

NEO Y SWIM LEAGUE

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

MEET INFORMATION

APPROVAL #OH-26SC-80AP

About the Championship

Date: February 7, 2026

Location: University of Akron Ocasek Natatorium

Entry Deadline: **Saturday, January 31, 2026, by 11pm**
Sharon Badertscher: badertsj@gmail.com

Hosted by: North Canton YMCA Swim Team

Meet Director: Debbie Josif djosif@ymcastark.org

Assistant Director/Meet Referee: Bob Reolfi reobob@aol.com

ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

This meet is a closed, inter-association championship YMCA meet. This swim meet and all participants will adhere to the Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports and the Swimming Addendum to the Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports. USA Swimming technical rules will be followed. This meet is approved by Ohio Swimming, Inc. of USA swimming. Only swimmers with their correct first name, last name, date of birth and USA Swimming membership number included with the entry will have results uploaded to SWIMS.

USA Swimming Approval number: OH-26SC-80AP

This swim meet is a qualifying meet for the Northeast Ohio YMCA Swim League Championship meet which will be held on March 6 and 7, 2026.

MEET FORMAT WAIVER

RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES: The host organization reserves the right to make any adjustments to the provisions of the swim meet announcement deemed necessary to ensure the fair and efficient running of the meet. Changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible. None of the required elements of an approved meet may be changed.

LOCATION AND FACILITY

Location: Ocasek Natatorium—402 Carroll St. Akron, OH 44304

The competition will be held in the 8 lane, 25 yard competition pool with an optional 9 lane warm down pool at the other end. The depth of the pool at the start end is 14 feet. The depth at the turn end is 8 feet. The competition course has been certified and in accordance with 104.2.2C (4). The copy for such certification is on file with USA swimming. The host will ensure the required course dimensions.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Meet Director: Debbie Josif djosif@ymcastark.org
Assistant Director/Meet Referee: Bob Reolfi reobob@aol.com

WEB SITE

Meet Information can be found at: www.neoyswim.org
Online Meet Results: Meet Mobile will be available.

MEET TIMELINE:

NOTE: The facility will not open until 8:00am

Session 1: 8 & under and 9-10 age groups

Warm up: 8:30am – 9:15am

Meet start time is 9:30am.

Meeting times for coaches, timers and officials will be given at the check-in table.

Session 2: 11-12, 13-14, 15 & Up age groups

A timeline and lane assignments for the afternoon warm-ups will be emailed out to the coaches by Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Meeting times for coaches, timers and officials will be given at the check-in table.

ELIGIBILITY

ATHLETE

YMCA Membership: An athlete must be a YMCA member in good standing who holds an annual, full privilege membership at the YMCA he/she represents for a period of at least 90 days prior to the first day of the swim meet. An athlete may have only represented that YMCA team in competition for a period of 90 days prior to the first day of the meet, excluding scholastic competition.

Required Meets: Swimmers must have participated in three (3) YMCA Closed competitions—2 dual meets + 1 YMCA invitational OR 3 dual meets during the 2025-2026 season to be eligible.

Age: Per NEO Y Swimming bylaws—age as of December 1, 2025.

Athletes with a Disability: Swimmers with a disability are welcome to attend the swim meet. The coach or team entry person must alert the swim meet director and the swim meet referee as to the need for any special accommodation or seeding arrangements at the time the entry is submitted. If modifications to USA Swimming rules are necessary, then the coach or athlete must notify the meet referee of any disability prior to competition.

COACH

Coach Registration: Each coach must have completed the annual YMCA on-line team and coach registration process. Coaches who are not registered and approved will not be permitted on deck.

TEAM

Team Registration: Each team must have completed the annual YMCA of the USA on-line team registration and paid the annual registration fee.

Insurance: Each team that participates in the swim meet must have a current Certificate of Liability Insurance, in effect through the last day of the meet.



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ENTRY INFORMATION

ENTRY LIMITS: Each swimmer may enter and compete in a maximum of two (2) individual events and two (2) relay events. If a team has fewer than four swimmers entering as age group, then the swimmers can enter in three (3) individual events. Teams have no limit on the number of entries for each event.

USA-S IDs: Only USA-S registered athletes should have an ID number in the Meet Entry File.

ENTRY FEES: Individual events are \$5 relay events are \$16 per relay team.

ENTRY DEADLINE: The due date for entries is Saturday, January 31, 2026, by 11pm.

