

30th Annual NOVAQUATICS – SPEEDO GRAND CHALLENGE

William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center – Irvine California

May 22, 23 & 24, 2026

Sanctioned By:	USA Swimming and SCS	Date of Meet:	May 22, 23 & 24, 2026
Sanction Number:	S26 - 091	ENTRIES DUE BY 5:00PM:	May 13, 2026 (Wednesday)
Sponsored By:	SPEEDO and Novaquatics Swimming Team	WARMUP Pool Open:	7:00 am (Fri – Sun)
		START TIME:	Prelims: 8:30 am (Fri – Sun)
		Finals:	5:00 pm (Fri & Sat), 4:00 pm (Sun)

POOL: WILLIAM WOOLLETT JR. AQUATICS CENTER POOL, 4601 WALNUT, IRVINE, CA 92604. SITE OF USA Junior National and National Swimming Championships, Pan Pac Championships.

COURSE: WILLIAM WOOLLETT JR. AQUATICS CENTER POOL is an outdoor eight Lane 50 meter competition pool with a separate 50 meter by 25 yard warm-up pool. This competition course has been certified in accordance with 104.2.2 (C) on file with USA Swimming. Pool Depth Measurements at Start and Turn End Lanes 1 – 8 = 7'. The length of the competition course without a bulkhead is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 107.2.1.

ADMISSION: Spectator seating in the grandstands on the park side of the venue. **Tickets are available at:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-speedo-grand-challenge-in-irvine-ca-tickets-1983496857495> The competition will be broadcast live on Novaquatics/youtube.com <https://www.youtube.com/@IrvineNOVAquatics>

PARKING: FRIDAY PRELIMS: NO PARKING in the front lot on Walnut: (school is in session). Drop off/pick up will be available in the roundabout in front of the swim complex. Parking is available in lots to the East off Yale in Heritage Park; Friday, Saturday and Sunday. SATURDAY and SUNDAY; Additional parking available behind the pool in the Irvine High School parking Lot off Escalar.
NO PARKING ON WALNUT AVENUE.

FACILITY ACCESS: Participant entry and credential pick up through the Garage to the left of the main pool entrance. **\$50 fee for replacement credential.** There will be NO ENTRY through the Lobby.

WARMUP: USA Swimming warm-up policies will be enforced by USA Swimming Officials. Swimmers warming up or down before, during or after the swim meet must be under the direct supervision of an USA Swimming member coach. 3 Point, Slip and Slide entry will be enforced. NO DIVING or JUMPING into the pool during these times except into the designated sprint lane(s).

ELIGIBILITY: and AFFILIATION: Open to athletes who are 2026 USA Swimming Registered. Registration application must be received by the meet processor, administrative referee or SCS Office by Wednesday, **May 13, 2026**. There are substantial penalties for swimmer and club (2026 Swim Guide, part One, III, B) if USA Swimming registration is completed at meet. Before the first day of the meet, a swimmer may change his/her affiliation by the standard procedure. At the meet, a swimmer may UNATTACH (not Attach or Re-attach) by notifying the Admin Referee in writing and paying the appropriate fee. Athletes 18 and over must complete the free on-line USA Swimming Athlete Protection Training to compete.

COACHES and OFFICIALS: To receive a meet deck pass all Coaches and Officials must be current 2026 USA Swimming members and must have completed the CDC or NFHS Concussion course, CAT and CANRA. Meet deck pass should be visible at all times.

QUALIFYING TIMES: SUBMIT LONG COURSE METER TIMES. If qualifying by short course yard times, enter your short course yards time. Swimmers with National qualifying times in yards may enter at the minimum National long course meter time. Swimmers must have achieved the Short Course or Long Course Time Standard after May 22, 2024. DO NOT SUBMIT NT (no time), ET (estimated time) or work out time trials. Swimmers may enter the 50 of stroke events providing they have met the corresponding 100 of that stroke qualifying time. Swimmers may enter as many events as qualified, but may only compete in three (3) individual events per day. If a swimmer qualifies for one event, they can swim 3 (there is no BONUS time standard). **All events are contested as Trials and Finals events, including the 800 and 1500 meter freestyle.**

SWIMMERS WITH “A” FLIGHT QUALIFYING STANDARDS MAY CHOOSE TO ENTER THE “B” FLIGHT SESSIONS BY ENTERING THE “B” FLIGHT EVENTS RATHER THAN THE “A” FLIGHT.

