

USA Swimming 120 Day Rule and Rules Pertaining to Unattached Swimmers

USA Swimming Rule 203.3 states that For a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days must have elapsed without the swimmer having represented any other USA Swimming Club in USA Swimming Competition.

What this means is a swimmer must swim Unattached (UN) for a period of 120 days from his/her last date where he/she swam in a USA Swimming Competition meet. We use the Transfer/Release forms to record this data to SWIMS for proper registration and new attach dates.

Transfers:

If a swimmer has a Transfer processed, the LSC Registrar enters the last date of competition in the swimmer's transfer record and SWIMS calculates the date on which the swimmer may begin representing his/her new club. This "Re-Attach Date" is plainly printed on the swimmers new USA Swimming Card and the swimmer must swim Unattached (UN) until that date.

Registration and Meet Entry Choices:

If a swimmer is currently registered in SWIMS to a USA Swimming Club, he/she has the choice of swimming in USA Swimming Competition as a member of the club to which he/she is registered OR the swimmer may choose to swim Unattached (UN) for that particular meet. Unattached Swimmers may swim any Individual Event, however, may not swim in Relays.

Club Registered Swimmers, choosing to swim Unattached for any given meet, is typically done because the swimmer plans to change clubs. The swimmer's family may be moving to another area or the swimmer may just want to go to another club. If a swimmer participates in a meet and is entered as Unattached (UN), that meet date will not be used when determining the swimmers last date of competition for his/her old club.

Example: Johnny knows he is moving from Albany to Ohio in June. He has researched and chosen a new club in Ohio and wants to be able to represent the new club immediately after moving. Johnny looks at the calendar and counts back 120 days from his new club's first meet and has determined he may not represent his current AD club after February 16th, if he wants to be attached to his new club for the first meet. He still wants to swim in Adirondack meets, so he chooses to enter meets as Unattached (UN). He may swim any Individual Event, however, since he has entered as an Unattached Swimmer, he may not swim in Team Events (Relays).

To sum up - It IS Legal for ANY Swimmer, Registered to ANY USA Swimming Club, to CHOOSE to Swim Unattached for ANY Meet. There is nothing special needed for the swimmers entry, other than being sure the swimmers data is using the Unattached (UN) Club (Team) Code and not the actual Club Code. SWIMS Recons will not find any error when a club registered swimmer enters a meet as Unattached.

Please remember, this situation is NOT true in reverse. If a swimmer is truly registered in SWIMS as Unattached (UN), he/she MAY NOT Choose to swim any meet, representing a club.