



2026 NI TWST Snowball Team Challenge

February 7, 2026

Sanction # NI 2526-030



MEET DIRECTOR Jim Ronald jr12bucs@roadrunner.com (716)725-8340 Emilie Gough eronald12@gmail.com	MEET REFEREE Ann Pendley AnnJPendley@gmail.com	CLUB OFFICIALS CHAIR Luke Adams laadams85@gmail.com MEET OPERATIONS Becky Sapiro - beckysapiro@gmail.com
SANCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held under the sanction of USA Swimming through Niagara Swimming: NI 2526-030• In granting this sanction it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming, Niagara Swimming, Town Wreckers Swim Team and Orchard Park High School 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	<p>Orchard Park High School 4040 Baker Road Orchard Park, New York 14127</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 lanes, 25 yards• Water depth range of 4.5' – 4.7' at the starting end and 3.5' – 5' at the turning end.• The competition course has not been certified in accordance with current <i>USA Swimming Rules and Regulations</i>, Article 104.2.2(C).	
ENTRY DEADLINE	<p>Friday, January 28, 2026 @ 9:00 PM</p> <p>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.</p>	
SCHEDULE	<p>Saturday, February 7, 2026</p> <p>AM Session: 7:30 am warmup – 8:30 am start</p> <p>PM Session: 12:45 pm warmup – 1:30 pm start</p> <p>Maximum number of entires per individual is four(4)</p> <p>Age on the first day of the meet determines the swimmer's age for the remainder of the meet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet Director reserves the right to adjust times/sessions after entries are received.• Start times may be adjusted to accommodate entries and timeline (4-hour rule).	
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 with scoreboard.	

RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current 2025 USA Swimming Rule Book shall govern this meet. • 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. • 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. • Flyover starts will be used. • The Meet Director and the NI Technical Committee reserve the right to limit events, heats, 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. • All events will be pre-seeded. • All events will be seeded slowest to fastest, <i>except the 500 free and 1650 free.</i>
POSITIVE CHECK IN	Positive check in required for 500 free and 1650 free. Swimmers must provide timer and lane counter for these events and will be seeded fastest to slowest.
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. • Marshals will actively supervise the warm-ups to ensure that proper procedures are followed. <p>General Warm-up Period: First 30 minutes, All lanes</p> <p>There shall be NO DIVING off the blocks or edge of the pool at this time</p> <p>No sprinting or pace work</p> <p>Specific Warm-up Period: Last 20 minutes</p> <p>Specific Warm-up Period will be announced by the Referee or Meet Director</p> <p>Lanes 2 & 5: Racing Start only. Swim one length only. All swimmers</p> <p>When the number of participants for a meet session cannot be safely accommodated during the same warm-up period, warm-up sessions will be split to provide a safe and adequate warm-up time for all. <u>Complete Warm-up Procedure information sheet is on last page of this form.</u></p>
SUPERVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their swimmers and cleaning up for their team areas. • Marshals have the authority through the meet director over the warm-up. A swimmer and/or coach may be removed from the deck for interfering with the marshals.
SEEDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All entries will be seeded slowest to fastest and be pre-seeded, except the 500 and 1650 free.

SCORING	No Individual scores per swimmer except for designated Events and Heats prior to start of meet to be counted towards the Team Challenge Award, given to the team that scored the most points. Scoring from USAS for the top 6 as follows – 7,5,4,3,2,1.
AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12&U will have Ribbons for 1st-10th place.
PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available on twst.org under Team Event Tab and on Meet Mobile with unofficial results.
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 always have proof of active USA Swimming membership with them. Deck Pass is acceptable proof of USA membership.
SPECTATOR ENTRY FEE PARKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free. Pool entrance and parking lot located off Freeman Road.
OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials interested in volunteering should contact Jim Ronald @ jr12bucs@roadrunner.com or 716-725-8340 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 official briefing will precede each session during warm-ups.
TIMERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TWST will provide timers for meet except for 500 free and 1650 free. Participating Clubs may be asked to assist in timing during the meet. Swimmer must provide timer and lane counters for the 500 free and 1650 free and heats will be seeded fastest to slowest.
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, “TWST Snowball Meet” *** 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. Deck entries will be permitted with approval of the Meet Director. 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>Deck Fee per swimmer: \$10.00 Make check payable to: OPTWST, INC.</p> <p>Individual Fee: \$5.00 Send payment to: 1935 Colvin Blvd.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tonawanda, NY 14150</p> <p><u>Full payment & waiver must be received before the start of meet for swimmers to compete.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are fortunate to be permitted to use the facilities at Orchard Park High School. • Proper conduct on the part of all swimmers and spectators is always expected. The meet area is restricted to the pool and adjoining locker rooms, the lobby, and the spectator seating area. Any swimmer found in an area designated out of bounds will be barred from participating in the remainder of the meet. • Only Meet personnel, volunteers, coaches, and swimmers registered in the meet will be allowed on deck. • Spectators are allowed. No limitations on numbers other than a town fire code. • Swimmers are expected to arrive in their suits. Swimmers may change before they exit the facility within designated locker rooms. • Locker rooms will be available for restroom purposes and changing out of swim attire at the end of the individual involvement of the meet. Monitors will be stationed at each locker room entrance to ensure limited individuals are inside at any given time.
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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, lifeguard. Equipment available - AED, backboard, & First Aid supplies at facility.
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2026 TWST Snowball Team Challenge