PROOF OF TIME: This is a Proof of Time Meet. All entered times will be verified through the SWIMS database. See SCS Swim Guide for Proof of Time procedures and penalties

DISABILITY: Coaches entering swimmers with disabilities that require any reasonable accommodation or modifications, including the need for personal assistants, and/or registered service animals, must provide advance notice in writing (email), accompanying their meet entry file, to the meet referee by the entry deadline. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host's ability to accommodate all requests.

ELECTRONIC ENTRY PROCEDURE: E-mail entry (entry .zip file) will be accepted ONLY when received with an attached Word or pdf file including electronic signature of coach and will be dated as official at that time (5PM postmark would queue before a 10:00PM electronic). Full payment (single team check or certified funds) for an e-mail entry must be postmarked within 48 hours of the e-mail entry. Failure to comply will be referred to the SCS Board of Review. Entry updates (added events) will be processed when received by the processor by the entry deadline. Added events (entered swimmers) may be submitted by hard copy (this includes e-mail) ONLY. New swimmers accepted SPACE AVAILABLE. DO NOT RESEND AN ENTRY FILE: A replacement file for the team will NOT be processed. Deletions will NOT be refunded.

ENTRY FEES: **\$13.50 per individual event, plus \$33.00 surcharge (\$25.00 Athlete Surcharge and \$8.00 Facility Surcharge) per swimmer must accompany electronic or individual entry. Outreach athlete entry fee is a \$15.00 flat rate.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **IRVINE NOVAQUATICS**
MAIL and HAND DELIVER ENTRIES TO: Alyssa Tong
53 Bainbridge
Irvine, CA 92620
Alyssa.Tong@novaquatics.com