ENTRY PROCEDURE: Email entries to: [Sharon Badertscher](mailto:Sharon.Badertscher@badertsj@gmail.com) badertsj@gmail.com

SCRATCH DEADLINE: Thursday, February 5 by **NOON**. After this deadline the athlete may still be scratched but there will be **NO ADDITIONS OR SUBSTITUTIONS** made.

DECK ENTRIES: No deck entries will be accepted.

PAYMENT: Make checks payable to North Canton YMCA. Payment must be brought to the swim meet and given to the coaches' check-in table.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

MEET CHECK-IN PROCEDURE: Coaches will check into the Pool Entrance in the hallway to pick up their meet packet and deck credentials for qualified coaches.

VOLUNTEERS INFORMATION

REQUIRED OF EACH TEAM: Each team is required to supply:

- 2 Officials each session. If your team can supply more or less than required, please contact Debbie Josif at djosif@ymcastark.org
- 3 timers each session with a MINIMUM AGE OF 18 YEARS of AGE required.
- Age Group coordinators who will get their team swimmers to the Clerk of Course or to the Blocks for their events. **It will be each team's responsibility to get their swimmers to the blocks (9 & over) or to the Clerk of Course (8 & under individual events ONLY). Each team is responsible to get their 8 & Under relays to block area.**

SEND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION: Please submit a list of your volunteers via email to Debbie Josif at djosif@ymcastark.org with "Division Meet Volunteers Sheet" (attached) by **Friday, January 30, 2026.**

All applicable adults participating in or associated with this meet, acknowledge that they are subject to the provisions of the USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy ("MAAPP"), and that they understand that compliance with the MAAPP policy is a condition of participation in the conduct of this competition.



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POOL DECK ACCESS: All coaches and volunteers must wear a wristband to be admitted onto the pool deck. Coaches and designated volunteers MUST check-in at the table outside of the pool entrance prior to entering the deck. **PARENTS WHO ARE NOT VOLUNTEERING TO WORK THE MEET WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THE POOL DECK ONCE HIS/HER CHILD IS WITH THEIR TEAM.**

CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

RULES: The meet will run under YMCA Rules that Govern Competitive Sports, Addendum to the YMCA Rules that Govern Competitive Sports, NEO Y Swim League Bylaws, USA-S Technical Rules.

EVENT SEEDING: The Meet Director/Administrative Official reserves the right to combine heats.

SCRATCH PROCEDURES DAY OF MEET: An athlete is considered entered in an event unless he/she scratches from that event. If an athlete does not scratch from an event and does not swim the event, that event still counts toward the athlete's total number of events for the meet.

DECLARED FALSE START: An athlete may also withdraw from a heat or swim-off by electing to take a declared false start. Such declaration must be made known to the Deck Referee before the heat or swim off is announced. A declared false start counts as an event swam for the athlete and will be counted in the maximum number of events allowed for each athlete.

WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES: Teams will be assigned lanes for warm-ups (will be provided in coaches' packet). During designated warm up sessions, athletes may only enter the competition pool from the starting end. Athletes are expected to use a three-point entry in which they sit on the side of the pool then slide into the pool gently, with one hand on the wall. The exception is during specific warm up periods when sprint lanes are designated for practicing racing starts.

Coaches must maintain contact with their swimmers during warm-up. There is no diving during warm-up, except in designated sprint lanes.

Swimmers are to sprint one way and climb out at the far end of the pool. Swimmers may be removed from warm-up for violating safety rules.

CLERK OF COURSE:

- There will be a clerk of course for 8 and under **individual events ONLY**. All teams must send their 8 and under swimmers with Age Group coordinators/coaches to the clerk of course so that 8 and under can be escorted onto the bulkhead.
- 8 and under relays will report behind the blocks, age group coordinators and coaches are responsible for getting their relays to the blocks.
- We recommend writing your 8 and under events on his/her hand.
- There is no clerk of course for 9 and older swimmers- they should report directly to the blocks.

TEAM/SWIMMERS AREA: Each team will have available space on the pool deck to choose from (no assigned area) since there is only 6/7 teams competing.

STARTS: 'Fly-over' starts may be used at this meet at the discretion of the meet. Should fly-over starts be used, all swimmers (except for Backstroke starts) should remain in the water at the completion of their race until the next heat has begun.



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PROTEST PROCEDURE: Protests against judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the Referee and the Referee's decisions will be final.

