



Hurricanes Groundhog Invitational

Hosted By:
Columbus Aquatic Club Hurricanes

Date(s): 01/30/2026 - 02/01/2026

Sanction #: GA26-015/STT

Meet Director: Melissa Johnson coach_melissa@swimhurricanes.com	Meet Referee: Jennifer Herbek jennifer_herbek@swimhurricanes.com	Admin Official: Jennifer Ladson entries@swimhurricanes.com
---	--	--

SANCTION:	Held under the sanction of USA Swimming, through Georgia Swimming Inc.																																		
LIABILITY:	In granting this sanction it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming, Inc., Georgia Swimming, Inc., and Columbus Aquatic Club Hurricanes, shall be free from any liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event.																																		
FACILITY:	<p>Columbus Aquatic Center 1601 Midtown Dr Columbus, GA 31906</p> <p>The 10 lane, 25 yard pool with a depth at the start ends equal to 13 feet and turn end depth equal 13 feet.</p> <p>Meet host will ensure the required course dimensions.</p>																																		
MEDICAL SUPERVISION:	The Columbus Aquatic Center has a full staff of American Red Cross certified Lifeguards trained in using backboards and AEDs. Lifeguards will be on duty throughout the warm-up and competition periods. Rescue equipment and AEDs are on-site. EMT services are on standby and less than 10 minutes away.																																		
SESSION SCHEDULE:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Session #</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Name</th> <th>Warmup</th> <th>Start</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2026-01-30</td> <td>Friday Timed Finals</td> <td>5:00 PM</td> <td>6:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2026-01-31</td> <td>Saturday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals</td> <td>8:00 AM</td> <td>9:30 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>2026-01-31</td> <td>Saturday PM 11 & over FINALS</td> <td>4:30 PM</td> <td>5:30 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>2026-02-01</td> <td>Sunday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals</td> <td>8:00 AM</td> <td>9:30 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>2026-02-01</td> <td>Sunday PM 11 & over FINALS</td> <td>4:30 PM</td> <td>5:30 PM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Session #	Date	Name	Warmup	Start	1	2026-01-30	Friday Timed Finals	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	2	2026-01-31	Saturday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	3	2026-01-31	Saturday PM 11 & over FINALS	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	4	2026-02-01	Sunday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	5	2026-02-01	Sunday PM 11 & over FINALS	4:30 PM	5:30 PM
Session #	Date	Name	Warmup	Start																															
1	2026-01-30	Friday Timed Finals	5:00 PM	6:00 PM																															
2	2026-01-31	Saturday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals	8:00 AM	9:30 AM																															
3	2026-01-31	Saturday PM 11 & over FINALS	4:30 PM	5:30 PM																															
4	2026-02-01	Sunday AM 11 & over PRELIMS 10 under timed finals	8:00 AM	9:30 AM																															
5	2026-02-01	Sunday PM 11 & over FINALS	4:30 PM	5:30 PM																															
MEET FORMAT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Type: Short Course Yards Event Format: 																																		

