

We have been advised that USA Swimming that any Swimmer registered with USA SWIMMING in the United States is not able to swim for a local Swim Club in our National Championships without some form of penalty. Of course, our position is that the local Swim Club has priority, and USA Swimming should be able to dictate to our Federation. However, they are insistent that the rule that applies in USA Swimming applies to swimmers registered in their program and local swimmers have the option to either abide by the rule and/or face the consequences of USA Swimming.

This applies to Swimmers registered in High School programs, University Programs, and/or swimming privately – the primary consideration is registered with USA Swimming.
I append below the dialogue of exchange.

In order to not put our swimmers in a position of jeopardy, particularly as we only learnt of the strict interpretation and subsequent application of this rule yesterday, our request is that these swimmers should swim unattached. However, and similar to the position taken at CARIFTA, their Points earned should be given to their local Clubs. Unfortunately, they will not be able to participate in relays.

I believe you are correct. The rule, 203.9.2, is very clear that the 120 day rule applies to representation of an organization within a foreign federation (i.e. a club). In your case the swimmer would be representing an organization in a foreign federation. The second sentence of 203.9.2 specifically states the athlete must wait 120 days before representing a USA Swimming club.

Sorry to bother you but I have a question I need to have answered, though I think I know the answer I have a coach and parent telling me I am wrong.

Unless it has been changed for the last 6 or 8 years there has been a rule that basically makes foreign athletes registering with a USA Swimming club to either produce proof of their last competition representing a club in their home country or sit out 120 days from date of registration. If that still stands then I would also believe that if a swimmer from a USA Club goes to a foreign country and represents a club in their competition, then upon returning to the US they would now have to be unattached for 120 days from that date of competition.

This coming weekend is the Nationals in the Bahamas and several swimmers from the US [mostly with dual citizenship] will go and represent local clubs at their Nationals. I have told one of my swimmers parents and the coach from the Bahamas that if she swims attached then she will need to go unattached here upon returning. They have first told me that there isn't such a rule and now tell me that it really doesn't pertain to them, that they have been swimming without repercussions for years. For me it is not whether we get caught it is a matter of what the rule is and following it.

So a clarification would be very helpful.

Thanks

Ira

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The Federation would have wanted to complete its own due-diligence; however, we were only made aware of the interpretation of this rule yesterday by USA Swimming and think that we should err on the side of caution and put our swimmers and clubs on notice that they face USA Swimming Penalty if they compete with a local club, particularly as we now know. My job as President is to ensure that the swimmers, their coaches, and parents are aware and together can make the decision that is best for the swimmer, at least until the Bahamas Swimming Federation can resolve this directly with USA Swimming.

I apologize for this late notice and will speak to all of the coaches and Club Presidents this evening at the Pool.

