



# Qualification Criteria – Open Water Swimming

## CARIFTA Aquatics Championships

The Open Water events for the CARIFTA Aquatics Championships include distances of 5km for each age group and gender.

The following qualification standards and criteria are established to ensure fair selection and to promote the continued development of distance swimming and open water participation in Jamaica.

## Purpose

The Open Water qualification system is designed to:

- Send a total of 12 swimmers to compete in the Open Water event. For each age group and gender, 3 spaces are available as follows:
  - 14-15 girls
  - 14-15 boys
  - 16-18 girls
  - 16-18 boys
- The Open Water team is separate from the Pool team. Athletes selected for Open Water may only participate in pool events with outright or relay selections.
- Swimmers who qualify for the Pool Swimming Team may also swim Open Water as long as they achieve the respective criteria.

## Qualification Pathways

Swimmers may qualify using any one (1) of the following pathways to be selected to the Carifta Open Water race(s) at the Carifta Aquatics Championships. Criteria are listed according to Priority of the respective area.

### 1. 1500m Pool time:

- **Must have a recorded time in a 1500m freestyle pool event for each gender, demonstrating endurance and control. The B standard for the 1500m Freestyle for 13-14 and 15-16 as derived from the 2026 Carifta pool qualification time standards.**
    - **14-15 girls 20:09.40**
    - **14-15 boys 18:54.91**
    - **16-18 girls 19:57.17**
    - **16-18 boys 17:28.62**
- 2. Qualifying times for the 5Km as follows previous year's winning time + 15 minutes:**
- **14-15 girls: 1:28:09 (2025 Carifta winning time 1:13:09)**
  - **16-18 girls: 1:24:03 (2025 Carifta winning time 1:09:03)**
  - **14-15 boys: 1:21:19 (1:06:19 2025 Carifta winning time)**
  - **16-18 boys: 1:17:39 (2025 Carifta winning time 1:02:39)**
  - These times in at least one (1) officially sanctioned Open Water event during the qualification period.
    - Flowers in Cayman in June
    - Blue Marlins 5km in July.
    - Swim for the Sanctuary 5km in January.

Twelve (12) swimmers (Six (6) females and six (6) males) will be selected in the chronological order in which the standards were achieved.

## **Selection**

- Athletes will be selected per age group and gender in accordance with year of eligibility stated in the Carifta Summons of the year of competition: December 31, 2026.
- Athletes who are selected are expected to compete.
- Coaches will be selected based on the number of athletes. If the number of athletes is equal, the Coach will be selected by availability and vote.

## **Implementation and Oversight**

- Athletes must have been registered with the ASAJ by January 30, 2026 to be eligible for selection.
- Qualification begins June 14, 2025 and ends at the Sunday of the WR Age Group Champs in February 22, 2026.
- Selected Athletes have up to five (5) days after selection to declare their participation. Where an athlete declares inability/unavailability to compete in Carifta OW 2026, the next ranked athlete will be selected.

- Final team selections will be made by the ASAJ Selection Committee and ratified by the ASAJ Council.
- Any exceptions or appeals will be addressed in accordance with ASAJ policies.

Ratified December 3, 2025