

Niagara Swimming

2025-26 Winter Bid Calendar

Applying for a Sanction

Before bidding for any meet (Niagara LSC or Invitational), please make sure to follow all guidelines and instructions found in the sanction application (posted on the website). Only bid for meets that you are certain that you have the logistical and technical ability to host, taking into consideration all club considerations as to the feasibility of running the meet. Once sanctions are issued, that meet becomes part of the competitive calendar and integral to the overall programmatic direction of the Niagara LSC. Once the sanction is issued, ANY changes to the meet MUST be approved by the Executive Committee, Admin VC, or Sanction Chair. This includes invitational meets.

Any weekend not indicated as closed (for a Niagara Meet) is open to apply for starting immediately. If you are bidding on more than one open date meet, please prioritize them. For those meets, the sanction application, sanction fee and preliminary meet announcement must be received by April 27, 2025, at 11:59 PM.

Clubs bidding for meets on open dates need to be aware that you may have to change your date if something unforeseen occurs with a Niagara LSC Meet. Sanction applications must be submitted through SWIMS (please see the last page for steps). Please note, Meet Announcements for timed final/time trial meets must use the [Niagara LSC Template \(click here\)](#). Sanction applications will only be considered with successful payment of the prescribed sanction fees (see Niagara Policies and Procedures). Sanctions fees can be paid online at: <https://form.jotform.com/232317479692163>.

- If there are multiple bids for a meet, the Executive Committee will review and decide following the guidelines set forth in the Section 202.2 – 202.5 of the Niagara Policies and Procedures
- A meeting may be scheduled between the meet host, tech planning, and any other required people. This will be to review the restrictions involved and make sure a meet can be safely held. If it can, the formats will be finalized at that time and published ASAP. If it cannot, the weekend will be opened for any clubs that might be able to hold a meet (if desired).

Entry Fees and Surcharges

Club Meets & NI LSC Meets	Maximum Entry Fees		
	Deck Fee	Individual Entry	Relay Entry
Timed Finals SCY	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$15.00
Timed Finals LCM	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$15.00
Prelim/Finals SCY & LCM	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$15.00
Niagara Surcharges	\$2.50 per athlete entered		

Niagara LSC Meet Financial Sponsorship¹

Meet Tiering	Meet Names	Financial Sponsorship per Meet ²
Tier 1 (Prelim / Final Championships)	Niagara Silver Championships Niagara Gold Championships Niagara Long Course Championship	\$3000
Tier 2 (Timed Final Championships)	Niagara Bronze Championships ³ Niagara Powerpoint Championship	\$2000
Tier 3 (Non-championship Niagara Meets)	Niagara SCY Last Splash Niagara Super Circuits	\$1000

¹ Niagara LSC Meet Financial Sponsorship is contingent on the passing of the budget

² Financial Sponsorship listed will be awarded for each host site. Number of host sites are detailed on Page 2.

³ Teams awarded a bid for the Silver and Gold Championships cannot be awarded a bid for a Bronze Championship unless there are no other bids received.

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Niagara Meets Available for Bid⁴

January 17 – 19, 2026 Full 3-Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara Power Point Championship Meet	Meet Criteria / Description: • Championship Meet • Timed Final Meet Format • Closed Weekend (Unless exception obtained from Technical Planning) • Top 3 Individual Champions per Age Group based upon IMX/IMR/High Point • Minimum 8-lane facility • Qualifying Standards: Equal to or faster than Niagara Power Point Time Standards
February 7 – 8, 2026 Full 2-Day Meet Three Regional Host Sites	Niagara Bronze Championships	Meet Criteria / Description: • Championship Meet • Timed Final Meet Format • Closed Weekend (Unless exception obtained from Technical Planning) • 6-lane or 8-lane facility • Qualifying Standards: Slower than Niagara Silver Championships
February 27 – March 1, 2026 2 ½ Day Meet Two Regional Host Sites	Niagara Silver Championships	Meet Criteria / Description: • Championship Meet • Prelim / Final Meet Format • Closed Weekend • Minimum 8-lane facility • Qualifying Standards: Equal to or faster than to Niagara Silver Championship Time Standards, slower than Niagara Gold Championship Time Standards.
March 12 – 15, 2026 3 ½ Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara Open Gold Championships	Meet Criteria / Description: • Championship Meet • Prelim / Final Meet Format • Closed Weekend • Minimum 8-lane facility • Qualifying Standards: Equal to or faster than Niagara Gold Championship Time Standards.
March 20 - 22, 2026 Full 3-Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara 14 & Under Gold Championships	
April 5, 2026 1 Day Meet Two Regional Host Sites	Niagara SCY Last Splash	Meet Criteria / Description: • Timed Final Meet Format • Closed Weekend • 6-lane or 8-lane facility • Qualifying Standards: Slower than Niagara Gold Championship Time Standards.