	<p>Friday evening events will be contested fast to slow. Saturday & Sunday events will be contested slow to fast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance Events Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 IM - fast to slow 500 free - fast to slow ● Finals Type: Combined ● Finals Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timed Finals for all events on Friday. Relays & all 10 & under events will be timed finals. ● Finals Format: <p>Finals format for Saturday & Sunday: Top 10 swimmers in each age group will be contested at finals in this order: 11-12: Top 10 swimmers (A final only) 13-14: Top 10 swimmers (A final only) 15 & over: Top 10 swimmers (A final only)</p> ● Lanes for Competition: <p>Minimum of 8 and up to 10 lanes for Friday.</p> <p>Saturday & Sunday morning sessions: minimum of 8 lanes and up to 20 lanes may be used. Meet host reserves the right to run two separate 8-10 lane pools for the morning session on Saturday & Sunday based on meet size and timeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lanes for Finals: 10 ● Warmup Lanes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 4 lanes available for warm-up and cool-down throughout the meet <p>Meet host may reserves the right to remove relays from the meet for timeline management. This will be communicated with teams at least 72 hours in advance and new entry fee reports will be sent to all teams.</p> <p>Meet host reserves the right to combine heats and/or events, add or adjust breaks as needed.</p> <p>Meet host reserves the right to split the Saturday/Sunday events into two pools (if necessary for timeline management). In the event that two pools are necessary, these events will run simultaneously in side-by-side pools and appropriate session reports will be provided to coaches.</p>
ENTRY FEES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IND. EVENT FEE: \$12.50 / Event ● LATE IND. ENTRIES: \$25.00 / Event ● RELAYS: - \$24.00 / Event ● LATE RELAY ENTRIES: \$48.00 / Event ● TIME TRIALS: \$24.00 / Event ● TIME TRIALS Relay: \$24.00 / Event ● GA LSC Travel Fund \$3.00 / Georgia LSC registered athlete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GA travel fee \$6.00 / non-Georgia LSC registered athlete
ELIGIBILITY:	<p>MEET TYPE: Open Open to all registered USA Swimmers.</p> <p>No swimmer will be permitted to compete unless the swimmer is a member of USA Swimming as provided in <i>USA Swimming Rules and Regulations</i>, Article 302.</p>
SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY:	Athletes with a disability are welcomed, but advance notice of desired accommodation must be provided to the Meet Referee via, the <u>NECESSARY ACCOMODATIONS FORM</u> , which should be submitted by the entry deadline. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host's ability to accommodate all requests.
ENTRIES:	<p>Daily Limits:</p> <p>10&U swimmers may swim a maximum of five (5) individual events per day.</p> <p>11&O swimmers may swim a maximum of three (3) individual events per day.</p> <p>All Swimmers may swim one (1) relay per day.</p> <p>Deck Entries:</p> <p>Deck entries can be made at the clerk of course up to 45 minutes before the start of the session, based on lane space available. No new heats will be added.</p> <p>Time Trials:</p> <p>Time Trials may be offered at the discretion of the meet referee.</p> <p>Time trials will close 90 minutes after the start of each session.</p> <p>Time Trials WILL count towards daily event limits.</p>
CHECK IN:	Positive check-in will be required for the 400 IM and 500 Free - check-in closes at 4:45 pm on Friday, January 30.
CLERK of COURSE:	<p>Clerk of course will be open 15 minutes prior to the start of warm-up and close 45 minutes prior to the start of the session for late changes/deck entries.</p> <p>Clerk of course will be the location of the scratch table and time trial registrations throughout the meet.</p>
ENTRY SUBMISSION:	<p>Submit one check payable to: Columbus Aquatic Club Hurricanes</p> <p>Entries must be received on or before: 01/20/2026 11:59pm</p> <p>Entries should be emailed to entries@swimhurricanes.com</p> <p>Entries must be submitted via HY3 file.</p>
RULES:	<p>Current USA Swimming Rules will govern this meet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults participating in or associated with this meet acknowledge that they are subject to the provisions of the USA Swimming <u>Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy</u> ("MAAPP"), and that they understand that compliance with MAAPP is a condition of participation in the conduct of this competition. • On Deck USA-S registration will be permitted at the discretion of the Meet Director and/or Meet Referee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, restrooms, or locker rooms. Per GA Swimming 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 without the use of the backstroke ledge. 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 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.
CREDENTIALS:	<p>Only athletes, USA Swimming certified coaches, and USA Swimming officials, in good standing, will be permitted on the deck. Coaches and Officials should have proof of active USA Swimming membership with them at all times. Parents not working the meet as a volunteer or other position are not permitted on deck.</p> <p>Coaches can complete this form to expedite their check-in process: https://forms.office.com/r/mp4xMJUnZs</p>
COACHES MEETING:	Will be held at a time to be determined by the meet referee on Friday, January 30, 2026.
OFFICIALS:	Columbus Aquatic Club welcomes visiting officials and apprentices and will appreciate help in officiating this competition. There will be an official's meeting 1 hour prior to the start of each session. The official's uniform will consist of a white polo collared shirt, navy blue shorts, skirts or slacks with white socks and white shoes. All officials must present at check in, their current LSC Officials Certification Card; OR a recently completed Apprentice Form; AND proof of current USA Swimming Non-Athlete membership. Credentials are required for deck access and hospitality.
AWARDS:	High point awards will be provided for 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14 and 15 & over in each gender.
SCORING:	Standard scoring will be used up to 10th place
CONCESSIONS:	Limited concessions may be available at the discretion of the host facility.
GEORGIA WARM-UP POLICY:	The GA Swimming Warm Procedures and Safety Policies will be followed.
GA. SCRATCH RULE:	The Georgia Swimming Scratch Rule will be in effect for this meet.
MISC. INFORMATION:	Free parking is available in the adjacent parking garage with overflow parking available in the parking lot of Rainey McCullers school parking lot located directly behind the aquatic center.

