

WINTER FESTIVAL

January 23-25, 2026

Purpose

The first stage of provincial heats and finals racing for swimmers in both the Olympic and Paralympic streams.

Qualifying	Up to January 12, 2026
Entry Deadline	January 12, 2026
Scratch Deadlines	Swim Alberta Scratch Rule (Appendix A)

Facility

Brookfield YMCA by Seton, Calgary
10x25m with warm-up and cool down lanes

	January 23	January 24	January 25
Warm-up / Start	8:00 / 8:45am	8:00 / 8:45 am	8:00 / 8:45 am
	2:00 / 2:45 pm	4:00 / 4:45pm	3:00 / 3:45 pm

Sanction

This meet is sanctioned by Swim Alberta.

Rules

The meet will be conducted under published World Aquatics and/or World Para Swimming rules and regulations supplemented by published and approved Swimming Canada and Swim Alberta rules and regulations. In addition, this meet package shall outline all changes to and specific application of the published rules. Swim Alberta policies and procedures, where appropriate will also apply.

Hosts

Swim Alberta and the Okotoks Mavericks

Meet Manager	Kylie Jones	kb.jonesey@gmail.com
Officials Chair	Geoff Hurd	mavericksgh1@gmail.com
Meet Referee	Doug Bird	
Swim Alberta	Anna Naumova	anaumova@swimalberta.ca

Safe Sport

Swim Alberta provides a fun, healthy, inclusive and safe environment. Swimming enriches the lives of everyone involved by ensuring that the training and competitive environment is one where athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff know they are safe and are treated with respect and dignity. Swim Alberta believes that all members have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive training and competitive environment that is free of abuse, harassment or discrimination. Swim Alberta further recommends that all interactions between an athlete and an individual who is in a position of trust should normally, and wherever possible, be in an environment or space that is both “open” and “observable” to others.

Eligibility

This meet is closed to swimmers currently registered with a Swim Alberta affiliated year-round club. Para swimmers must have a valid classification listed on the Swimming Canada website.

Swim Alberta will permit entries from the Inconnu Swim Club as well as clubs within the Kootenay region of BC, including the Kootenay Swim Club, Cranbrook Tritons, Elk Valley Dolphins, and Columbia Valley Swim Club.

Qualifying

Swimmers may qualify for the Winter Festival by achieving one of the Festival time standards prior to the entry deadline. Time standards are available on www.swimalberta.ca. Para swimmers who are age 9-12 and have a Level 1 classification may attend.

New Qualifiers

Entries for swimmers who qualified after the entry deadline will be accepted. Coaches must notify Swim Alberta by 11:59pm Monday January 19, 2025

Entries

Swimmers who have qualified in one (1) event may enter up to a maximum of nine (9) individual events, with an individual maximum of three (3) events per day. Friday sessions will be limited to a maximum of two (2) events per session. Entries must be submitted online at www.swimming.ca. Deck entries will not be permitted.

Entry Fees payable to Swim Alberta.

Entry Fees are \$18.00 per individual event and \$22.75 per relay event. Entry fees include Olympic Bonus and are refundable prior to the entry deadline. Entry fees must be paid prior to the start of the competition.

Entry Rules

Entries must be submitted using the athletes' best Short Course or Long Course time. Meet Management will convert entry times for seeding.

No-Time (NT) entries will not be accepted, coaches must submit estimated times. Estimated times will not supersede any proven time in the fastest heat of a timed final event. Late entries of pre-qualified swimmers will be subject to a \$50.00 fine per swimmer payable to Swim Alberta prior to the start of the competition.

Any club submitting entries for de-qualified or non-qualified athletes will be subject to a \$100.00 fine per ineligible athlete payable to Swim Alberta.

Scratches

The Swim Alberta Scratch Rule will be in effect for this competition. Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet. (See appendix A)

Diving

Starts will be conducted from Starting Platforms (blocks) as per World Aquatics FR2.3, FR 2.7 and SW 4.1.

Format

All events, except where noted, will be swum by gender.

Age Categories

Individual Events

50-100m: 10 & Under, 11, 12

200-400m: Ages 11 & under, 12

50m Para Events: Age 9-12

Relay Events

Female, Male and Mixed: Ages 12 & under, 10 & under

Preliminaries

There will be preliminaries and finals for all 50m and 100m events. All preliminaries will swim regardless of entries and will be senior seeded by gender, fast to slow.

Finals

There will be A-finals for each age category in all 50m and 100m events. Para finals will follow the age group final and may be swum as mixed gender based on the number of registered swimmers.

Individual Time Final Events

The 200m and 400m individual events will be time final. The fastest heat will be seeded by age category, with all remaining heats senior seeded, fast to slow. Events may be combined if there are less than eight entries.

Relays

Relay events are time final and will be swum by category, oldest to youngest as Female>Male>Mixed, and seeded slow to fast. Teams may enter one (1) 'relay only' swimmer for the 'A' relay. 'Relay Only' entries must be done using Hy-Tek and Swim Alberta notified when entries are submitted. This is only permitted if the team has three (3) swimmers eligible for the relay who are entered in at least one individual event.

Individual names must be submitted to the Clerk of Course by the deadlines listed below.

4x50 Free	January 24	8:45 am
4x50 Medley	January 25	8:45 am

Para Swimming

Para Swimmers may enter any event. The 50 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, and 50 Fly will be swum as para specific events, regardless of age. Para specific events may be run as mixed gender based on registration at the discretion of Swim Alberta and Meet Management.