CONDUCT AND RESTRICTIONS: The Meet Referee reserves the right to dismiss any swimmer, coach and/or spectator from the competition due to inappropriate conduct

- Deck access is limited to only registered and approved coaches, swimmers, and working officials.
- Except where the venue facilities require otherwise, changing, into or out of swimsuits other than in locker rooms or other designated areas is not appropriate and is prohibited. The USA Swimming Rulebook defines Deck Change as: "Changing, in whole or in part, into or out of a swimsuit (excluding a drag suit) in an area other than a permanent or temporary locker room, bathroom, changing room or other space designated for changing purposes while at a practice, competition, or other pool-related activity." This includes slipping off the top of a one-piece performance suit to place on an alternate bikini top immediately following a race.
- Individuals are responsible for the security of their personal belongings and are encouraged not to bring valuables to the swim meet venue and not to leave items unattended.
- Shaving is not permitted in any areas of the facility.
- **CAMERA ZONES:** Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, restrooms, or locker rooms. Additionally, under NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL Camera Zones include the area immediately behind the starting blocks at either end of the racing course (s) while they are in use for the race starts during competition and warm-up. Those failing to abide by this rule may be removed from the venue.
- Per USA Swimming Rule 102.8.1F, 12 & Under athletes may not compete in Technical Suits at this meet. Please refer to the USA Swimming rulebook for definitions of a technical suit.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SCORING: Relays = 40,34,32,30,28,26,24,22,18,14,12,10,8,6,4,2
Individual = 20,17,16,15,14,13,12,11,9,7,6,5,4,3,2,1

AWARDS: Heat Winner Ribbons

Ribbons for 1st – 16th place for relay and individual events

Team banner awards for 1st – 3rd place

SPECTATORS

PARKING FEE: Options are for hourly parking and max of \$10/day. All payments must go through the Parking App (QR code in the parking lots or on walkway to ONAT front doors) This pricing applies to any parking lot on campus.

ADMISSION FEE: General Admission: \$10; Under 6 is Free.

HEAT SHEETS/PROGRAMS: Heat sheets will be available online with a limited amount for sale day of the swim meet for \$2 per session. You are encouraged to print your own heat sheet online because not many will be offered.

APPAREL/50/50 Raffle: We will have a vendor onsite making custom meet apparel. We also will be selling 50/50 Raffle tickets.



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CONCESSION STAND: Small Concession stand is located at the front desk (main doors) with snack items only. NO HOT FOOD. CREDIT CARD ONLY. The host team does not control any aspect of the concessions. Swimmers and spectators are welcome to bring their own food and drinks. NO GLASS CONTAINERS permitted!

CONDUCT AND RESTRICTIONS:

- No Flash Photography at the start of competition races.
- Parents are responsible for the conduct of their children. Children are not allowed to roam the facility unattended.
- Spectators are not permitted on deck
- No smoking, drugs, or alcohol are permitted in the swimming complex.

DRONES

- Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials, and/or spectators are present.

LIABILITY, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

INSURANCE: Each Association participating in this meet must have insurance coverage for representative(s) including leadership and participants who will be in attendance for the period of travel from their Association to the meet, during the entire period of the meet and return to their Association. The YMCA CHAMPIONSHIP MEET DECLARATION FORM by each team, must be signed and emailed back to djosif@ymcastark.org

LIABILITY LIMITS: In granting this approval, it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming shall be free and held harmless from liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event.

UNACCOMPANIED ATHLETE: Each athlete must have a certified coach responsible for him/her while on the pool deck. The coach of the athlete must authorize in writing a coach from another team to represent their team and be responsible for the swimmer(s).

There will be the required number of certified lifeguard(s) on duty at all times at this meet per Ohio Administrative Code 3701-31-04-E-4

CONCUSSION AWARENESS/ RETURN TO PLAY LAW:

Ohio's Return to Play Law (ORC 3313.539 and ORC 3707.511) requires that coaches and referees either (1) complete a free online training once every three (3) years in recognizing the symptoms of concussion or (2) hold a pupil-activity program permit from the Ohio State Board of Education. Free online concussion training is offered through the National Federation of State High School Association and Centers of Disease Control. Training links can be found at www.swimohio.com under Safe Sport>Concussion..

This meet will follow the YMCA of USA Concussion procedure. Anyone who observes or has knowledge of a potential head injury should immediately notify lifeguards and/or hired medical personnel. Once the injury report is completed, the lifeguard and/or hired medical personnel will notify the Event Staff, the athlete's coaching staff, and the Meet Director.