AM Session: 7:30 am warmup-8:30am start

1	12 & UNDER MIXED	200 Individual Medley
2	12 & UNDER MIXED	50 Freestyle
3	12 & UNDER MIXED	100 Breaststroke
4	12 & UNDER MIXED	50 Butterfly
5	12 & UNDER MIXED	100 Backstroke
6	12 & UNDER MIXED	100 Individual Medley
7	12 & UNDER MIXED	50 Breaststroke
8	12 & UNDER MIXED	100 Butterfly
9	12 & UNDER MIXED	50 Backstroke
10	12 & UNDER MIXED	100 Freestyle
11	12 & UNDER MIXED	200 Freestyle

PM Session: 12:45 pm warmup –1:30pm start

12	MIXED OPEN	200 Individual Medley
13	MIXED OPEN	100 Breaststroke
14	MIXED OPEN	200 Butterfly
15	MIXED OPEN	200 Freestyle
16	MIXED OPEN	100 Backstroke
		10-minute warmup
17	MIXED OPEN	400 Individual Medley
18	MIXED OPEN	50 Freestyle
19	MIXED OPEN	200 Backstroke
20	MIXED OPEN	100 Freestyle
21	MIXED OPEN	200 Breaststroke
22	MIXED OPEN	100 Butterfly
		10-minute warmup
23	MIXED OPEN	***500 Freestyle***
24	MIXED OPEN	***1650 Freestyle***

****Positive check-in, and must provide timer and lane counter and seeded fastest to slowest****

2026 NI TWST Snowball Team Challenge Liability and Financial Forms – # NI 2526-030

Club Name: _____ Club Code: _____

Coaches Name/s: _____

Coaches E-mail: _____

Person submitting entries: _____

Total # of Individual Entries _____ x \$5.00 /Event \$ _____

Total # of Swimmers _____ x \$10.00 / Swimmer Deck Fee \$ _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

I/We hereby for myself/ourselves, my heir administrators, and assigns, intending to be legally bound, release and forever discharge, all rights and claims for damages against USA Swimming Inc., Niagara Swimming Inc., TWST Swim Club, Orchard Park High School, Town of Orchard Park and all officials concerned, their respective officers, agents, successors, and/or assigns, for all damages which may be sustained or suffered in connection with or entry in and/or out of my/our traveling to, participating in, and registration and eligible in all events I/We entered.

Signature of Club official, parent, or guardian: _____ (Form must be signed)

Make Checks Payable to **OPTWST, INC.** Club Checks only!

This form must be submitted along with full payment to be considered a complete entry.

Mail to: **OPTWST, INC.**
1935 Colvin Blvd.
Tonawanda, New York 14150

DO NOT send entries by REGISTERED MAIL and/or SIGNATURE FOR DELIVERY

NIAGARA SWIMMING INC

WARM-UP PROCEDURE FOR ALL SANCTIONED MEETS IN 6 LANE POOLS

I. Pre-Meet warm-up period

- A. Control/Supervise – Key words for safe warm-ups.
- B. Marshals should be actively supervising the warm-ups to ensure that proper procedures are followed.

II. General warm-up period

- A. The first 30-45 minutes are good for general warm-ups in all lanes.
- B. There shall be **NO DIVING** off the blocks or the edge of the pool at this time.
- C. Outside Lanes – Kicking only.
- D. Inside Lanes – Swimming and pulling only, no paddles.
- E. No sprinting or pace work.

III. Specific warm-up period

- A. Last 30 – 45 minutes of pre-meet warm-up period.
- B. In a six (6) lane pool, each lane shall be scheduled as follows
 - a. Lanes 1 & 6 push off one (1) or two(2) lengths & back, beginning at the starting end of pool. Circle swimming only.
 - b. Lanes 2 & 5 racing start only. All swimmers begin at the starting end of pool.
 - c. Lanes 3 & 4 general warm only (as above). **NO DIVING**

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR SPECIFIC WARM-UP PERIOD

1. No diving in lanes other than those designated for racing dives. The blocks should be marked to remind swimmers that they should not dive.
2. Start all swimmers in all lanes at the starting end of pool.
3. Coaches should stand at the starting end of pool when verbally starting swimmers on sprint or pace work.
4. Swimmers should be reminded by coaches that breaststrokers need more lead time than freestylers or butterfly swimmers.
5. Backstrokes should be reminded of the danger of leaving simultaneously with someone on the block. No one should be allowed on the starting block until the backstroke has executed his/her start.
6. The announcer should announce lane changes and /or warm-up changes as per general and specific. The announcer can serve as the reminder of procedures.
7. Coaches should maintain as much contact with their swimmers as possible-verbal & visual-throughout the warm-up period.
8. The Coaches should understand that responsibility for supervision of their swimmers is the same at meets as when on deck at practice.
9. Marshals have the authority through the Meet Director over warm-up. A swimmer and/or Coach may be removed from the deck for interfering with Marshals.
10. When the number of participants for a meet session cannot be safely accommodated during the same warm-up period, warm-up sessions should be split to provide a safe and adequate warm-up time for all.
11. The meet Referee shall have responsibility to establish and enforce rules for safe conduct within the competitive pool during the duration of the swimming competition.
12. The meet Safety Committee shall have responsibility for safety rules in all other areas during competition and shall assist the Meet Referee in the competition pool if necessary.
13. The meet Safety Committee shall have any person deliberately violating safety rules removed from meet facility.
14. There shall be at least one Marshal at each end of pool to ensure the warm-up procedures will be followed.
15. Warm-up procedures shall be enforced for any breaks scheduled during competition.
16. Discretion and common sense must be used when establishing procedures. The above procedures may be modified by the Meet Referee according to the needs of the meet.