

2026 USOA UWH National Championships

Tournament Announcement

July 10-12, 2026

Facility:

Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center, University of Minnesota
123 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

The Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center is a venue for competitive swimming at the University of Minnesota in the United States, constructed in 1990. It is named for Jean Freeman, the university's long-time women's swimming coach. [Wikipedia](#)

Dates:

Friday, July 10: 8am to 8pm: Round Robin Competition
Saturday, July 11: 8am to 8pm: Round Robin Competition
Sunday, July 12: 8am to 4pm Playoffs and Medal Games
5:30-9pm: Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Games will not be rescheduled/reshuffled to accommodate travel plans.

Tournament Information & Entry Fee Calculation

Team fee: \$2200

Referee Opt Out Fee: \$425

Team fee after May 1, 2026: \$2500

Payments can be made through the following methods. Please denote which team the registration fee is for.

- PayPal: treasurer@mnuwh.com
- Venmo: @mn-uwh
- Zelle: treasurer@mnuwh.com (preferred method)

Team Eligibility:

USOA UWH Nationals is club tournament. Criteria is defined in the [US Nationals Team Composition Policy](#).

Player Requirements:

- ALL PLAYERS MUST BE USOA MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING
- Each player must have a unique cap number. (both black/white caps)
- Basic Rule certification via the UWH Portal.

Club Team Registration:

There will be a maximum of 24 total team entries accepted, first-come first-served basis. Clubs may register a second team after April 1, 2026. Any additional teams will be wait-listed to ensure that all clubs have a chance to register at least 1 team:

After this deadline has passed, any waitlisted team entries will be accepted (space allowing) in the order in which they were registered (fully refundable if not ultimately accepted).

Competition Format:

There will be three Divisions: A, B, and C. Medals will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each Division. It will be a single round robin with playoffs.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- **March 1, 2026 @ 12:01am Central Standard Time (CST)**
 - Team registration opens:
 - You must complete the following 2 steps in order to register your team:
 - Create your team.
 - Go to www.uwhportal.com, sign in, and then navigate to the event page.
 - Click on "Register a team" and follow the prompts.
 - The only information required to initially create a team is a team name and division/grade preference (both can be edited later).
 - Any other required team information and your roster members can also be added/edited later.
 - Please send any questions regarding team creation and/or roster building to support@atlantissports.org.
 - Pay your team's \$100 non-refundable deposit. This will be applied towards the total team fee.
- **April 1, 2026 @12:01am CST**
 - 2nd team from same club registration opens.
- **May 1, 2026 @12:01am CST**
 - If the full team registration fee is not paid full at this time, the registration fee changes to \$2500.
- **June 15, 2026 @12:01am CST**
 - Registration closes. No further teams will be accepted.
- **June 22, 2026 @12:01am CST**
 - Rosters must be finalized.
- **July 10, 2026**
 - Competition 8:00am-8:00pm
- **July 11, 2026**

- Competition 8:00am-8:00pm
- **July 12, 2026**
 - Competition 8:00am-4:00pm
 - Banquet 5:30pm-9:00pm
- **July 13, 2026**
 - Park-o-rama
 - Minnehaha Falls – Minnehaha Park
 - 4801 S. Minnehaha Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417
 - 193-acre park featuring a 53’ waterfall, hiking and river overlooks
 - Easy access to light rail to the airport
 - Picnic

Referees, Time/Score Keepers, and Officials:

Teams that have **not** opted out of referee are expected to provide 2 individuals for either refereeing or scorekeeping. The Chief may dismiss either if there is sufficient staff. The MN Rule for signing up is in effect.

Food Room:

The Wet Classroom will have food available. All food must remain in the Wet Classroom.

**NO GLASS IS ALLOWED IN THE FACILITY!!!!
THIS IS A MINIMUM \$20,000 FINE TO ANY VIOLATOR!!**

Banquet:

The Banquet will be held in a private room at the Malcolm Yards Food Hall.
501 30th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

The banquet is not included as this is a food hall with a variety of options ranging from Asian to vegan, plus self-service beer in a trendy industrial food court. The awards ceremony will be in the private room, but dining is available indoors or outdoors. *People attending the banquet will need to register in the private room prior to purchasing any food or beverage items.*

<https://malcolmyards.market/>

Transportation:

- Uber/Lift
- Light Rail
 - MSP Airport to U of M: Blue Line to Green Line
 - U of M to Malcolm Yards: Green Line

Accommodation:

- Hampton Inn & Suites Minneapolis University Avenue
 - 2812 University Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55414
 - 612-269-8797
 - <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mspuahx-hampton-suites-minneapolis-university-area/>
 - Reference Minnesota Loons UH Room Block
 - Rate: \$157 /night 2 queen beds
 - Book by June 11 for the group rate

Park-O-Rama:

See Kurt Allen (KurtAllen@gjoll.com) for details.

- Minnehaha Falls
- 4801 S Minnehaha Dr
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Tournament Swag:

Shirts and swag will be available through the Bonfire website. Check as we will add designs until the event. NO SALES WILL BE MADE AT THE TOURNAMENT.

<https://www.bonfire.com/2026-uwh-nationals/>

Additional Details:

The following Rules and Standards apply to this tournament:

- [CMAS UWH International Rules of Play V13, 2026](#)
- [USOA Standard Competitive Rules, 2023](#)
- [USOA UWH Referee Safety Guidelines, 2019](#)

All 2026 USOA dues and waivers should be taken care of through the [Underwater Society of America](#) website. Any non-resident player must also be in good standing with their governing (home) Federation. Please contact support@atlantissports.org regarding any USOA / Federation confirmation issues.

Communication:

After this initial announcement (and potential follow-up announcements regarding referee clinics), all event specific communication will be via the Event Forum feature on UWH Portal direct to the appropriate participants. If you are a team organizer it is your responsibility to receive and respond to these messages, as necessary. Notifications are available via email, SMS/WhatsApp, or the UWH Portal App (coming soon). Additionally, messages can be sent to everyone participating in the event, not just team organizers. Team organizers are responsible for ensuring their members are informed and act as necessary.

Additional questions can be sent to board@mnuwh.com or orkt6131.kt@gmail.com. Zach Richardson and Karen Thullner are the co-chairs for this event.