

2026 Joanne Malar Invitational

New Session Times, New Session Added, 102 & 103 will alternate Events moved to Session 1B, 12 & under Relays Cancelled, 13 & over 400IM and 400 Free – Fastest two heats swims in Finals, Split warm-ups

Brief Meet Information

MEET NAME	2026 Joanne Malar Invitational
DATE(s):	January 16-18, 2026
HOSTED BY:	Hamilton Aquatic Club
LOCATION:	Etobicoke Olympium – Short Course
FACILITY:	590 Rathburn Rd, Etobicoke ON M9C3T3
PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION:	<p>Making qualifying times for future meets. The meet will consist of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Final Events consisting of 400m, 800m, 1500m, Relays • Time Finals for 12 & Unders • Prelims & Finals for 13 & Overs
MEET PACKAGE:	The only meet package which will be considered as valid must be the most current version found on www.swimming.ca and the Swimming Canada Registration and Event Management System (REMS).
LAST UPDATE:	December 18, 2025

Competition Organizing Committee

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL	LEVEL
COMPETITION COORDINATOR(S):	Paul Leslie	Pkleslie59@gmail.com	5
MEET MANAGER(S):	Theresa Malar	Theresa.malar@hacswim.ca	
OFFICIALS COORDINATOR:	Katie Kitney	Katie.kitney@hacswim.ca	

Safety at Competitions

Swimming Canada and Swim Ontario believes that athletes, coaches, officials, support staff and volunteers have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive sport environment that is free of abuse, harassment and discrimination.

Only Swimming Canada registered active participants (swimmers, officials, certified coaches and support staff for the meet), facility personnel and authorized Swim Ontario personnel are allowed on deck during the competition.

All participants in this event are reminded that they are bound by Swimming Canada and Swim Ontario Policies and Procedures, including but not limited, to Swimming Canada's General Code of Conduct, their Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, their Harassment Policy and the [Swim Ontario Code of Conduct procedure](#) For more information regarding the [Swim Ontario Policies and Procedures](#) or Safe Sport please visit the Swim Ontario website <https://www.swimontario.com/sport-safety> or www.swimming.ca/safesport

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Every club and its participants are responsible for ensuring all facility rules and requirements are followed.

The [Swim Ontario Concussion Management](#) & [Swim Ontario Photography, Videography, and Cellphone Procedure](#) will be in effect. For complete details click [HERE](#).

Videography & Photography Permissions

Provided the facility permits, registered club coaches on the compliance list, approved sport science contractors, and support staff may record for coaching purposes without additional authorization.

All other individuals — including club photographers, contracted photographers/videographers, and media — must apply for and receive authorization to access the competition deck before recording in any medium. All recordings must comply with Swim Ontario policies, including the [Photography, Videography, and Cellphone Procedure](#) and the [Screening Requirements Procedures](#). Contact Meet Management for the application process. All Official Photographers and Videographers, as approved by Swim Ontario, will be declared within this Meet Package.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A. This facility does not allow any form of recording (cellphone, cameras, video cameras, etc.).
- B. Meet management will not accept requests to access the competition deck to record.
- C. The following are approved by Swim Ontario Official Photographers/Videographers for this event: N/A

Competition Rules

All current [Swimming Canada rules](#) will be followed. All registered para swimmers are subject to the rules defined by their current sport class and codes of exception. The stroke and turn rules apply as per Appendix B of the Swimming Canada rulebook. The Sport Class and Exception Codes should be displayed on heat sheets and must be made available to the Session Referee.

All swimmers are permitted to race with the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Ontario provided the fabric of the swimwear is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to create a technical advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy, or endurance.

Combined (mixed) gender swimming is permitted for age group swimming competitions. Canadian Age Group records can not be set when heats involve individual mixed genders.

