

Proposal to Assist Selected LMSC Age Groups with Registration Fees to Encourage Participation

Florida LMSC Annual Meeting

November 21, 2024

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This proposal is a recommendation that the LMSC offer to fund half of the annual USMS registration fee for Florida LMSC individuals in the 18-24 age group and the 80 years of age and above group.

The older members are generally on a fixed income and at some point, may be faced with a decision leading them to not continue their USMS membership. The Florida LMSC wants to stay in alignment with the USMS Mission to *“Empower adults to improve their lives through swimming”* and Vision to *“Foster a nationwide adult swimming community through lifelong fitness, competition, and education.”* Focusing on the “lifelong” portion, we can help our older community to stay engaged in swimming for the benefit of their long-term health and well-being.

For the younger individuals, this is our future. Finances can be very limited for young adults and offering them the opportunity to join our ranks by paying half of their registration fee, may be the deciding factor to join USMS. We all know how fun Masters Swimming can be; if we can provide that extra motivation to get engaged and see for themselves the benefits, they will appreciate USMS at an early age. When they finally establish themselves as independent adults, they will hopefully re-register year-after-year to maintain that affiliation with USMS. In addition, we hope the young folks who benefit from this program will tell their friends, resulting in membership growth, and cultivate a base of lifelong members.

Based on 2024 data, we have roughly 127 members under 25 and 73 members over 80 years old. Of course, with this type of program, we would hope to increase membership, especially in the 18-14 age group. Thus, we estimate around 200 members eligible for this benefit, costing the Florida LMSC roughly \$7,500 in 2025.

Process: Since registration is controlled at the National level, the members would need to register and pay up front. They would then submit a reimbursement form to the Florida LMSC Treasurer for half the cost of registration. The Treasurer would collaborate with the Florida LMSC Membership Coordinator to verify the member’s registration is current, and then processes payment to the member.