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RULES AND PROCEDURES

- MEET REFEREE:** Ted Olivieri shall be in charge of the meet. Any questions regarding the conduct of the meet should be made directly to trackmdr@aol.com
- RULES:** USA Swimming Rules will govern this meet. Current SCS Meet procedures for Trials and Finals Meets will be enforced (See 2026 SCS Swim Guide). Current USA Swimming Rules, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP 3.0) will govern this meet. **This meet will be pre seeded.**
- SCRATCH RULES:** The National Championship scratch rules as defined in section 207.11.6 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations will apply. Scratch deadline for subsequent sessions will close 30 minutes after the conclusion of the evening finals session prior to the next day's preliminary session. Scratches for the preliminary session for Friday May 22, 2026 may be emailed to Alyssa Tong no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, May 21, 2026. Email to: Alyssa.Tong@novaquatics.com
- RECORDING DEVICES & MEDIA NOTICE:** The use of audio-visual recording devices including cell phones, are not permitted in locker rooms, changing areas or restrooms. Recording devices are not permitted behind the starting blocks during the starting sequence throughout the meet. This meet may be covered by the media, including photographs, video, web casting and other forms of obtaining images of athletes participating in the meet. Entry into the meet is acknowledgement and consent to this fact.
- SWIMWEAR:** Swimwear must conform to USA Swimming Rule 102.8. Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USA Swimming sanctioned or approved competition. "Tech" suits are not permitted for 12 & Under swimmers at this meet.
- DECK CHANGES:** Deck Changes are prohibited.
- RACING START CERTIFICATION:** Any swimmer entered in the meet must be certified by a USA Swimming member coach as being proficient in performing a racing start or must start each race from within the water. When unaccompanied by a member-coach, it is the responsibility of the swimmer or the swimmer's legal guardian to ensure compliance with this requirement.
- PRELIMINARY HEATS:** All Preliminary heats will be divided into "A" and "B" flights. All 7-12 year olds events will be swum in the "A" flight. The "B" flight will be run 30 minutes following the conclusion of the "A" flight. ALL PRELIMINARY HEATS WILL BE SWUM FASTEST TO SLOWEST. The fastest three heats will be championship seeded, except events 400 and longer, only top two heats will be championship seeded in preliminaries. The B flight will be swum fastest to slowest but will not be championship seeded
- 800 METER FREESTYLE EVENTS:** The 800 Freestyle events are being conducted as a trials and finals event. The Men's 1500 freestyle "A" preliminary heats will swim at the conclusion of the "A" flight and the "B" flight preliminaries at the conclusion of the "B" flight on Friday, May 22, 2026. Women's 800 freestyle preliminary A flight heats will swim at the conclusion of the "A" flight and the B flight heats at the conclusion of the "B" flights on Saturday, May 23, 2026. Preliminary heats of the 800 freestyle events will be swum FASTEST TO SLOWEST. The women's top 8 finalists of the 800 meter freestyle will be conducted as the first event of the finals session on Sunday, May 24, 2026 the men's top 8 finalists of the 1500 meter freestyle will be conducted following the finals of event 40 (Men's 100 Back) Sunday, May 24, 2026.
- FINALS FORMAT:** The top four (4) qualifiers in each Open event advance to the Championship Final; there will be an "A" and "B" consolation final for the next 16 qualifying competitors. The finals of the 800 and 1500 free will consist of a single Championship Final of the top 8 swimmers from the preliminary heats. The order of competition for the finals session will be "B" consolation, "A" consolation and Championship Final. The top 8 finalists in the 7-12 year old events advance to the Championship finals.
- AWARDS:** (Awards will be formally presented immediately following the completion of the championship heat) Cash Awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, to those athletes eligible to receive cash. Fourth place finished will be awarded a non-cash award. The winner of the 'A' consolation finals will receive a non-cash award. Cash Awards: **\$100.00 for 3rd Place, \$200.00 for 2nd Place with 1st Place** amount determined by the spin of the **Mystery Wheel** (\$300.00 - \$1,000.00). Other cash awards may be affected by the spin of the Mystery Wheel (ex: "Winner Takes All"). The Mystery wheel will be spun prior to the Championship final to determine 1st Place cash value. A \$100.00 cash award will be presented for a Meet record set in the Championship Final. Swimmers with current or future collegiate (e.g. NCAA) or high school (e.g. CIF) eligibility may be prohibited from receiving cash awards but may accept merchandise awards. 7-12 events will be awarded medals 1st – 3rd place. Athletes eligible to receive cash prizes are required to complete appropriate tax forms by the end of the meet for cash dispersal.
- AWARDS: 800 Free:** Cash awards for the 800/1500 free will be based on the fastest split swum for each 50 meters through the championship final. The cash value is \$50 per 50 for the 800 and \$25 per 50 for the 1500. To claim the cash prize the swimmer MUST swim the final in a time faster than their preliminary qualifying time.
- TIME TRIALS:** Time permitting, a time trial session will be offered at the conclusion of the morning sessions. \$20.00 per event.

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USA Swimming

Meet 360: Permanently suspended or ineligible individuals cannot be present on deck, coach, or perform any function at a meet requiring USA Swimming membership.

During registration, ensure all coaches, officials, trainers, massage therapists, LSC or host club staff, and medical professionals show proof of current USA Swimming membership (e.g., require them to show their Membership Card via the USA Swimming app) at registration. If such an individual cannot demonstrate proof of membership in good standing, deck access will not be granted.

Individuals permanently suspended or ineligible can be spectators at a meet and may be in the stands.

Violators shall be reported to the Meet Director or Meet Referee, who can then direct that individual to the spectator area. A subsequent report should also be made to USA Swimming.

A quality control system has been implemented to ensure that individuals who are ineligible for participation are unable to participate in this competition. Additionally, all adult members of USA Swimming who have not completed their Athlete Protection Training will not be able to participate in this competition.

Pursuant to USA Swimming Rules and Regulations and federal law, it is every member's responsibility to immediately (i.e., within 24 hours) report any incident of child abuse, including physical or sexual abuse, to law enforcement and the U.S. Center for SafeSport may be made via telephone at 833-5US-SAFE (833-587-7233) or online at www.uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern. Various state laws may also require reporting to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency.

For information on how to report other alleged violations, including without limitation, the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention policy, please visit www.usaswimming.org/report.

It is understood and agreed that USA Swimming shall be free from any liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event.