The Starter shall report a swimmer to the Referee for misconduct taking place at the start of a race as per Swimming Canada Part II 2.3.2. The “misconduct” shall include, but is not limited to (C.2.3.2.1):

- Deliberate or negligent acts such as spitting, spouting of water, or blowing the nose in the pool or on the pool deck immediately prior to the start may be considered misconduct.
- Deliberate kicking or striking of the starting platform, including the back plate prior to the start.
- Unsafe or uncontrolled entry into the pool immediately prior to the start of a race. All swimmers must enter the pool with a controlled, feet-first entry.

The Referee may disqualify a swimmer for such misconduct.

Please note that [Swimming Canada Competition Warm-Up Safety Procedures](#) and [Swim Ontario warm-up safety rules](#) will be in effect. Details [HERE](#)

It is incumbent on coaches, swimmers, and officials to work together to comply with these procedures during all scheduled warm-up periods. Coaches are requested to encourage swimmers to cooperate with Safety Marshals.

- Warm up rules:
 - No loitering at the end of lane
 - Swimmers must be aware of their surroundings and move over to the lane rope when stopped at the end wall to allow other swimmers to turn

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- Swimmers using sprint and pace lanes must be directly supervised by their coaches
- Deliberate kicking or striking of the starting platform, including the back plate during the sprint periods is not permitted.

Swimmers must enter the pool FEET FIRST in a cautious and controlled manner, entering from a start or turn end only and from a standing or sitting position.

Swimmers witnessed by a Safety Marshal diving or entering the water in a dangerous fashion may be removed, by the Referee, without warning from their next individual event following the warm-up period in which the violation occurred. The swimmer's name and club shall be registered with the Meet Manager.

AGE UP DATE:	The competitor's age is as the first day of the competition January 16, 2026
DIVE STARTS:	<p>As per Swimming Canada Part II C4.1.2 and C4.1.3 swimmers are permitted to start in-water or from a standing position on the deck or bulkhead when Starting Platforms (blocks) are available. As per the Facility Rules for Dive Starts, this competition Starts will be conducted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Starting Platforms (blocks) as per World Aquatics II.4.1 and II.16.1.4 from deep end only <p>and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from the Deck or Bulkhead as per Canadian Facility Rule II.C4.1.1 and II.C16.1.4.1 from deep end only <p>and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-water starts will be conducted as per Canadian Facility Rule II.C4.1.1 and II.C16.1.4.1 from deep end only
BACSTROKE LEDGES:	A. Ledges will not be used in the swim meet
d/DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING ACCOMMODATION:	<p>This competition can provide the following accommodations for swimmers who are d/Deaf and Hard of hearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-verbal instruction provided by a support person from the swimmer's own club, who is registered in the REMS as support staff. • Visual Start hand signals given by the starter/referee. <p>Clubs are to contact Meet Management by the <u>Entry Deadline</u> of the need for accommodations. Support Staff must be included in the submission of entries process.</p> <p>Support Staff must have active REMS registration and be included in the club's event entry. Those not listed in the entry submission will be denied deck access.</p>

Eligibility

All athletes must be registered as Competitive or Varsity swimmers with Swimming Canada and possess a valid Swimming Canada registration number. Athletes may only compete under the age group club or varsity team they are registered with. Registered Para Swimmers are welcome and their current Sport Class must be included in the entries. Entries submitted without a valid registration number and active status in the Swimming Canada Registration and Event Management System (REMS) at the time of the competition will be denied entry. It is the responsibility of the swimmer's club to provide proof of active registration status in REMS

