



USA National Team Supplemental Questions & Answers

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A. ATHLETES & MEDICATIONS

How young can athletes be to compete at this year's Virtus Worlds?

The Virtus rules were updated in 2024 so we confirmed that Junior swimmers can compete at Virtus World Championships. Age group medals may be awarded depending on the number of younger registrants in each event. We've reached out to each of the younger swimmers to discuss the trip and their readiness to stay with the Team.

Will there be random drug testing at the event?

Yes it's possible (though not very likely) for an athlete to be selected for random drug testing while competing at Virtus World Championships since they follow the same WADA anti-doping rules as the Olympics & Paralympics. This is done by urine sample (or finger prick blood sample) — the athlete can have someone with them and the folks who do the testing are very nice :)

Do I need any special paperwork for medications taken?

We've been busy looking up everyone's medications on the latest World Anti-Doping drug list to see if any require additional paperwork. We will reach out to each of you individually to confirm either way (for those who take Medications.) Occasionally a medication may require special exemption paperwork that needs to be signed by your doctor.

Should Family's review Safesport & Concussion Awareness Training?

Full safesport and Concussion Awareness Training are required for all staff. There are also free courses for athletes and Parents we recommend you review together anytime prior to the trip (information below is also included in the [Athlete Registration Form](#))

- [Free Safesport for Youth Athletes Course](#)
Click "Login" & then "Signup" to Create an Account to be able to view Courses
- [CDC Heads Up Concussion Training Parent/Athlete Course](#)

B. TRAVEL

Can we organize group flights or should families make their own flights?

We've tried to organize group travel with Delta, United, Eva, Cathay Pacific and through a travel agency specializing in group trips for people with disabilities. Unfortunately, none could accommodate our group or offer a discount.

Please make your own travel arrangements to arrive in Bangkok on August 20th (ideally arrive mid-day if you have the choice so hotel rooms for athletes and your hotel will be ready when you arrive.)

We are finding good options and prices to Bangkok from LA, Seattle and Chicago on various airlines: *Eva Air (Taiwan)*, *Cathay Pacific* and *ANA All Nippon* airlines have favorable fair with brief layovers in their home airports.

Do the Thai organizers have area hotel recommendations for families?

What is the best way for families to get between their hotel and the Venue?

We are waiting for recommendations from the organizers regarding family hotels and transportation options and expect the information soon!

Will there be shuttles between morning and evening sessions?

We are waiting for confirmation but believe there will be shuttles taking teams back to the hotel between events since the hotel and pool are in close proximity, there are no other sports going on as there were at Global Games, and all the teams are staying in the same hotel.

C. SWIM COMPETITION PROGRAM, VENUE & WEATHER

Should we let you know if we improve our MQS and MET times?

Great job if that's the case and yes please send an email to Julie if you improve your times so we have the latest when we provide those to the event organizers in June. We'll let the coaches know too!

Are there limits on the number of events an athlete can swim?

The only limitation posted is that for each event there can be no more than 3 swimmers from the same country. Because this is broken down by gender and Virtus group our U.S. team is evenly distributed so we don't anticipate this being an issue for any US swimmers as three is the most we have within each group by gender.

After you register we'll connect swimmers to our National Team Coaches to collaborate on an event program and training plan together with your home coach if you have one.

Can a swimmer's home/personal coach attend and have coaching access?

If a swimmer's local coach wants to attend they can as a spectator but not as a credentialed coach on the pool deck. It's simply not possible to extend credentials to 300-400 individual coaches all wanting access to the deck, warm up pool, etc. Virtus World Championships are National Team events not individual events.

Which rules govern the Virtus World Swimming Championships?

[Virtus Swimming Rules](#) are formed from World Aquatics (formerly FINA) and World Para Swimming (International Paralympic Committee). As a World Para Swimming sanctioned event, the Virtus Swimming World Championships must meet their technical requirements and criteria.

How is the final swim program decided?

