



2026 YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP AND 12U INVITATIONAL

BUFFALO, NY
APRIL 23 - 26





MEET AND FACILITY INFORMATION

MEET MANAGER

Baylee Robinson; USA Artistic Swimming Senior Events Director
baylee@usaartisticswim.org 719-866-2219

FACILITY

Burt Flickinger Athletic Center 21 Oak St Buffalo, NY 14203

POOL SPECS

50M x 25y pool and bulkhead will be placed at 25M.
13 feet deep sloping to 7 feet
8" distance from water to deck

HOST HOTEL

Please book with the link provided by TEAM Solutions. Click HERE. If you cannot find the rooms you need, please contact TEAM Solutions Customer Service at support@trustintteams.com This is a Stay to Play event. Booking outside of the room block will result in a fee charged to the team per individual that violates the policy.

AIRPORT

Buffalo Niagra International Airport

TICKETS

\$15.00 day pass for 18 – 65 years of age
\$10.00 day pass for 6 – 17 years of age and Seniors 66 and over
\$50.00 event pass for 18 – 65 years of age
\$30.00 event pass for 6 – 17 years of age and Seniors 66 and over
Free admission to Life Members and children 5 years of age and younger

RULES TO GOVERN

2026 Artistic Swimming Rules shall govern the Championship.

MERCHANDISING

Team IP will be the Official Merchandiser and Online Sales Partner of USA Artistic Swimming.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Event photographer will be announced closer to the event - Photos will be available for purchase on our website.

LIVE STREAMING

We will provide live coverage of the event. The livestream can be found on our website the day of the competition. Click Here.



IMPORTANT DATES AND FEES

JAN. 15

Registration opens in Sport 80.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

MAR. 19

Registration deadline for athletes, coaches, chaperones & team staff. This is also the deadline for all required certifications. This includes Background, SafeSport, CCP and/or First Aid/CPR. **NEW 2026:** The new registration system will not let you enter any event without the required certifications listed. Please complete all requirements before the deadline.

MAR 20 - APR. 16

Late registration window for athletes. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed per athlete event entry and \$10.00 per athlete per routine entry. No entries will be accepted on or after April 17..

MAR 20 - APR. 9

Late registration window for coaches, chaperones & team staff and a \$25.00 late fee will be charged per individual. This is also the late registration window for the certifications listed above. A \$25.00 fine will be assessed for each certifications completed during this time. No certifications will be accepted on or after April 10 and the individual will be removed from the team roster. No refunds will be processed.

MAR. 24

Hotel Booking Deadline

APRIL 9

Deadline to submit music & coach cards.

APR. 10 - 22

Late music submission or change window. Any music submitted or changed between these dates will be assessed a \$25.00 fine per routine.

ARP. 10 - 16

Late coach card submission or change window. Any coach card submitted or changed between these dates will be assessed a \$25.00 fine per routine. Coach Cards will not be accepted or changed on or after April 17.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Deadline time is 11:59 PM MST for all listed deadlines.
- If your qualifying event ends after the registration deadline, the athlete will have one (1) week from the conclusion of the qualifying event to register without incurring late fees.
- If a qualifying entry is not received by the March 19 registration deadline, we may give the qualify spot away to teams on the DRAW list.

FEE INFORMATION

ROUTINE FEE:

\$35

PER U.S.
COMPETITOR, PER
ROUTINE,
INCLUDING
RESERVES.

ENTRY FEE:

\$50

PER COMPETITOR

**ENTRY FEE FOR FOREIGN COMPETITORS
IS LISTED ON THEIR ENTRY FORMS
POSTED ON THE EVENT PAGE.**



CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATIONS

CREDENTIALS

MAX NUMBER OF FREE CREDENTIALS

Each club will receive coach credentials per the chart. In addition, each club will receive two team personnel credentials. Additional credentials are \$30 each. Only individuals with required certification are allowed to receive credentials. Credentials are required to be on the pool deck. Coaches, chaperones or other staff registrations received after the entry deadline will be charged a Late Fee of \$ 25.00 per person.