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ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:	<p>A. This meet is an Open Invitational.</p> <p>B. Preference will be given to the host club first.</p> <p>C. Pre-competitive swimmers are welcome to attend without exceeding the maximum of 1 competition. Pre-competitive swimmers will compete as Exhibition and not be eligible for scoring or awards.</p> <p>D. This meet does not have time standards</p>
COACH & SUPPORT STAFF REGISTRATION:	<p>Meet management will cross reference the list of coaches submitted with entries at this competition with the Swim Ontario Compliance lists. If a coach is not on this list, meet management is obligated to enforce the Swimming Canada policy and not permit that coach to attend the meet. Meet management will forward Swim Ontario a list of coaches who they have found to be in non-compliance.</p> <p>Swimmers must have a coach or designated coach (coach representative) in attendance during the meet including warm-up sessions.</p> <p>Clubs needing Support Staff for Para or d/Deaf/Hard of Hearing swimmers must register them in the Swimming Canada Registration and Event Management System (REMS) to access the deck at competitions. Support Staff must have active REMS registration and be included in the club's event entry. Those not listed in the entry submission will be denied deck access.</p>
FOREIGN TEAMS / COMPETITORS:	<p>The following applies to Teams and their competitors not affiliated with Swimming Canada. Swimmers registered as active with a Swimming Canada ID are considered domestic.</p> <p>A. Foreign Teams' / competitors' entries will not be accepted by the host club.</p>

Entry Process

ENTRY SUBMISSIONS:	<p>Entries must be submitted through the Swimming Canada Registration and Events System (REMS) and must include all attending coaches and support staff. Meet management will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not accept entries via email; notify clubs within 48 hours of the online entry deadline regarding any rejected entries or required changes to entries; notify clubs of any meet format changes or designated warm-up times at least 5 days (for TIER II sanctions) and 10 days (for TIER III & IV sanctions) prior to the start of the competition <p>Failure to inform meet management of a no-show / scratch prior to the deadline for changes to entries will result in loss of entry fees.</p> <p>Meet Management reserves the right to further limit individual swims per session and to limit heats if necessary to keep session times to within 4.5 hours.</p>
ENTRY DEADLINE:	<p>The online entry deadline is December 15, 2025</p> <p>A. Changes to entries will be accepted until January 5, 2026</p>
ENTRY FEE:	<p>The following fees will apply for this competition:</p> <p>A. Individual Events: \$16</p> <p>B. Relay Events: \$20</p> <p>C. Swimmer Fee: \$5</p> <p>D. Distance Events (800 Free/1500 Free): \$20</p>

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	Payment Method: A cheque made payable to Hamilton Aquatic Club OR e-transfer to theresa.malar@hacswim.ca
ENTRY LIMITS:	The following limits are in place for this competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The maximum number of participants per session is 300 B. Each club is limited to the following number of swimmers 200 C. The maximum number of entries per swimmer is 9
RELAY ENTRIES & MIXED RELAYS:	Teams may move up no more than two (2) swimmers from a younger age category to fill a relay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Relay swimmers must be entered in a non-relay event in order to compete.
ENTRY TIMES & CONVERSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. No Time (NT) entries are not permitted. B. Estimate entry times are accepted. C. Entry Times can be converted (i.e. LCM to SCM)

Schedule of Sessions

Session #	Date	Warm-up period	Start of session	Approx. Finish of session	Time Final/Heats /Finals
1A	Friday January 16, 2026	4:00-4:55pm 12:00-12:25pm	5:00pm 12:30pm	9:00pm 4:50pm	Timed Finals
1B	Friday January 16, 2026	5:00-5:25 5:30 - 5:55pm	6:00pm	9:00pm	Timed Finals
2	Saturday January 17, 2026	8:00-8:25 8:30 - 8:55am	9:00am	12:00pm	Prelims
3	Saturday January 17, 2026	12:00pm-12:25pm 12:30- 12:55pm	1:00pm	6:00pm	Timed Finals
4	Saturday January 17, 2026	6:30-7:10pm	7:15pm	9:00pm	Finals
5	Sunday January 18, 2026	8:00-8:25 8:30 - 8:55am	9:00am	1:00pm	Prelims
6	Sunday January 18, 2026	1:00pm-1:25pm 1:30 - 1:55pm	2:00pm	5:30pm	Timed Finals
7	Sunday January 18, 2026	6:00-6:40pm	6:45pm	8:15pm	Finals

