not Admissible
9 – 10	Not Admissible
11 - 12	2 X AAA or 1 X AAAA
13 – 14	2 X AAA or 1 X AAAA
15 – 17	2 x AAA or 1 X AAAA
18 & Over	2 x AAA or 1 X AAAA

Times are taken from USA Motivational Swimming Standards, most recent issue, using the 2-year format. A swimmer must qualify in events that he or she is eligible to do at the particular meet.

No National Trials will be held for these events. It is, however, incumbent upon each swimmer to keep their times current and continually work towards making the required qualifying standard. Times must be achieved at a sanctioned meet within the last 11 months, and evidence of this must be provided if requested. The swimmer must demonstrate that they have been training seriously leading up to the event. Time standards may be made in any course (Yards, SC Meters, or LC Meters), but these times may not be converted to set a qualifying standard.

There is no maximum number of swimmers.

Foreign-based swimmers will be considered for selection as long as:

- 1) They are bona fide citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.
- 2) They demonstrate that they have been training seriously leading up to the event
- 3) They meet the qualifying standards for selection

IOC / WORLD AQUATICS SPONSORED SELECTION EVENTS

These events, such as the World Aquatics Championships, Central American and Caribbean Games (CAC), Pan American Games, Junior Pan Am Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, etc., provide opportunities for our national swimmers to participate at the international level through Universality spots or qualification. The number of spots and the frequency change with each event and each year. Competition at these elite events is not by age group but is open, except for the Junior versions, where specific age groups of athletes between 14-18 are specified. The minimum age requirements to be eligible for selection are as follows:

World Aquatics (FINA) Events: Swimmers must be 14 years of age at the date of competition

All Other Events : Swimmers must be 15 years of age at the date of competition.

Universality spots are generally provided to associations by the Swimmer's World Aquatics / FINA Point Standings. (The higher the standing, the more likely to attract a spot.) As such, this point system will be used to evaluate swimmers for selection. If we have been offered to do one race at a meet (eg, the Olympics), then the swimmer with the highest single standing should be considered. If two races, then the swimmer's highest standings on his/her two best races are considered. If three races, etc., an average is taken to select the best swimmers to attend.

Notwithstanding the above, it is the Federation's mandate and intention to develop the sport of swimming as completely and fully as possible. As such, the highest-ranked swimmer/swimmers may not always be selected for every meet, bearing in mind the Federation's mandate and the acknowledgement that all Selected Swimmers go to these meets on the good graces of the Federation. So, if two Championships are being held in a summer period or in close time, more than likely, different swimmers will be selected to represent their country at each. The Federation aims to select the best possible swimmer, to give all swimmers the opportunity when possible, and not to burn out our swimmers when international events are held close to each other.

Foreign-based swimmers will be considered for selection as long as:

- 1) They are bona fide citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.
- 2) They demonstrate that they have been training seriously leading up to the event