



2026 NI STAR Winter Challenge

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

January 23-25, 2026

Sanction # NI-2526-023

Hosted by:



MEET DIRECTOR

TJ Day
starswimmingentries316@gmail.com
765-414-0967

MEET REFEREE

Leo Gibbons
lcgjr1953@gmail.com

CLUB OFFICIALS CHAIR

Leo Gibbons
lcgjr1953@gmail.com

SANCTION

- Held under the sanction of USA Swimming through Niagara Swimming: **NI-2526-023**.
- In granting this sanction it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming, Niagara Swimming, STAR Swimming, and ECC Burt Flickinger Aquatic Center shall be held free and harmless from any and all liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of this event.

FACILITY

ECC Burt Flickinger Aquatic Center

21 Oak Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

- 50-meter pool with continuous flow through gutters and Kiefer-McNeil lane dividers.
- Separate 25-yard, six-lane pool for continuous warm-up and warm-down.
- The competition course has not been certified in accordance with 104.2.2C(4). From the start end, the pool depth is 7 feet at 1 meter and 7 feet and 5 meters. From the turn end, the pool depth is 13 feet 6 inches at 1 meter and 13 feet 6 inches at 5 meters. Balcony seating is for 1200 spectators.

PARKING

Parking is available at Mike's Parking at the corner of ELM & Swan Street and at the Adam's Parking Ramp at the corner of Washington and North Division Street. Mike's Parking has attendants supervising parking from $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before the start of warm-up through the last session of the day.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries will be **ACCEPTED at 9:00 AM on January 2, 2026**. Entries will **CLOSE at 9:00 PM on January 16, 2026**. Entries may NOT be changed, added, or removed after the deadline. NO EXCEPTIONS. Teams are encouraged to submit an updated times file if competing in a meet after the deadline prior to the meet.

IMPORTANT: The above date is the deadline for clubs to submit their entries to the Meet Director. Therefore, clubs usually set an earlier deadline to receive entries from their swimmers. Check with your club for this information.

SCHEDULE

Session	Athletes	Warm-Up Time	Start Time
Friday PM	12 & Under / 13 & Over	4:30 PM	5:30 PM

	Saturday AM	12 & Under / 13 & Over	8:00 AM	9:00 AM
	Sunday AM	12 & Under / 13 & Over	8:00 AM	9:00 AM

Meet Director reserves the right to adjust times/sessions after entries are received.

ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all registered USA Swimmers. No swimmer will be permitted to compete in the meet unless the swimmer is registered as an athlete member of USA Swimming as provided in <i>USA Swimming Rules and Regulations</i>, Article 302.
DISABILITY SWIMMERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI and host clubs along with their meet directors are committed to the Inclusion Policy as adopted by the NI BOD. Athletes with a disability are welcomed and are asked to provide advance notice of desired accommodations to the Meet Director. The athlete (or athlete's coach) is also responsible for notifying the session referee of any disability prior to competition.
TIMING SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic timing will be used. Colorado Electronic Timing system with flat wall touch pads, horn starts, and scoreboard readouts.
RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current USA Swimming rules shall govern this meet. All 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 MAAPP is a condition of participation in the conduct of this competition. No on-deck USA-S registration is permitted. In compliance with <i>USA Swimming Rules and Regulations</i>, the use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone is not permitted in the changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. Per NI policy, the use of equipment capable of taking pictures (e.g., cell phones, cameras, etc.) is banned from behind the starting blocks during the entire meet, including warm-up, competition, and cool-down periods. Deck changes are prohibited. 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. Operation of a drone or any other flying devices 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. Dive-over starts will be used. The Meet Director and the NI Technical Committee reserve the right to limit events, heats, and swimmers or adjust the format to conform with the 4-hour provision for sessions that include 12 & U events per Rule 205.3.1F.
EVENT RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All events are timed finals. No athlete may enter in more than five (5) individual events per day and a maximum of one relay per day. No athlete will be permitted to compete unless the athlete is a member as provided in Article 302. No late entries will be accepted. The Entry Coordinator reserves the right to return the entries in order to control the meet size.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deck entries are permitted for athletes already in the meet, at the discretion, of the Meet Directors and Meet Referee. Deck entry fees will be \$5.00 per individual event. Please email all entries to TJ Day at starswimmingentries316@gmail.com. You will receive confirmation that your entries have been entered or returned.
POSITIVE CHECK IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All events on FRIDAY and the 1650 freestyles on Sunday will be DECK SEEDED. Positive check in sheets will be located on the glass windows near the green house. Sheets will be taken down 45 minutes prior to the start of the session. All events (with the exception of the 1650 freestyle) will be PRE-SEEDED. STAR Swimming reserves the right to change the seeding to fully deck seeded at any time.
WARM-UP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prescribed NI warm-up procedures and safety policies will be followed. The Meet Director may determine the structure of warm-up, including times/lane assignments.
SUPERVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their swimmers and cleaning up for their team areas.
SEEDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All events on FRIDAY and the 1650 freestyles on Sunday will be DECK SEEDED. Positive check-in sheets will be located on the glass windows near the greenhouse. Sheets will be taken down 45 minutes prior to the start of the session. All events (with the exception of the 1650 freestyle) will be PRE-SEEDED. STAR Swimming reserves the right to change the seeding to fully deck seeded at any time.
SCORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per the current USA Swimming Rulebook
AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Events: 8 & Under Age Group – Ribbons 1st – 8th 9 & 10 Age Group – Ribbons 1st – 3rd 11 & 12 Age Group – Ribbons 1st – 3rd Relays: 10 & Under – Ribbons 1st – 3rd 11 & 12 Age Group – Ribbons 1st – 3rd Each team must delegate a representative to pick up all awards for their team. Awards will not be mailed. <i>**During the session, there will be random bell ringer heats throughout the course of the session**</i>
PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital copies will be posted on the STAR Swimming website at starswimming.org
CREDENTIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents not working the meet as a deck official, volunteer timer or other position are not permitted on deck. Only athletes, USA Swimming certified coaches, and deck officials will be permitted on the deck. Coaches and Officials should have proof of active USA Swimming membership with them at all times.
SPECTATOR ENTRY FEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission charge of \$5.00 per person per session.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectators will be allowed for this event. The meet will be accessible to all parents by a live stream provided by STAR Swimming using this YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0JtD68fNRG-6r3FneEdkng. This link will also be posted on the STAR Website under the Meet Sheets tab. Volunteer opportunities will be available first to parents of the host team. If all positions are not filled, visiting teams will be contacted to fill the remaining volunteer positions.
OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials interested in volunteering should contact Leo Gibbons at lcgjr1953@gmail.com. • Officials volunteering for this meet should sign in at the recording table prior to the start of warm-ups. Certified officials who have not previously volunteered should contact the referee upon arrival to make their services available. A comprehensive officials briefing will precede each session during warm-ups.
TIMERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Swimming will be providing timers throughout the duration of the meet. At the discretion of the meet directors, visiting teams may need to provide timers. All athletes competing in the 1650 freestyle must provide their own timer and counter.
VENUE	The 12 & Under athletes will swim in the EAST END course and the 13 & Over athletes will swim in the WEST END course. Continuous Warm-up/ Warm-down will be in the small pool.
ENTRY PROCEDURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entries should be submitted by email to the Meet Director. • Include in the subject of the email, “2026 NI STAR Winter Challenge-***” with the club’s initials in place of the asterisks. If your club submits multiple entry files include training site in the subject of the email. • Include in entry email: entry file, report of entries by name, report of entries by event. • In the body of your email provide entry numbers (girls, boys, totals), contact information (email, phone, officials contact). • Entries directly from individual team members will not be accepted. • Entries by phone or fax will not be accepted. • The Meet Director will acknowledge receipt by return email within 24 hours. If acknowledgement is not received in a timely manner, please contact the Meet Director. • Any club that enters an unregistered or improperly registered athlete, falsifies an entry in any way, or permits an unregistered coach to represent them will be fined the sum of \$100 by NI and no further entries will be accepted from that club until the said fine is paid.
ENTRY FEES	<p style="text-align: center;">Per Swimmer Surcharge: \$10.00 Relay event fee: \$15.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Individual event fee: \$5.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make checks payable to STAR Swimming, INC . Checks may be mailed to: STAR Swimming PO Box 361 Hamburg, NY 14075 • Payment for entries from unattached swimmers not affiliated with a team must be received prior to the meet. Payment may be made by cash or check. • Entry fees are due with meet entry. Unpaid fees will be reported to the NI Administrative Office at the conclusion of the meet.

Available Medical Supervision/Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical assistance will be provided at the facility. If you require medical assistance, please notify a member of the meet staff. AED, backboard, & First Aid supplies at facility.
DECK ID	Deck access is restricted to USA Swimming athletes, coaches, officials, and meet volunteers. Upon arrival, coaches will need to check in at the coaches check-in table, located in the hall way prior to the training room doors. Please make sure your deck pass/credentials are valid in order to gain access to the pool deck. You will not be granted access to the pool deck if your deck pass/ credentials are not complete. Once coaches check in, you will receive a wristband to wear for the remainder of the weekend.
LOCKER ROOMS	There will be "dry locker rooms" available for all coaches and officials. They will be the Men's & Women's Team Locker Rooms. Access to these locker rooms will only be accessed via the pool deck only. Athletes are NOT permitted in these locker rooms. Coaches, officials, meet personnel, and volunteers are NOT permitted in the athlete locker rooms at ANY TIME.
CONDUCT	<p>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.</p> <p>Proper conduct on the part of all athletes and spectators is expected at all times, and will be enforced by coaches, meet marshals, officials, and college security. ANY ATHLETE found in the posted out of bounds areas, or using the green doors connecting the back pool to the lobby, will be barred from the remainder of the meet without recourse. Swimmers are not allowed to swim under the bulkhead. Disciplinary action will be immediate expulsion from the competition.</p> <p>The meet area is restricted to the pool and adjoining locker rooms, the adjacent hallway, balcony, and stands. Posted out-of-bounds areas include, but are not limited to: the emergency stairwells, the weight room, and the track/gymnasium areas. USE OF THE EMERGENCY DOORS BY ANYONE WITHOUT EXPRESSED PERMISSION TO USE THE CODE IS PROHIBITED. The USA Swimming Code of Conduct will be enforced. No glass containers are allowed in the pool and locker room areas. Misbehavior, vandalism, and theft will not be tolerated and can result in being barred from participation in the meet.</p> <p>Any athlete 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 swimmers' legal guardian to ensure compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>Fly over starts will be used at this meet to help control meet duration.</p> <p>No athlete will be permitted to compete unless the swimmer is a member as provided in Article 302.</p>

Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is prohibited in the changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. *Deck changes are prohibited.*

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

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.

Deck access is restricted to USA Swimming athletes, coaches, officials, and meet volunteers. All non-athlete members must have proof of registration or a credential while on deck and present them upon meet management request.

Deck pass is an acceptable proof of USA Swimming Membership.



2026 NI STAR Winter Challenge

ORDER OF EVENTS: 12 & UNDER ONLY

Friday, January 23

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
1	10 & Under 200 Medley Relay	2
3	11-12 200 Medley Relay	4
5	12 & Under 200 Individual Medley	6
7	11-12 400 Individual Medley	8
9	12 & Under 200 Freestyle	10
11	11-12 500 Freestyle	12

Saturday, January 24

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
13	11-12 200 Butterfly	14
15	8 & Under 25 Breaststroke	16
17	12 & Under 50 Breaststroke	18
19	12 & Under 100 Backstroke	20
21	8 & Under 100 Freestyle	22
23	12 & Under 100 Freestyle	24
25	10 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay	26
27	11-12 200 Freestyle Relay	28
29	11-12 200 Breaststroke	30
31	8 & Under 25 Freestyle	32
33	12 & Under 50 Butterfly	34
35	8 & Under 100 Individual Medley	36
37	12 & Under 100 Individual Medley	38

Sunday, January 25

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
39	11-12 200 Backstroke	40
41	8 & Under 25 Butterfly	42
43	12 & Under 100 Butterfly	44
45	8 & Under 50 Backstroke	46
47	12 & Under 50 Backstroke	48
49	8 & Under 50 Freestyle	50
51	12 & Under 50 Freestyle	52
53	8 & Under 25 Backstroke	54
55	12 & Under 100 Breaststroke	56

ORDER OF EVENTS: 13 & OVER ONLY

Friday, January 23

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
101	13 & Over 200 Medley Relay	102
103	400 Individual Medley	104
105	500 Freestyle	106

Saturday, January 24

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
107	100 Breaststroke	108
109	100 Freestyle	110
111	50 Butterfly	112
113	200 Backstroke	114
115	13 & Over 200 Freestyle Relay	116
117	200 Freestyle	118
119	50 Backstroke	120
121	200 Butterfly	122
123	200 Individual Medley	124

Sunday, January 25

GIRLS	EVENT	BOYS
125	50 Breaststroke	126
127	100 Backstroke	128
129	200 Breaststroke	130
131	50 Freestyle	132
133	100 Butterfly	134
135	100 Individual Medley	136

10 Minute Break

137	1650 Freestyle	138
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2026 NI STAR Fall Classic

ENTRY RECAPITULATION

TEAM: _____ TEAM CODE: _____

COACH: _____ TEL. NO: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ TEL. NO _____

TEAM HOTEL: _____ TEL. NO _____

(IN CASE OF EMERGENCY)

Women Individual Entries _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

of Women Athletes _____ x \$7.00 = \$ _____

Men Individual Entries _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

of Men Athletes _____ x \$7.00 = \$ _____

Number of Relay Entries _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable in U.S. Dollars to **STAR SWIMMING INC.**

*******This form must be returned with entry forms to be considered a complete entry*******

Please mail check & recapitulation to:

STAR Swimming, INC

PO Box 361

Hamburg, NY 14075

Entry Coordinator Email: starswimmingentries316@gmail.com

**ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BEFORE 9:00 AM ON JANUARY 2, 2026 ENTRIES CLOSE 9:00 PM ON JANUARY 16, 2026
(STRICTLY ENFORCED)**

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, we hereby, for ourselves, our heirs, administrators, and assigns, waive and release any and all claims against Star Swimming, Inc., Niagara Swimming, Inc., USA Swimming, and the Erie Community College for injuries and/or expenses incurred by us at this meet or while on the road to and from the meet. We are bona-fide amateur athletes eligible to participate in all events entered.

Date

Signature of club official, parent, or guardian