Meet Format & Administration

SEEDING:	After all times are converted as pursuant to the conversion process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seeding for Timed Final events will be in order of entry times, fastest to slowest. B. Seeding for Preliminary events will be as per Part II 3.1 of the Swimming Canada rulebook with fastest 3 heats circle seeded.
DECK ENTRIES:	All accepted Deck Entries are Exhibition Only and are not eligible for scoring or awards. No new heats will be created for deck entries (only empty lanes, if available). The following are the Deck Entry Rules for this competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Only event deck entries are permitted for swimmers <u>already entered in the competition</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fee: \$20

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RELAY NAME SUBMISSION:	<p>Relay Cards or Forms must be returned to the Admin Desk.</p> <p>A. The Relay Name submission deadline is 30 mins before the start of the session.</p>
SCRATCHES & POSITIVE CHECK IN RULES:	<p>The following are the Scratch deadlines for this competition.</p> <p>A. A scratch deadline will apply for finals events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 30 minutes following the posting of results of respective preliminary event <p>The following are the Positive Check-in deadlines for this competition.</p> <p>A. There is a positive check-in 30 minutes before the start of the session at the Admin Desk for the following events: 800/1500</p> <p>B. All swimmers are required to check-in with the Admin Desk 30 minutes prior to each <u>finals</u> session.</p>
PENALTIES:	<p>A. No penalty shall be imposed for late or day of scratches and No-Shows</p> <p>B. Failure to participate in an event with a scratch or positive check-in deadline will result in following penalty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fee: \$20
OFFICIAL SPLIT TIMES:	<p>Meet management requires that any coach wishing to rely on a time achieved by the swimmer for an interval shorter than the total distance of the event shall so advise the <u>Admin Desk</u> at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the session in which the event will take place. Requests for official splits in gendered and mixed relays are not required, however in mixed relays the official time will not be recognized as a Canadian Age Group record.</p> <p>A. Official Split Forms are available at the Admin Desk.</p> <p>B. Not all Official Split requests can be accommodated.</p>
SWIM OFFS:	<p>This competition offers preliminary events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All swim-offs are to be run during or at the end of the session in which the tie occurred at a time mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials. Coaches are to report to the Admin Desk when a swim-off is announced.
DISQUALIFICATION & PROTEST PROCEDURE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disqualification will be reported within fifteen (15) minutes after the swimmer's race. The disqualification shall stand providing all reasonable efforts have been made to report the disqualification including public address systems. A club representative should discuss the disqualification with the Session Referee and can request to view the disqualification slip. If not resolved after this discussion, a written protest may be presented to the Session Referee from the club representative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written protest must be presented within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the <u>event</u> in question. Protest forms are available at the Admin Desk. If not resolved after the decision of the written protest from the Session Referee the matter may be assigned to a Jury of Appeal. The decision to go to Jury must be taken within an hour from the moment the decision of the written protest is communicated to the club representative.
RECORDS:	<p>A. Swim times achieved at this competition will be eligible for Provincial and National Records. Coaches are advised to inform Meet Management prior to the start of the session where mixed gender individual events are taking place that there is a possibility of a Canadian Age Group record being broken. The referee can ensure that the swimmer</p>

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	competes with competitors of the same gender for his/her heat. Swim Ontario has a certified pool length survey for the aforementioned swimming pool.
MEET RESULTS:	Official Results will be posted within 48 hours of completion of the meet to www.swimming.ca A. Unofficial mobile applications results will be available.
SCORING:	The following scoring will be applied: No Scoring
AWARDS:	The following will be awarded: A. Individual medals will be awarded to the top three individual swimmers in each of the following age groups: 10 & Under 11& 12 13 & 14 15 & Over
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	Short Course

Schedule of Events

Session 1A (Distance) Friday January 16, 2026 Warm-up: 12:00-12:25pm -- Start: 12:30pm		
Mixed		
102	Mixed All Ages 800 Free	
103	Mixed All Ages 1500 Free	
	102 & 103 will alternate	

