



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2020 YMCA of the USA National Competitive Sporting Events Financial Assistance

GUIDELINES

Overview

A limited number of financial assistance awards (up to \$600) are available to eligible youth athletes participating in YMCA National Competitive Sporting Events to be used ONLY to cover transportation and lodging expenses for the Sporting Event.

Background

YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) recognizes the commitment an athlete makes to training and competing in swimming, diving and gymnastic competitions. We realize the financial strain these competitions can have on families. Y-USA hopes to alleviate some of the financial pressures associated with participation by making financial assistance available to local YMCAs to help offset an athlete's **transportation and lodging expenses** to a YMCA National competition event.

Travel and lodging financial assistance **shall not exceed \$600.00 per applicant. The funds will be distributed from Y-USA directly to the local YMCA** with a notification to the Athlete's YMCA coach approximately 6 weeks after the YMCA National competition.

Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant/athlete's application must be submitted by their YMCA Head Coach
- The local YMCA submitting the application must be in compliance with "The Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports" and must be a chartered YMCA branch or association located in the United States.
- The applicant/athlete must have qualified, registered for and competed in the applicable YMCA National Competition
- **The applicant/athlete or their family must be receiving assistance under their local YMCA's official Financial Assistance Program. NOTE: This is not inclusive of employment benefits or shared fundraising activities on behalf of the local Y.**
- **The applicant/athlete's parent/guardian must consent to the application being submitted. Coaches will be required to submit a signed parental consent form within the application.**
- The Travel Assistance Request form (see below) must be completed in SmartSimple. The local YMCA must specify the level of financial need they are requesting to help offset the applicant's travel and lodging expenses (note: a request cannot exceed \$600 per applicant).
- The local YMCA Executive Director and Head Coach must submit a signed letter(s) supporting and recommending the applicant's participation. The letter(s) must include:

- A statement indicating why a request for financial assistance is needed.
- A statement of support and/or recommendation for the applicant

How to Apply

Applications are accepted via Y-USA’s SmartSimple online application system (<http://yusa.smartsimple.com>) during the application windows stated below. First-time applicants must register online at yusa.smartsimple.com. The application form must be filled out completely by the applicant’s local YMCA Head Coach with the necessary documents attached before it can be considered. The applying Head coach and the athlete’s parent will receive confirmation email upon successful submission. The CEO of the applicant’s YMCA will also be notified upon submission of the financial assistance application. Please note all applications must be submitted in SmartSimple to be valid. Submission Materials:

- Completed Travel Assistance Application Form
- Recommendation letter(s) signed by Head Coach and Executive Director
- Signed Parental/Guardian Consent form

Please note: the YMCA National Travel Assistance committee will only consider the requested submission materials.

Applicants new to Y-USA’s SmartSimple portal should review step-by-step training materials on the [Link Financial Development Community](#).

Deadline and Notification Dates

Please note the application periods for each National Championship Competition. Applications will only be accepted for each Competition in the stated application windows.

- **2020 YMCA Short Course National Championship**

Date	Description
January 30, 2020	Application Open
March 12, 2020	Application Closes at 11:59pm ET
Mid-March 2020	Head Coach Notified of Award Status
March 30 – April 3, 2020	2020 YMCA Short Course National Championship Competition

- **2020 YMCA National Gymnastics Championship**

Date	Description
March 2, 2020	Application Open
April 15, 2020	Application closes at 11:59pm ET
Early May 2020	Head Coach Notified of Award Status
June 24, 2020-June 27, 2020	2020 YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship Competition

- **2020 YMCA Long Course National Championship**

Date	Description
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May 15, 2020	Application Open
July 10, 2020	Application Closes at 11:59pm ET
Mid-July 2020	Head Coach Notified of Award Status
July 28-Aug 1 2020	2020 YMCA Long Course National Championship Competition

Evaluation Criteria

Financial Assistance applications will be reviewed by the YMCA National Travel Assistance committee and Y-USA staff. Financial Assistance is awarded based on the individual’s financial need, athletic merit, participation, and overall character as demonstrated in the submitted application and letter(s) of recommendation.