Red versus Blue Relays

The Red versus Blue relays are a fun recognition event. The top eight (8) swimmers in each age group based on the final ranking of the 50-freestyle will represent the Red or Blue relay team in a 4x50m freestyle relay. There will be one relay per gender in each individual age group (10U, 11, 12). Swimmers will be selected to the Red or Blue team based on the following ranking;

Red = 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th

Blue = 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th

Awards

Medals will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each event. Ribbons will be awarded to swimmers placing 4th to 10th.

Youth Recognition Awards

Swimmers who achieve one of the Youth Recognition time standards from September 1 to the end of the Winter Festival will be eligible to receive the Youth Recognition award and presentation. Time standards are available on www.swimalberta.ca.

Time Trials

Swim Alberta and meet management must both approve a time trial, which will only be held in exceptional circumstances.

Proof of Time

Swim Alberta may request proof of time for any entry. Clubs will have 48 hours to provide proof of time. If a Club is unable to prove an entry time the entry may be removed or seeded last.

Official Splits

Must be requested prior to the start of the session. Coaches may be required to supply timers for Official Split requests.

Psych Sheets

To be published Tuesday prior to the meet. Changes will not be permitted once the psych sheet is published.

Accreditation

Clubs will be provided with one accreditation per swimmer registered in the competition. Clubs will receive one coach accreditation per 10 swimmers entered.

Media

Club photographers are not permitted.

Swimwear at Competitions

All swimmers are permitted to race in the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is not required to declare the choice of swimwear to the Referee if the fabric of the swimwear is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to create a technical advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy, or endurance.

Competition Warm-Up

Swimming Canada competition warm-up safety procedures will be in effect at this meet.

Photography/Videography

To minimize risk, all photographs and videos taken at Swimming Canada and Swim Alberta sanctioned competitions, whether taken by a professional photographer or videographer, spectator team support staff or any other participant, must observe generally accepted standards of decency. Under no circumstances are cameras permitted or other recording devices allowed in the area immediately behind the starting blocks during practice or competition starts or locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other dressing areas.

The full details on the Event photography and Videography Procedure can be found [HERE](#).

Friday, January 23	
Time Final Events Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am 200 IM 200 Butterfly 400 Free	Time Final Events Warm-up: 2:00 pm / Start: 2:45 pm 200 Backstroke 200 Freestyle 200 Breaststroke
Saturday, January 24	
Preliminaries Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am 50 Freestyle 100 Butterfly 50 Breaststroke 100 Backstroke 100 IM 4x50 Freestyle- 12 & Under 4x50 Freestyle - 10 & Under	Finals Warm-up: 4:00 pm / Start: 4:45 pm 50 Freestyle 100 Butterfly 50 Breaststroke 100 Backstroke 100 IM
Sunday, January 25	
Preliminaries Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am 50 Backstroke 100 Breaststroke 50 Butterfly 100 Freestyle 4x50 Medley - 12 & Under 4x50 Medley - 10 & Under	Finals Warm-up: 3:00 pm / Start: 3:45 pm 4 x 50 Freestyle – Red vs Blue Youth Recognition Awards 50 Backstroke 100 Breaststroke 50 Butterfly 100 Freestyle

Appendix A

Alberta provincial meets will use the Swim Alberta Scratch Rule.

<http://www.swimalberta.ca/officials/meet-manager-information>

SWIM ALBERTA SCRATCH RULE

Heats & Finals Competitions including Swim Alberta Festivals, Provincial Trials, and Provincial Championships

Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet. The meet information package should clearly state the deadline for receiving scratches by the meet manager after the entry deadline. Any scratches that are not received by the published deadline will need to be submitted to the Administration Desk according to the information detailed below:

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Preliminaries:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk 30 minutes after the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the preliminary session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Administration Desk 30 minutes prior to the start of each session. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the Referee.
- There will be no penalty for scratching from preliminary events. No-shows, step-downs, and unexcused incomplete swims will have no penalty assessed.

Scratch Deadline for Time Final Events (including relays):

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk by the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Administration Desk 30 minutes prior to the start of each session in which a Time Final Event is scheduled. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the Referee.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining finals, including relays, scheduled for that session.

Scratch Deadline for Time Final Events utilizing Positive Check-in

- The deadline for Positive Check-in shall be clearly communicated in the meet package and communicated to coaches at the technical meeting.
- Failure to check-in by the deadline will be deemed a scratch and the swimmer will be removed from the event. There is no penalty for swimmers who fail to check-in.
- Once checked-in a swimmer is not entitled to scratch from the event. No-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer being scratched from all remaining finals, including relays, scheduled for that session and any other session in which the event in question is swum.

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Finals:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk 30 minutes after conclusion of the preliminary session. The conclusion of the preliminary session will be the completion

of the final race of the session or when the 800/1500 are the last events of the session, the scratch deadline shall be 30 minutes after the completion of the last race immediately preceding the start of the 800/1500.

- The Late Scratch Deadline shall be 30 minutes prior to the start of the finals session. However, there shall be no re-seeding to include scratches made after the initial scratch deadline.
- The Late Scratch Deadline only applies if the coach of the late scratch swimmer notifies the Referee and the coach of the alternate. The alternate is under no obligation to swim. Should the alternate decline to swim the coach of the late scratch swimmer must contact the coach of the 2nd alternate.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining events, including relays, scheduled for that day.
- Although alternates are not required to swim, all swimmers not intending to swim finals should scratch by the scratch deadline. This will ensure that those swimmers, who would be intent on swimming in a final, would be provided the opportunity.

Deadlines for Relays

1. **Name Submissions:** The deadline for relay name submissions shall be clearly communicated in the meet information package, in the coaches meeting or in the technical bulletin.
2. **Name Changes:** The deadline for name changes shall be clearly communicated in the meet information package, in the coaches meeting or in the technical bulletin. The deadline will be a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the first relay event based on session timeouts, regardless of which event (age or gender) the team is entered in.