



Mariah Denigan

Open Water Cup Series

Named for 2024 USA Swimming Open Water Olympian Mariah Denigan, who swam in KYLSC for both the Northern Kentucky Clippers and the Lakeside Seahawks, the Denigan Open Water Series will provide swimmers in KYLSC and beyond with Open Water racing opportunities across a broad variety of events and venues.

DOW #1: Memorial Day Weekend 2026

Queenslake, Scott County, KY

Individual Time Trial and Criterium Race

DOW #2: July 1, 2026

(also KYLSC OW State Championship)

Taylorsville Lake, Spencer County, KY

4x300 Mixed Relay and Individual Distance Race

DOW #3: Late Sept or Early Oct 2026

Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County, KY

Eliminator and Team Time Trial

Individual Series Champions

Individual series champions will be those swimmers who earn the highest sum total of all points scored across all individual events in the Denigan Cup Series. An athlete's age for each race will be based on his/her age at the KYLSC Open Water State meet (DOW #2) to ensure that athletes race in the same age group for all 2026 Series events. Series prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 scorers in each of the following age groups: 10&Under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-19, Collegiate.

Team Series Champions

Team series champions will be that team with the highest total score earned by summing the following:

- best three individual scores in each age group of each individual event
- single best relay score in each age group of each relay event

**there will be a KYLSC Club and a Collegiate Cup Team Champion. Collegiate scores will not be used toward KYLSC Club scores.*



DOW #1: Queenslake

The Queenslake is a private horse farm and wedding venue located in Scott County near Midway. The lake is spring-fed and features a small beach, bed and breakfast, and wedding barn...and separate warmup/warmdown ponds!

Race #1: Individual Time Trial (ITT)



10&Us and 11-12s: 1x 750m Lap

Description: Athletes will start individually ~15sec apart. It will be an in-water start off of the beach. They will complete 1 clockwise loop of the course and will finish by swimming up the chute and crossing the finish line. The winner of the Individual Time Trial will be the athlete with the fastest time to complete the course.

13-14s, 15-19s, Collegiate: 2x 750m Laps

Description: Athletes will start individually ~15sec apart. It will be an in-water start off of the beach. Athletes will complete the Lap 1 by running up the chute, crossing the finish line, and making a u-turn back down the beach to begin Lap 2. Athletes will finish the course after they have crossed the finish line at the end of Lap 2. The winner of the Individual Time Trial will be the athlete with the fastest time to complete the course.

Scoring: Top 16 finishers in each age group will score 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. Bonus points will be awarded to the 4 swimmers in the 13&Over age groups with the fastest Lap 1 split times in the amount of 3-2-1-0.5. These bonus points will ONLY count toward overall series rankings, not toward the final results of the Individual Time Trial.



DOW #1: Queenslake

Race #2: Criterium



10&U: 2x300m Laps

11-12s 3x300m Laps

13-14: 4x300m Laps

15-19 and Collegiate: 5x300m Laps

Description: Athletes will have an in-water wave start off of the beach. They will proceed clockwise around the course and run up the beach and across the finish line at the completion of each lap. To continue onto the next lap, athletes will turn and run back down the beach and into the water. At the completion of the final lap, athletes will stay on land. The winner of the criterium will be the first swimmer in an age group to complete all laps in his/her race.

Scoring: Top-16 finishers in each age group will score 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. Bonus points in the amount of 2-1-0.5 will be available to the Top 3 swimmers at the following intervals: 10&U after Lap 1, 11-12 after Lap 1, 13-14 after Lap 2, 15-19 and Collegiate after Lap 1 and Lap 3. These bonus points will ONLY count toward overall series rankings, not toward the final results of the Criterium.



DOW #2: Taylorsville Lake State Park

KYLSC Open Water State Championship

Taylorsville Lake State Park is located in Spencer County, KY, approximately halfway between Louisville and Lexington. It has been host to the KYLSC Open Water State meet from 2022-2025.

Race #1: 4x300 Mixed Relay (12&U and 13&O)



Description: This event is held in two age groups, 12&Under and 13&Over. Gender-order is mandated and will be male-female-male-female in 2026 and alternates every year. The first-leg swimmers are lined up in waist-deep water on the boat ramp and proceed through a mass-start and one counter-clockwise lap around the 300m course. As they swim up the boat ramp, they will tag the second-leg on the hand (a high five) above water to complete the exchange. This is repeated at the end of the second and third legs. The fourth-leg swimmer completes his lap and runs up the boat ramp and across the finish line to complete the race.