If a head injury occurs, the action plan below will be followed:

1. Athlete is removed immediately from participation by the Meet Director



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2. Athlete must be evaluated by a licensed health care professional experienced in identifying and treating concussions. In addition, the athlete must follow the laws that are in effect within the jurisdiction where the swim meet is held.
3. The coaching staff will inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give or send them the fact sheet on concussion.
4. The athlete will not be allowed back to warm-up or compete until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating concussions determines that the athlete is symptom-free and is OK to return to participation.

SPECTATOR EVALCUATION PLAN: In the event of an alarm or emergency evacuation, remain calm, walk to the nearest exit, and leave the building. Do not use the elevators. Do not attempt to go on the deck or into the locker rooms.

DECK EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN: Swimmers will be directed by their coaches or meet workers to exit via the doors on the south side of the pool deck near the 1-meter diving board or at the shallow end of the warmup pool. Swim meet personnel will also exit though these doors.

HOSPITALITY/OUTSIDE FOOD: A **coach's** hospitality room will be available during the meet for coaches, officials, and designated volunteers with an appropriate deck pass wristband. **(Timers are not permitted since they are not volunteering all day, but water will be provided)** Please be respectful and limit the number of coaches utilizing the hospitality room to a reasonable amount based on the athletes you have participating. Please indicate the number of coaches on the swim meet entry form. All coaches must display a deck pass (wristband is required to be worn by all coaches) issued by the meet host to have access to the hospitality room.

REQUIRED FORMS & CERTIFICATIONS: Per Y-USA and NEO Y Swim League policies.

1. A Meet Declaration form must be on file for every team prior to the start of the meet. Please email these to Debbie Josif at djosif@ymcastark.org by Friday, January 30, 2026. Teams failing to submit this required paperwork and coach certifications may not be permitted to compete.
2. Each coach must have completed all coaches' requirements and submitted all proof to the YMCA of the USA. The NEO coaches list of certified coaches will be at the meet for meet director to verify coaches if a question arises about certification.



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YMCA Sanctioned Championship Meet Declaration Form

Return signed form to the swim meet director (djosif@ymcastark.org) by January 30, 2026. Teams failing to do so will not be permitted to participate in this swim meet.

Participating YMCA: _____

YMCA Address: _____

Meet Name: NEO Y SWIM LEAGUE DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

Meet Date(s): February 7, 2026

Meet Host: North Canton YMCA

Meet Location: University of Akron Ocasek Natatorium

We the undersigned attest to the following:

SWIMMERS - All swimmers representing the YMCA above are fully privileged members of the YMCA and meet all eligibility requirements.

COACHES - All coaches representing the YMCA above hold current certifications in CPR Pro, First Aid, Coaches Safety Training and Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving and have completed the annual YMCA coach registration online. Additionally, per Ohio law, coaches must have completed Concussion and Lindsay's Law training.

INSURANCE - Our Association now has insurance coverage for representatives including leadership and participants who will attend the NEO Y SWIM LEAGUE DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP MEET for the period of travel from our Association to the meet, during the entire period of the meet and return to our Association. I hereby certify that YMCA has a minimum of \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 in liability insurance that covers our coaches and swimmers during their travel to and from and during their participation in the NEO Y SWIM LEAGUE DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.

RELEASE - In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby, for myself, heirs, executor and administrators, waive and release any and all right and claim for damages I may have against the YMCA of the USA, YMCA of Central Stark County and the North Canton YMCA, their agents, representatives or assigns, and the University of Akron Ocasek Natatorium for any and all injuries which may be suffered by participants at the NEO Y SWIM LEAGUE DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP MEET. Furthermore, we understand that the YMCA of the USA and YMCA of Central Stark County and the North Canton YMCA are not responsible for any intended or unintended consequences related to removing an athlete from a competition for a head injury. This includes, but is not limited to, any financial reimbursement associated with such removal.

Name and signature of Head Coach _____

Name and signature of YMCA Executive Director or Designee _____



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VOLUNTEER FORM

Email names or the completed form to Debbie Josif djosif@ymcastark.org by January 30, 2026.
Teams failing to do so will not be permitted to participate in this swim meet.

TEAM: _____

Contact name and email: _____

TIMERS (Each team MUST provide 3 timers per session. Contact Debbie if you cannot fill requirement)

AM SESSION _____

PM SESSION _____

OFFICIALS (Each team MUST provide 2 Officials per session. Contact Debbie if you cannot fill requirement)

AM SESSION _____

Certification Level _____

Certification Level _____

PM SESSION _____

Certification Level _____

Certification Level _____

AGE GROUP COORDINATORS: Each team may designate up to 4 parent volunteers, if needed, to assist their 10 and under swimmers for SESSION **1 ONLY.**
