

Q: Can we hold a lap-a-thon and not pay the 5% to USA Swimming?

A: No. Swim-a-Thon® is a registered trademark owned by USA Swimming. Anything that resembles a Swim-a-Thon® (lap-a-thon, swim for laps, pledge and swim, etc.) would be a violation of this trademark. USA Swimming does have the right to prosecute any team or club that violates the Swim-a-Thon® trademark.

Tax and Insurance Questions

USA Swimming and the 59 Local Swimming Committees are 501(c)(3) organizations. Therefore, the 5%/\$12 per participant which goes to USA Swimming is deductible as long as other stipulations in the law are followed. In addition, the 95% that is retained by the team is deductible if the team is also a 501(c)(3) organization. Each team has the responsibility to inform the donor of the extent of the deductibility of the donation. Please check the tax laws if you have any questions in this area.

NOTE: Swim-a-Thon® is the ONLY pledge per lap fund raising program recognized by USA Swimming. Aquathons, Lap-a-thons, Swim-a-longs, etc, are NOT covered by USA Swimming insurance. USA Swimming insurance covers only those Swim-a-Thons hosted by a USA Swimming member club and whose participants are all USA Swimming or United States Masters athlete members. Non-USA Swimming member clubs and non-USA Swimming member swimmers are NOT covered under USA Swimming insurance while hosting a Swim-a-Thon®.

Protect The Best Interests Of Your Club

It is the policy of USA Swimming, as established by the Board of Directors, that:

A team has sixty (60) days in which to return its remittance to USA Swimming National Headquarters.

Any USA Swimming member team, which is 120 days or more past their scheduled Swim-a-Thon® date will be given thirty (30) days to comply with the terms of the Swim-a-Thon® contract or the team's USA Swimming membership and privileges of such membership may be revoked.

It is the responsibility of each organization to return all unused Swim-a-Thon® packets to USA Swimming headquarters in good condition or your team will be charged for these unused packets.

If the Swim-a-Thon® does not take place as originally planned or there has been a date change, please notify USA Swimming headquarters immediately.

Asking For Help and Sample Letters

A Little Help Never Hurts...

There are a number of people who can help to make your Swim-a-Thon® successful. Parents and friends can assist not only with organization of the event, but they can actually swim also.

And don't forget your Local Swimming Committee (LSC). Most LSCs have a designated Swim-a-Thon® Chair. These people should be available to assist and instruct you as the need arises. To find out who your LSC Swim-a-Thon® Chair is, contact the LSC General Chair or USA Swimming.

USA Swimming's hope regarding Swim-a-Thon® is that the program will help you and your aquatic organization raise the funds you need. We sincerely hope that the program is successful for you, and ask that you let us know if you have questions or need assistance.

Sample Correspondence

The following letters, press releases and public service announcements are samples to give you some guidelines as you begin to write your own. Use them as is by simply adding your team name and Swim-a-Thon® dates or create your own using these as models.

Sample

Dear Aunt Sally:

Did you know that I'm a swimmer? I swim a lot every day and I'm getting pretty good.

My swim team is raising money by having a Swim-a-Thon® and I'd like you to help me by pledging \$.10 for each lap I swim. I will be swimming 200 lengths (I hope). That would be a donation of \$20.00.

Thank you very much for helping my swim team and me.

Love,

(Name)

Sample

Dear Mr. Jones:

Well, it is annual lean on your friend's time again, and Dad says if you don't have friends to lean on, you'll fall down. Since this has to do with our new pool I might get wet, so I need YOU!

I swim competitively for the (swim team). Every year our club raises enough money for our youth swimming activities by participating in a Swim-a-Thon®.

The money we raise goes to our club and to USA Swimming to help our programs.