ATHLETES	COACHES	CHAPERONES
1 - 10	2	1
11 - 15	3	2
16 - 20	4	2
21 - 25	5	3
26 - 30	6	3
31 - 35	7	4
36 - 40	8	4
41 - 45	9	5
46 - 50	10	5

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS

CREDENTIAL	ELIGIBILITY
CCP LEVEL 1	Required for all coaches to be on deck at any land or water training or sanctioned competition.
CCP LEVELS 1 & 2	Required for all coaches to be on deck at any Regional or Zone Championship. Exception: A one-time emergency waiver may be allowed at the discretion of the Education Director.
CCP LEVEL 3	Required for all coaches to be on deck at any National Championship. Exception: A one-time emergency waiver may be allowed at the discretion of the Education Director.
BACKGROUND SCREEN	Required for all coaches and chaperones on deck.
SAFESPORT	Required for all USAAS Members 18 years of age and older. This includes coaches, chaperones, athletes, trainers, and any other team personnel.
CPR/FIRST AID	Required for all coaches on deck.
MEMBERSHIPS	Professional Membership or Life Membership required for coaches. Athlete Safety Membership required for team staff & chaperones. Competitive Athlete Membership required for all athletes.

Please review the late fee section for any certification not completed by the deadline.
Contact memcoord@usaartisticswim.org with questions.





MUSIC & EVENT RESOURCES

MUSIC

We will be using digital music for this competition. It is essential all music be sent by email in advance. Email music files to Chris Leahy at leahycm@gmail.com by April 9, 2026. Please review the late fee section for music submitted or changed after the deadline. Music Late Fees are per routine/ per change. Routines will be electronically timed in advance. Upon receipt of the music, a report will be sent containing the measured times for each routine.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Digital music files (M4A, MP3) are to be submitted for routines for this competition. - Music files may be sent as email attachments or shared using a file sharing/ transfer service such as Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive, WeTransfer, etc.

We recommend submitting 160+ kbit/sec M4A/AAC or higher quality audio for best sound results.

If sending MP3 files, 192+ kbit/sec is recommended.

A device with a 1/8" TRS (headphone) jack is acceptable as a backup.

A CD player will NOT be available as back up.

Use the following naming conventions when saving files (routine names should be "space" separated):

12U Duet Free CDY Smith

- Duet Free = Routine event
- CDY = Club Abbreviation / Three Letter Code
- Smith = Last name of the first alphabetical member of the routine
- Email memcoord@usaartisticswim.org if you do not know your code

MUSIC TIMING TOOLS

Use this tool to check the timing of your music:
https://measure-routines.web.app/measure_routines.html

COACH CARD CHECKER

Use this tool to check your coach cards:
<https://check-cards.web.app/>

SCORING

Rebecca Phillips will be the Scoring Chair for this event.

TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

Please visit the event page for event schedules. Officials and Coaches meeting will be posted in the final schedule and will only be as needed.

FOREIGN FEDERATIONS

Foreign Federations may enter either Championship in accordance with the information posted on the event page [HERE](#).



EVENTS

AGE DIVISIONS

AGE GROUP	FEMALE	MALE	GENDER INCLUSIVE
12 & UNDER	12 & UNDER	12 & UNDER	12 & UNDER
YOUTH	13 - 15	13 - 16	13 - 16
JUNIOR	15 - 19	15 - 20	15 - 20
SENIOR	15 & OVER	15 & OVER	15 & OVER

YOUTH EVENTS

Competition in Solo, Boy/Male Solo, Gender Inclusive Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Boys/Males Duet, Gender Inclusive Duet and Team, consisting of Figures and Free routines. Top twelve (12) routines in each event (combined Figures and Free routines scores) will advance to finals.

Qualification for the National Championship, Junior Championship, and Youth Championship is the top 6 routines from each zone for all three championships as well as the bonus entries which can be found on the USAAS website.

Grade Level 4 is required for entry into the Youth Championship.

YOUTH FREE COMBINATION EVENTS

Free Combination Event General Rules for Youths:

- All Free Combination routines must have 4 – 10 competitors.
- Competitors must be from the same club.
- 12 & Under athletes can swim on the youth combo team if they have Grade level 4

12U EVENTS

Competition in Solo, Boy/Male Solo, Gender Inclusive Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Boys/Males Duet, Gender Inclusive Duet, Free Combination and Team, consisting of Figures and Free routines. Top twelve routines in each event (combined Figures and Free routines scores) will advance to finals.

12 & Under routines do not have to qualify at another competition to attend this competition. Each club will be allowed two entries in each event.

Grade Level 3 is required for all athletes to compete in this invitational.

