



**BAHAMAS SWIMMING FEDERATION ATHLETE POLICY** – adopted at Technical Meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and Council Meeting October 9, 2006

The Bahamas Swimming Federation (BSF) has implemented the following policy effective immediately:

1. Any swimmer wanting to represent The Bahamas at an international meet, regardless of level of the meet, must compete in the Annual National Swimming Championships (Nationals). Further, it is *strongly recommended* that the swimmer competes in at least the events that he/she would like to swim internationally.
2. The BSF will accept requests in writing from swimmers who are ineligible to compete in the Nationals and will review these on a case by case basis. Exemptions requested on the basis of medical reasons may require additional confirmation of the BSF's appointed Medical Doctor.
3. Any swimmer receiving assistance from the Bahamas Government and/or Bahamas Olympic Association on the recommendation of the BSF, must compete in the scheduled international meets, if the qualifying times have been met. These meets include the Regional, Continental, World and Olympic Games. Failure to compete may result in the BSF requesting that the assistance be withdrawn at the first opportunity and the exclusion from international teams for at least 1 year.
4. The BSF will accept requests in writing from swimmers who are ineligible to compete in international meets and will review these on a case by case basis. Exemptions requested on the basis of medical reasons may require additional confirmation from the BSF's appointed medical doctor. Exemptions requested on the basis of loss of academic scholarship, academic conflicts, conflict with university championship meets etc., or other reasons, may require the written confirmation of the university's athletic director and/or swimming coach, and other documentation as may be necessary to support the request. For expediency of reviewing the file, and providing a formal response, the swimmer should provide the supplementary information from the onset, and the request should be provided to the Federation as early as possible.
5. Qualifying times for international meets that are being offered as Long Course Meters (LCM) meets must be done in a LCM pool. Requests for use of converted qualifying times will be reviewed on a case by case basis and will only be considered under extenuating circumstances and in all likelihood, in cases where the international meet does not have any qualifying times and/or there are no athletes who have made the qualifying times in LCM events.
6. In cases where athletes have made the qualifying times not within 6 months of the international meet, athletes may be required to prove their fitness to the BSF by performing comparable times in a meet approved by the BSF. Athletes who have not proved their fitness may be ineligible for further consideration for ratification.
7. Any swimmer who has confirmed attendance to the Federation at an international meet and withdraws after the expense has been committed to or does not show up, will be



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responsible for reimbursement to the BSF and/or its partners for all expenses committed to on behalf of the swimmer. Any swimmer that has not reimbursed the Federation and/or its partner within the required time frame will be ineligible to swim in any BSF sanctioned meet and/or represent The Bahamas at any international meet until the funds have been paid and approval to compete requested in writing from the BSF.

8. Any swimmer living abroad and seeking to represent The Bahamas at an international meet must provide the Federation with the official meet results for every *sanctioned* swim meet competed in - this can be satisfied via providing the link to the official website and an extract of the results the Federation should be seeking to verify. This policy affects both junior and senior swimmers. Athletes living abroad must also provide the Federation with an official authorization at least annually to contact the coach directly and to seek confirmation of training and athletic fitness. The authorization must also include a statement authorizing the coach to release the athletic information on a confidential basis directly to the Federation. Swimmers refusing or not providing the release may be ineligible for consideration to international teams. A copy of the release form is attached to this document.
9. The Official Address for providing any information to the Federation is [BSF\\_NEWS@yahoo.com](mailto:BSF_NEWS@yahoo.com). Information can also be provided to [info@bahamasswimmingfederation.com](mailto:info@bahamasswimmingfederation.com).