Event Schedule

Friday Finals 5:00 WU, 6:00 start					
Girls Event #	Age	Event	Boys Event #	Format	Notes
1	11O	400 IM	2	Timed Finals	
3	8U	25 Free	4	Timed Finals	
5	8U	25 Breast	6	Timed Finals	
7	10U	200Y IM	8	Timed Finals	
9	8U	25 Back	10	Timed Finals	
11	8U	25 Fly	12	Timed Finals	
13	9 & O	500 Free	14	Timed Finals	1

Note 1: Swimmer must provide their own counter & timer

Saturday Prelims 8:00am WU, 9:30am start

Girls Event #	Age	Event	Boys Event #	Format	Notes
15	Open	200y Free Relay	16	Timed Finals	2
17	10U	200y Free Relay	18	Timed Finals	2

****5-minute break****

19	11O	50 Fly	20	Prelims	
21	11O	200 Free	22	Prelims	
23	10U	200 Free	24	Timed Finals	
25	11O	100 Breast	26	Prelims	
27	10U	50 Breast	28	Timed Finals	
29	11O	200 Fly	30	Prelims	
31	10U	100 Fly	32	Timed Finals	
33	11O	100 Back	34	Prelims	
35	10U	50 Back	36	Timed Finals	
37	11O	50 Free	38	Prelims	
39	10U	50 Free	40	Timed Finals	
41	11O	100 IM	42	Prelims	

Note 2: Meet reserves the right to remove relays if timeline

management right to needed for management.

Saturday Finals 5:00pm WU, 6:00pm start					
Girls Event #	Age	Event	Boys Event #	Format	Notes
19	11O	50 Fly	20	Finals	
21	11O	200 Free	22	Finals	
25	11O	100 Breast	26	Finals	
29	11O	200 Fly	30	Finals	
33	11O	100 Back	34	Finals	
37	11O	50 Free	38	Finals	
41	11O	100 IM	42	Finals	

Sunday Prelims 8:00am WU, 9:30am start					
Girls Event #	Age	Event	Boys Event #	Format	Notes
43	Open	200y Medley Relay	44	Timed Finals	2
45	10U	200y Medley Relay	46	Timed Finals	2
5-minute break					
47	11O	50 Back	48	Prelims	
49	11O	200 IM	50	Prelims	
51	10U	100 IM	52	Timed Finals	
53	11O	100 Free	54	Prelims	
55	10U	100 Free	56	Timed Finals	
57	11O	200 Breast	58	Prelims	
59	10U	100 Breast	60	Timed Finals	
61	11O	100 Fly	62	Prelims	
63	10U	50 Fly	64	Timed Finals	
65	11O	200 Back	66	Prelims	
67	10u	100 Back	68	Timed Finals	
69	11O	50 Breast	70	Prelims	

Note 2: Meet Management has the right to reserves remove relays for timeline management.

Sunday Finals 5:00pm WU, 6:00pm start					
Girls Event #	Age	Event	Boys Event #	Format	Notes
47	11O	50 Back	48	Finals	
49	11O	200 IM	50	Finals	
53	11O	100 Free	54	Finals	
57	11O	200 Breast	58	Finals	
61	11O	100 Fly	62	Finals	
65	11O	200 Back	66	Finals	
69	11O	50 Breast	70	Finals	

Hurricanes Groundhog Invitational: 01/30/2026 - 02/01/2026

Team Name _____ Team abbreviation _____

Team Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Head Coach _____

Head Coach E-mail _____ Head Coach Cell _____

All coaches from your team must be listed and have valid USA Swimming credentials.

1st Coach _____ 2nd Coach _____

3rd Coach _____ 4th Coach _____

Individual Event Fee	\$12.00 x (number of events)	= _____
Relays	\$24.00 x (number of relays)	= _____
GA LSC Travel Fund	\$3.00 x (number of athletes)	= _____
Non-GA LSC registered athletes	\$6.00 x (number of athletes)	= _____
	TOTAL	= _____

Submit one check payable to: Columbus Aquatic Club Hurricanes

Entries must be received on or before **01/20/2026 11:59pm** Email entries to: entries@swimhurricanes.com
WAIVER, ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE:

I, the undersigned coach, or team representative, verify that all swimmers and coaches listed on the enclosed entry are registered with USA Swimming.

I acknowledge that I am familiar with the safety rules of USA Swimming and Georgia Swimming regarding warm-up procedures and that I shall be responsible for the compliance of my swimmers with those rules during this meet.
I have reviewed RULE 302.4 FALSE REGISTRATION and understand that if a swimmer who is not properly registered with USA Swimming competes in a sanctioned competition, Georgia Swimming Inc. may impose a fine of up to \$100.00 per event against the individual, member coach or member club submitting the entry.

Signature/Title

Date