



The Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award

The Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award has been created to recognize and thank USMS coaches who fall into any one of the five often-overlooked categories listed below. Like Kerry, whose energy and enthusiasm is at the heart of the very successful Walnut Creek Masters program, these are the coaches who have had a vision and put in the effort to make it happen. The spirit and dedication of these individuals underline the mission of the coaches in Masters Swimming. Each recipient of this award is making a difference in the lives of USMS members every day.



Nominations

Please submit a letter of nomination, no longer than two pages. The criteria for consideration is listed on this page and should be included in the letter.

Nominations are due July 1 via email to coaches AT usms DOT org. Late submissions will be considered the following year.



Selection

A sub-committee of the USMS Coaches Committee, using the criteria listed on this page, will select up to ten coaches to receive the award. Award presentations will be made at the annual USMS Convention, or mailed to the recipient if he/she is not present.



Criteria

Coaches who meet one or more of the following criteria can be considered for this award.

- **Building the Foundation** Beginning from the ground up, the coach has created a new club or workout group, thus opening new opportunities for Masters swimmers in facilities that previously had no structured workouts for adults.
- **Reenergizing** The coach has come into an existing club with a new energy and enthusiasm, taking it to new heights in membership. As a result of this individual, many of these clubs may boast a renewed level of participation in local open water or pool competitions and fitness events.
- **Mentoring a new club** This experienced coach has taken time to share his/her expertise with a coach or coaches newer to the Masters venue. This individual has demonstrated leadership outside of their own pool, by acting as a mentor with a less-experienced coach or another club.
- **Coaching Education at the local level** This coach has taken the extra step at the LMSC level to create coaching education opportunities. Included in this are coaches in an LMSC who open lines of communication within the LMSC and perhaps intra-LMSC for the betterment of USMS, its clubs, and its members.
- **Creating Opportunities for Members** This is a coach who has successfully fueled new events for USMS members, including meets, open water swims, and/or clinics.