



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2026

***Fitter & Faster and ASCA Announce
TOP 5 FINALISTS IN 4 DIVISIONS FOR
2026 AGE GROUP COACH OF THE YEAR***

The American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) and Fitter & Faster Swim Camps have announced the **TOP 5 AGE GROUP COACH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS** for small, medium, large and extra-large teams. The finalists will be introduced and honored during the opening session of the 2026 ASCA World Clinic on September 9 at the Rosen Centre Resort in Orlando, Florida. The national winner of each division will then be revealed live on stage. For more information on the ASCA World Clinic go to www.ascaworldclinic.com.

The results were compiled by USA Swimming's data staff and ASCA staff using data from the SWIMS database. The results include swimmers ages 10-14 with qualifying time standards from the 2025 Long Course season and 2025-26 Short Course season. Coaches of record were collected for swimmers who achieved these times to populate the 2026 Top Age Group Coach lists.

Congratulations to the following outstanding coaches (in alphabetical order):

Small Teams (up to 75 athletes)	
John Chen	Xtreme Swim Club
Oleksandr Filimonov	BeFirst Swim Team
Nazarii Kosylo	SwimRight Team
Kevin Pan	Dragon Swim Team
Jim Skirboll	Racer X Aquatics

Medium Teams (76-175 Athletes)	
Michael Brooks	York YMCA
Cristian Davalos	Stamford Sailfish Aquatic Club
Olga Espinosa	St Croix Swim Club
Don Heidary	Orinda Aquatics
Lou Williams	Germantown Academy Aquatic Club

Large Teams (176-350 athletes)	
Dwight Anderson	Bellevue Club Swim Team
Matthew Craven	Shawmut Aquatic Club
Jeff Debettencourt	NASA Wildcat Aquatics
Tom Himes	North Baltimore Aquatic Club
Brian Pajer	Aquazot Swim Club

Extra-Large Teams (351+ athletes)	
Raven Chastain	Nitro Swimming
Rod Hansen	Irvine Novaquatics
Ryan L'Roy	SwimAtlanta
Peter O'Donnell	Long Island Aquatic Club
David Schreck	NOVA of Virginia Aquatics, Inc

#