

DSISO TEAM USA

Down Syndrome International Swimming Organization

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ABOUT DSISO:

The DSISO, with its headquarters in Berkshire, England, holds an International World Championship Swim Meet every two years hosted by various countries. The group also compiles world records achieved by swimmers with Down syndrome in any FINA regulated swim meet in meters. Swimmers from nine different countries hold DSISO world records in various events. The United States sent their first team to competition at the 2006 DSISO International World Championship Meet held in Limerick, Ireland. Team USA, at this first competition, earned an overall medal count of four Gold and two Silver.

DSISO TEAM USA:

DSISO TEAM USA was formed in late 2005 after Jacob Halpin's father submitted his times in the 800 and 1500 meter freestyle events to the DSISO for world record consideration. Jacob Halpin became the first swimmer from the United States to hold world records through the organization.

Jacob's dad, Mike Halpin, was then requested by the DSISO to organize an American chapter to foster competition nationally and send an American National Team to their World Championship Meet.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS:

PARTICIPATION: Encourage swimmers with DS to join their local club or USA age-group Swim Team. Encourage, and assist if requested, discussion with high school Athletic Directors and Swim Team coaches concerning the possibility of varsity swim team participation.

Stringent time standards must be achieved to compete at the DSISO World Championship Meet. Team USA will have no time requirements but will rather be a pool of individuals to develop and draw from to field a National Team to send to the DSISO World Championship Meet.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING: Swimming is a non-impact aerobic exercise and suited to individuals with a myriad of physical limitations. The exercise is easily self-monitored. Individually, or swimming with friends, each can proceed at their own pace. Most importantly, swimming is social activity and most continue their swimming exercise far beyond their competitive years.

GROUP EXPERIENCE: Team USA will be a group of like individuals, peers, siblings, friends and family. The latest swim techniques, coaching methods, motivation, needs and concerns may be informally discussed at swim meets. Stateside swim meets will be both an athletic event and a social event.

CONTACT TEAM USA:

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