Session 1B Friday January 16, 2026 Warm-up: 5:00-5:55pm -- Start: 6:00pm		
Women		Men
311	12 & Under 200 Backstroke	312
607	12 & Under 100 Free	608
617	12 & Under 50 Breaststroke	618
315	12 & Under 50 Backstroke	316
619	12 & Under 400 Free	620

Session 2 (Prelims) Saturday January 17, 2026 Warm-up: 8:00-8:55am -- Start: 9:00am		
Women		Men
201	15 & Over 4 x 50 Free Relay	202

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203	13 & 14 4 x 50 Free Relay	204
205	13 & Over 200 Freestyle	206
207	13 & Over 100 Breaststroke	208
209	13 & Over 100 Butterfly	210
211	13 & Over 200 Backstroke	212
213	13 & Over 50 Freestyle	214
215	13 & Over 50 Backstroke	216
217	13 & Over 400 IM – Timed Final Fastest 2 heats will swim in Finals	218

Session 3 (Timed Finals) Saturday January 17, 2026 Warm-up: 12:00 – 12:55pm -- Start: 1:00pm		
Women		Men
301	11 & 12 4 x 50 Free Relay	302
303	10 & Under 4x50 Free Relay	304
305	12 & Under 200 Freestyle	306
307	12 & Under 100 Breaststroke	308
309	12 & Under 100 Butterfly	310
311	12 & Under 200 Backstroke	312
313	12 & Under 50 Freestyle	314
315	12 & Under 50 Backstroke	316
317	12 & Under 400 IM	318

Session 4 (Finals) Saturday January 17, 2026 Warm-up: 6:30-7:10pm -- Start: 7:15pm		
Women		Men
205	13 & Over 200 Freestyle	206
207	13 & Over 100 Breaststroke	208
209	13 & Over 100 Butterfly	210
211	13 & Over 200 Backstroke	212
213	13 & Over 50 Freestyle	214
215	13 & Over 50 Backstroke	216
217	13 & Over 400 IM – Timed Final Fastest 2 heats will swim in Finals	218

Session 5 (Prelims) Sunday January 18, 2026 Warm-up: 8:00-8:55am -- Start: 9:00am		
Women		Men
501	15 & Over 4 x 50 Medley Relay	502
503	13 & 14 4 x 50 Medley Relay	504
505	13 & Over 200 Breaststroke	506

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507	13 & Over 100 Freestyle	508
509	13 & Over 100 Backstroke	510
511	13 & Over 200 Butterfly	512
513	13 & Over 200 Individual Medley	514
515	13 & Over 50 Butterfly	516
517	13 & Over 50 Breaststroke	518
519	13 & Over 400 Freestyle – Timed Final Fastest 2 heats will swim in Finals	520

Session 6 (Timed Final) Sunday January 18, 2026 Warm-up: 1:00 – 1:55pm -- Start: 2:00pm		
Women		Men
601	11 & 12 4 x 50 Medley Relay	602
603	10 & Under 4x50 Medley Relay	604
605	12 & Under 200 Breaststroke	606
607	12 & Under 100 Freestyle	608
609	12 & Under 100 Backstroke	610
611	12 & Under 200 Butterfly	612
613	12 & Under 200 Individual Medley	614
615	12 & Under 50 Butterfly	616
617	12 & Under 50 Breaststroke	618
619	12 & Under 400 Freestyle	620

Session 7 (Finals) Sunday January 18, 2026 Warm-up: 6:00-6:40pm -- Start: 6:45pm		
Women		Men
505	13 & Over 200 Breaststroke	506
507	13 & Over 100 Freestyle	508
509	13 & Over 100 Backstroke	510
511	13 & Over 200 Butterfly	512
513	13 & Over 200 Individual Medley	514
515	13 & Over 50 Butterfly	516
517	13 & Over 50 Breaststroke	518
519	13 & Over 400 Freestyle – Timed Final Fastest 2 heats will swim in Finals	520