Award Disbursement

Financial Assistance will be awarded to selected applicants in amounts not to exceed \$600. The local YMCA Head Coach will be notified by e-mail regarding the status of the application. The Committee reserves the right to adjust the dollars approved based on the number of applicants and the application evaluation. **If approved, the awarded funds will be sent directly to the local YMCA for allocation to the Applicant. Funds will be distributed approximately 45 days after notice of award, and only after verification of the applicant’s attendance at the National Competition.** *Note: Local YMCA matching funds are no longer required.*

Acknowledgment

Please note: After travel assistance funds have been distributed, the YMCA National Travel Assistance Committee encourages acknowledgement of the receipt of funds to the committee. Acknowledgements can be sent to Erin Reuland (erin.reuland@ymca.net) for distribution to the Committee. This serves as confirmation that athletes received funds after checks have been mailed to Y’s.

Application

The application questions are provided here for reference only. Please note that the application must be completed and submitted in SmartSimple (yusa.smartsimple.com) to be valid.

Eligibility Quiz:

- Is your local YMCA in compliance with "The Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports"?
- Are you a YMCA Head Coach applying on behalf of a Y youth athlete who has qualified, registered and will compete in one of the following events during the calendar year: YMCA Short Course National Championship, YMCA Long Course National Championship, OR YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship?
- Is the applicant and/or the applicant's family receiving assistance under your local YMCA's official Financial Assistance program?

Application Questions

Event Information

1. Select the National Competition that you are requesting travel assistance for:
 - YMCA Short Course National Championship
 - YMCA Long Course National Championship
 - YMCA National Gymnastics Championship

Head Coach Information

2. I am the Head Coach of the applicant. (Yes or No)
3. If no, please provide the name and email of the applicant's Head Coach.

Applicant Information

4. Applicant's Name
5. Parent/Guardian Phone Number
6. Parent/Guardian Email
7. Parent's Address (Address, city, state, zip)
8. What is the name of the applicant's High School?
9. What is the applicant's anticipated date of graduation? (Month, Year)
10. Is the applicant receiving assistance under your YMCA's official assistance program? (Yes or No)
11. How many years has the applicant participated in the applicable YMCA sport (i.e. Swimming and/or Diving OR Gymnastics)? Please include the number of years participating in the national competition sport ONLY.
12. How many years has the applicant competed at a National YMCA competition in their respective sport?

Request Details

13. Please enter requested amount for financial assistance (*Not to exceed \$600*):

(Note: Requested funds are only to cover travel and lodging costs)

Letters of Reference

14. The local YMCA Executive Director and Head Coach must submit a signed letter(s) supporting and recommending the applicant's participation. The letters must include:

- A statement indicating why a request for financial assistance is needed.
- A statement of support and/or recommendation for the applicant

Upload the YMCA Executive Director Letter of Reference and Head Coach letter(s) of reference here. *Please note: the review committee will not consider any additional supporting documentation besides the letters or recommendation; please do not upload any additional documentation beyond the required letters.*

Parental/Guardian Consent

15. The Head Coach is required to obtain parental/guardian consent to submit this application on behalf of the applicant. Please upload a signed and dated copy of the consent form signed by at least one parent/guardian of the applicant. Please use the consent form template provided here.

Applicant Commitments

Please check each statement to confirm your agreement of the financial assistance policies:

- Financial assistance funds, if awarded, are to be used exclusively to cover travel expenses to the applicable National Competitive Sports Event for the applicant/athlete stated in this application.
- Financial assistance funds, if awarded, will only be disbursed after confirmation that the applicant/athlete has participated in the applicable National Competition.
- Financial assistance funds, if awarded, will be disbursed to the local YMCA directly for allocation to the awarded applicant/athlete.
- My supervisor and the Branch Executive/CEO are aware and approve of this application.