2026 Eastern Zone Championship Meets:

- **March 26-29, 2026 – Spring Sectional Meets (Ithaca/Buffalo, NY)**
- **April 1-4, 2026 – Spring Age Group Zones (Buffalo, NY)**

⁴ If a meet does not receive a bid and an alternate (e.g., date, format, etc.) is provided, then all Niagara Support (e.g., closed weekend, financial support, etc.) is forfeited.

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Niagara Meet Format⁵

January 17 – 19, 2026 Full 3-Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara Power Point Championship Meet	Six Sessions: • Three Morning Timed Final Sessions – 12 & Under • Three Afternoon Timed Final Sessions – 13 & Over
February 7 – 8, 2026 Full 2-Day Meet Three Regional Host Sites	Niagara Bronze Championships	Four Sessions: • Two Morning Timed Final Sessions – 12 & Under • Two Afternoon Timed Final Sessions – 13 & Over
February 27 – March 1, 2026 2 ½ Day Meet Two Regional Host Sites	Niagara Silver Championships	Five to Seven Sessions: • Friday Evening Timed Final – 18 & Under • Two - Three Morning Prelim Sessions – (Sat / Sun) • Two - Three Evening Finals Sessions – (Sat / Sun) ○ Top 2 Heats at Finals
March 12 – 15, 2026 3 ½ Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara Open Gold Championships	Seven Sessions: • Thursday Evening Timed Final • Three Morning Prelim Sessions (Fri / Sat / Sun) • Three Evening Finals Sessions (Fri / Sat / Sun) ○ Top 3 Heats at Finals
March 20 -22, 2026 Full 3-Day Meet One Host Site	Niagara 14 & Under Gold Championships	Eight Sessions: • Friday Morning Prelims – 11-14 • Friday Evening Finals – 11-14; Timed Finals 10 & U • Two Morning Prelim Sessions – 11-14 (Sat / Sun) • Two Afternoon Timed Final Sessions – 10&U (Sat / Sun) • Two Evening Timed Final Sessions – 11-14 (Sat / Sun) ○ Top 2 Heats at Finals
April 5, 2026 1 Day Meet Two Regional Host Sites	Niagara SCY Last Splash	Two Sessions: • One Morning Timed Final Session – 12 & U • One Afternoon Timed Final Session – 13 & Over

⁵ Formats listed above are a draft. Technical Planning reserves the right to modify the meet and session formats until meet announcements are published.

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Per Niagara Policies and Procedures 202.2

- Each geographic region [Buffalo, Rochester, Southern Tier, and Syracuse] will be permitted two 'open meet' sanctions on the calendar for any given date. The second sanction will be issued as long as one meet is an LCM format. Unlimited 'restricted meet' sanctions will be permitted when there is no open meet on the calendar for any given date (see H below for an exemption).
- No application shall be considered, and no sanctions shall be issued for meets proposed (invitational, closed or league) to be held on 'closed' dates on which a Niagara LSC meet, as designated by the Executive Committee, is being held in the Niagara LSC.

When designing your meet formats, you must adhere to USA Swimming 4-hour rule 205.3 F *"With the exception of championship and open water meets, the program in all other age group competition shall be planned to allow the events for swimmers twelve (12) years and younger to be completed in four (4) hours or less per session (prelims, finals, timed finals). Events for the same 12 & under swimmers shall be limited to one session per day, except for prelim/final meets where events for 12 & under swimmers may be offered in both prelims and finals."*

To receive a sanction, the Meet Director must have a Meet Director Certification date that expires AFTER the date of their meet.

Any questions about the bidding process should also be directed to the Sanction Coordinator – sanctions@niagaraswim.org. If you have any questions about the requirements, specifications, formats, or anything related to specific LSC meets, please contact the Technical Planning Committee Chairman - techplanning@niagaraswim.org.