FIGURES

FIGURE #	12 & UNDER FIGURES	DIFFICULTY
106	BALLET LEG, STRAIGHT	1.6
301	BARRACUDA	1.9

Figures will be drawn from the Youth & 12U Selection Groups on April 20, 2026 by 1pm MST. In addition to sending an email, we will announce the figure selection on social media.

DRAW ENTRIES FOR YOUTH & 12U EVENTS

If the event has 12 or fewer entries then the maximum allowed, we may select, at random, routines registered from the draw. All Athletes, Coaches and Chaperones are required to register before the deadline. All fees will be charged at the time of registration. If the athlete is not drawn, a full refund will be processed. Please select placement as DRAW during event registration. 12 & Under events the first two entries from a club are guaranteed. Entries three or more may be considered if space available.

BONUS ENTRIES

Bonus entries are posted on the Rules Page [HERE](#).



EVENTS AND AWARDS

RULE UPDATES

Competitors who are 12 years of age and younger and have passed grade level 4 may participate in the Youth Team & Youth Free Combination events. At least one competitor in the event must be in the youth age division.

AWARDS

Athletes who place 1 - 3 in FINALS for Solo, Male Solo, Gender Inclusive Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Male/Male Duet, Gender Inclusive Duet, Free Combination and Team events shall be awarded medals in each event. Athletes who place 1 - 3 in FIGURES shall be awarded medals. Medals shall be given to reserves who swim either the Preliminary or Final Free routine.

Foreign Competitors shall receive honorary placements, and if finishing in the top 12, shall swim in Finals and receive honorary awards. Foreign competitors shall not be eligible to be pre-swimmer(s).

YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

Please review the trials announcement posted on the event page for more details.
Figures - during the championship
Sunday - after the conclusion of the event until 7:00 PM

POOL PRACTICE SPACE

Burt Flickinger Athletic Center -
Contact: Vinny McCarthy
Phone: (716)- 851-1217
Email: mccarthyv@ecc.edu





RULES

VENUE RULES

Gelling is allowed in a specified area only. Please keep areas clean- and pick-up bobby pins. There will be absolutely NO DE GELLING allowed at the facility. A \$100.00 team fine will be placed on the club account if found de gelling. \$100.00 team fine for anyone performing acrobatic movement in practice space.

- No Glass Containers in pool area, lobby, bathrooms or parking lot
- No Shaving/Gelling in the Bathrooms
- No Alcoholic Beverages or Containers in pool area, lobby, bathrooms or parking lot
- No Smoking/Vaping/E-Cigarette in pool area, lobby, bathrooms or parking lot
- No Refunds offered for Vending Machines
- No propping open of any external gates/exits

Teams are permitted to bring in their own coolers, beverage and food. No food is allowed on the pool deck!

PHOTO REGULATIONS

Any photographs, videotape or other audio and/or visual recordings of the event created by a spectator may be used solely for such spectator's personal non-commercial use, and may not be broadcast, published or disseminated or used for any commercial purposes, without the prior written consent of USA Artistic Swimming. Personal use photography by the audience will be allowed, from the stands, as long as not obstructing the view of others, with any camera using no flash. Photographs must be for personal, non-commercial use. USA Artistic Swimming may use photos likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media, in any/all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

When a USA Artistic Swimming (USAAS) event is cancelled or interrupted due to acts or threats of war, acts or threats of terrorism, acts of God, or a health risk alert, event entry refunds will be made to individuals or teams on a prorated basis once all of USAAS's out-of-pocket expenditures for the cancelled or interrupted event have been settled from such fees.

ADVERTISING POLICY

No club or individual is permitted to display signage, flyers or any other advertising materials at the event. Teams are permitted to hang banners with the logo and/or name of the competing club only. At certain events, scoreboard advertisements will be available for purchase upon inquiry. For additional information or to explore other advertising options with USA Artistic Swimming, please contact Kennedy@usaartisticswim.org.

REFUND POLICY

All entry fees paid to USA Artistic Swimming for national events, camps, clinics and trials are non-refundable. By submitting registration and payment, the registrant acknowledges and agrees to this policy. Registration fees will not be refunded for any scratches, withdrawals, or failure to attend the event for any reason.

In extreme and exceptional cases (for example, serious medical conditions), a registrant may submit a written request for consideration of a refund to USAAS via email. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of USAAS. Approval is not guaranteed.



WALK ON