The event and venue is under the oversight and direction of Virtus Swimming Director (Dave Harmon, UK). Mr. Harmon has decades of experience as a meet director, official and administrator - including multiple WPS World Championships and Paralympic Games.

Athletes Without Limits US National Team Coach Bill Ewell is a member of the Virtus Swimming Technical Committee and has regular communication with the Director and the Committee.

The Committee, Director and Local Organizing Committee will collaboratively determine the final program based on many factors, including overall event, class and gender registrations that are received from all the Virtus Countries as well as feedback from World Para Swimming who is sanctioning the event.

We will update the team regarding any adjustments made to the schedule or of any rules that may be different to what swimmers may be used to at US meets.

Is the pool air conditioned?

We reached out to the Virtus Swimming Director (from the UK) to ask about the Assumption University Pool since he has visited the site multiple times in preparation for the event. He noted that like most indoor pools, the pool is not air-conditioned but has an adequate ventilation and fan system and is used for events year-round. Pool photos are available on the University site at: https://admissions.au.edu/?page_id=6542 Also, the [Virtus Swimming Rules](#) note the following:

4.1.2 The venue should remain at an appropriate and comfortable temperature for Athletes, team staff, volunteers and spectators. Water temperature is governed by World Para Swimming Rules, pool hall air temperature should be maintained at water temperature or 10C above water temperature, pool hall air temperatures should not be greater than 30 C (86 F).

Virtus Organizers plan to also set up a covered outdoor area adjacent to the swimming pool.

What are the temperatures and humidity like in Thailand in August?

According to online weather charts below the hottest month in Thailand is April when temperatures are at 96 degrees — highs during the rainy season in August are 92. Families who may be concerned about the high temperatures and high humidity of Thailand's tropical climate should make a personal choice about whether traveling to this event is the right decision for you.



D. FUNDRAISING, REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

General questions about Fundraising:

We understand there is a big cost for these events and also wish they could be lower both for athletes and for the organization. While we are working to identify product sponsorships and other support for the team, the most likely funders are those who know and support an individual athlete in their community.

We've provided letters of selection to each swimmer who has earned their spot on the team and encourage swimmers to use them to fundraise in their local community and through their personal networks. You can find examples of Paralympic athletes doing this on go-fund-me and other personal fundraising sites. We've had many families who were successful from using go-fund-me type sites, to reaching out to their friends, families, bank, workplace, and areas businesses to organizing car washes.

Will local supporters who help a swimmer pay their registration fee get a tax-deductible receipt?

Athletes Without Limits is a public charity so by law cannot provide tax-deductions for donations intended for a single individual. If someone would like to cover out-of-pocket costs for a specific athlete, they should provide the athlete with the funds directly as a personal gift. Donations made to Athletes Without Limits must be distributed across the whole program. Donors interested in this option can make a donation from our [Donation Page](#).

Where is the Athlete Registration Form that's due May 21, 2025?

We included a link below to the [Athlete Registration Form](#) in our May 17th email update. This form is for gathering updated contact and medical info, current address for shipping uniforms, liability releases and other general information for the trip. (it does not require payment)

On May 17th we will email each family separately a **personal invoice to pay the \$3500 fee**. You can use the Invoice Link to pay online by Bank ACH Transfer or Credit Card. It will also include the instructions below to Pay by Mailed Check which works great!

What are the instructions to Pay by Check:

Please be sure to postmark your check on or before May 21, 2024.
When writing a check you can make the memo the "Athletes Name"
Make the check payable to "ATHLETES WITHOUT LIMITS" and mail to:

ATHLETES WITHOUT LIMITS
740 NE 3RD ST, STE 3-332
BEND, OR 97701
Phone: 844-544-0510

E. OTHER COUNTRIES

Which Countries will be at the event?

We've not received a final list of countries yet but based on past events we expect 25-35 countries to compete. The 34 countries that competed in swimming at the 2023 Virtus Global Games World Championships were:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Macau, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, USA, and Venezuela.