Scoring: Top-16 relays in each age group will score 40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-14-12-10-8-6-4-2. There are no bonus points available.



DOW #2: Taylorsville Lake State Park KYLSC Open Water State Championship

Race #2: Individual Race



10&U: 1x 1km Lap

11-12: 2x 1km Laps

13-14: 3x 1km Laps

15-19 and Collegiate: 4x 1km Laps

Description: This is an in-water mass-start with swimmers only starting with those doing the same distance race. The in-water start is just off the boat dock approximately halfway along the length of the course. Athletes will proceed counter-clockwise around the course to complete the required number of laps. At the completion of the final lap, athletes will swim onto the boat ramp and run across the finish line to complete the race.

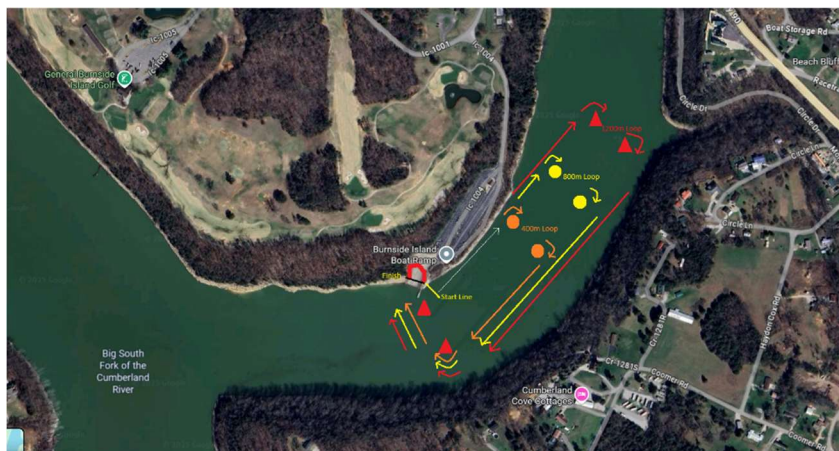
Scoring: Top 24 finishers in each age group will score: 32-28-27-26-25-24-23-22-20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. There are no bonus points available in this race.



DOW #3: Lake Cumberland

This will be held in Pulaski County near Somerset, though exact location is TBD.

Race #1: The Eliminator (aka Knockout Sprint)



10&U: 800m-400m Stages

11-12: 800m-400m Stages

13-14, 15&O, Collegiate: 1200m-800m-400m Stages

Description: The Eliminator is a “knock-out”-style of race, consisting of 2 or 3 stages where the bottom finishing swimmers are eliminated after each round. Swimmers will have an in-water start and proceed clockwise around the rectangular course. After completion of their lap, swimmers will run up the boat ramp and across the finish line.

-For the 10&U and 11-12s, they will swim two rounds: 800m first, followed by a 400m round approximately 20 minutes later. All swimmers will participate in Round 1, with the Top 16 finishers advancing to Round 2. Final event placing is based on the order of finish of Round 2.

-For the 13-14, 15-19, and Collegiates, they will swim three rounds: 1200m first, followed by an 800m round, and finishing with a 400m round. There will be approximately 20 minutes between rounds. All swimmers will participate in Round 1, with the Top 24 finishers advancing to Round 2. The Top 16 finishers of Round 2 will advance to Round 3. Final event placing is based on the order of finish of Round 3.

Scoring: Top 16 finishers in each age group will be scored 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. Bonus points are available to the first 4 finishers in the 1200m and 800m rounds in the amount of 3-2-1-0.5. These bonus points will ONLY count toward overall series rankings, not toward the final results of the Eliminator



DOW #3: Lake Cumberland

Race #2: Team Time Trial (aka TTT or Team Pursuit)



10&U and 11-12: 1x 800m Lap

13-14, 15-19, Collegiate: 2x 800m Laps

Description: Relay teams may be composed of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 athletes of the same gender and age group. Athletes on a relay team will have an in-water start and begin together. Each team will start approximately 30 seconds apart. Teams will proceed around the course in a clockwise manner and will run up the ramp and across the finish line after completing the prescribed number of laps. A relay team's finish time IS the finish time of their THIRD fastest finisher. 4th and 5th swimmers do not need to complete the entire race for the relay team to score.

Scoring: The Top 16 relays in each age group will be scored as 40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-16-14-12-10-8-6-4-2. There are no bonus points available for this event.