WINTER FESTIVAL

January 29-31, 2027

Purpose

The first stage of provincial heats and finals racing for swimmers in both the Olympic and Paralympic streams.

Qualifying	Up to January 18, 2027
Entry Deadline	January 18, 2027
Scratch Deadlines	Swim Alberta Scratch Rule (Appendix A)

** Withdrawals will not be refunded after the entry deadline*

Facility

Big Marble Go Centre, Medicine Hat
8x25m with warm-up and cool down lanes

	January 29	January 30	January 31
Warm-up / Start	8:00 / 8:45 am 4:00 / 4:45 pm	8:00 / 8:45 am 4:00 / 4:45 pm	8:00 / 8:45 am TBC*

**Sunday finals start time to be confirmed based on session timeouts.*

Sanction

This meet is sanctioned by Swim Alberta.

Rules

The meet will be conducted under published World Aquatics and/or World Para Swimming rules and regulations supplemented by published and approved Swimming Canada and Swim Alberta rules and regulations. In addition, this meet package shall outline all changes to and specific application of the published rules. Swim Alberta policies and procedures, where appropriate will also apply.

Hosts

Swim Alberta and Alberta Marlin Aquatic Club

Meet Manager	Tyson Josey	meets@marlin.ab.ca
Officials Chair		officials@marlin.ab.ca
Meet Referee	Iris Jackson	jackson.irism@gmail.com
Swim Alberta	Anna Naumova	anaumova@swimalberta.ca

Safe Sport

Swim Alberta provides a fun, healthy, inclusive and safe environment. Swimming enriches the lives of everyone involved by ensuring that the training and competitive environment is one where athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff know they are safe and are treated with respect and dignity. Swim Alberta believes that all members have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive training and competitive environment that is free of abuse, harassment or discrimination. Swim Alberta further recommends that all interactions between an athlete and an individual who is in a position of trust should normally, and wherever possible, be in an environment or space that is both “open” and “observable” to others.

Misconduct Rules

Effective **September 1, 2026**, **Rule 4.2 (Misconduct)** will be enforced. This rule, along with guidance on this rule for officials can be found in the Swimming Canada Rulebook.

Eligibility
This meet is closed to swimmers currently registered with a Swim Alberta affiliated year-round club. Para swimmers must have a valid classification listed on the Swimming Canada website.
Swim Alberta will permit entries from the Inconnu Swim Club as well as clubs within the Kootenay region of BC, including the Kootenay Swim Club, Cranbrook Tritons, Elk Valley Dolphins, and Columbia Valley Swim Club.

Qualifying
Swimmers may qualify for the Winter Festival by achieving one of the Festival time standards prior to the entry deadline. Time standards are available on www.swimalberta.ca. Para swimmers who are age 9-12 and have a Level 1 classification may attend.

New Qualifiers
Entries for swimmers who qualified after the entry deadline will be accepted. Coaches must notify Swim Alberta by 11:59pm Monday January 25, 2027.

Entries
Swimmers who have qualified in one (1) event may enter up to three (3) individual events per day, up to a maximum of eight (8) individual events. Entries must be submitted online at www.swimming.ca. Deck entries will not be permitted.

Entry Fees payable to Swim Alberta
Entry Fees are $20.50 per individual event and $28.00 per relay event. Entry fees include Splash Fees and are refundable prior to the entry deadline. The entry contact will receive an email from competitions@swimalberta.ca to review their entries and invoice. The invoice payment link will be sent to the entry contact the week of the competition and must be paid prior to the competition.

Entry Rules
Entries must be submitted using the athletes' best Short Course or Long Course time. Meet Management will convert entry times for seeding.
No-Time (NT) entries will not be accepted, coaches must submit estimated times. Estimated times will not supersede any proven time in the fastest heat of a timed final event. Late entries of pre-qualified swimmers will be subject to a $50.00 fine per swimmer payable to Swim Alberta prior to the start of the competition.
Any club submitting entries for de-qualified or non-qualified athletes will be subject to a $100.00 fine per ineligible athlete payable to Swim Alberta.

Scratches
The Swim Alberta Scratch Rule will be in effect for this competition. Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet (See appendix A).

Diving
Starts will be conducted from Starting Platforms (blocks) as per World Aquatics FR2.3, FR 2.7 and SW 4.1.

Format
All events, except where noted, will be swum by gender.

Age Categories
Individual Events
50-400m: 10 & Under, 11, 12
50m Para Events: Age 9-12

Relay Events
Female, Male and Mixed: Ages 10 & under, 12 & under

Preliminaries
There will be preliminaries and finals for all events. All preliminaries will swim regardless of entries and will be senior seeded by gender, fast to slow. The 400 freestyle will alternate gender with the fastest two heats circle seeded.

Finals
All 50m and 100m events will have A-finals followed by B-finals for each age category.
The 200 Free, 200 Back and 200 IM will have A-finals for each age category.
The 200 Breast, 200 Fly and 400 Free will have a single final, regardless of age.
Para events will have A finals.

Lap Cards for the 400m Freestyle
Competitors wishing to use lap cards for the 400m freestyle will be required to provide their own lap counter and volunteer.

Relays
Relay events are time final and will be swum by category, youngest to oldest as Female>Male>Mixed, and seeded slow to fast. Teams may enter one (1) 'relay only' swimmer for the 'A' relay. 'Relay Only' entries must be done using Hy-Tek and Swim Alberta notified when entries are submitted. This is only permitted if the team has three (3) swimmers eligible for the relay who are entered in at least one individual event.
Individual names must be submitted to the Administration Desk by the deadlines listed below. Relay names submitted through the entry file are considered confirmed.

4x50 Free	**January 29**	**4:45 pm**
4x50 Medley	**January 30**	**4:45 pm**

Para Swimming
Para Swimmers may enter any event. There will be para specific events offered for the 50 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, and 50 Fly on Saturday and Sunday. Para specific events will be awarded by gender but may be swum as mixed gender based on registration at the discretion of Swim Alberta and Meet Management.

North versus South Relays
The North versus South is a fun recognition event. The top two (2) swimmers in each age group based on the final ranking of the 50-freestyle will represent the North or South in a 4x50m mixed freestyle relay. There will be one relay in each individual age group (10U, 11, 12).

Awards
Medals will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each event. Ribbons will be awarded to swimmers placing 4th to 8th.

Youth Recognition Awards
Swimmers who achieve one of the Youth Recognition time standards from September 1 to the end of the Winter Festival will be eligible to receive the Youth Recognition award and presentation. Time standards are available on www.swimalberta.ca.

Time Trials
Swim Alberta and meet management must both approve a time trial, which will only be held in exceptional circumstances**.**

Proof of Time
Swim Alberta may request proof of time for any entry. Clubs will have 48 hours to

provide proof of time. If a Club is unable to prove an entry time the entry may be removed or seeded last.

Official Split Requests
Official splits must be requested 30 minutes prior to the start of the session. Coaches may be required to supply timers for Official Split requests.

Psych Sheets
To be published Tuesday prior to the meet. Changes will not be permitted once the psych sheet is published.

Accreditation
Clubs will be provided with one accreditation per swimmer, coach and support staff registered for the competition through Swimming Canada's online entry system. At the competition, additional accreditations for eligible coaches and support staff may be purchased for $100 upon approval from Swim Alberta.

Media
Club photographers are not permitted.

Swimwear at Competitions
All swimmers are permitted to race in the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is not required to declare the choice of swimwear to the Referee if 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.

Competition Warm-Up
Swimming Canada competition warm-up safety procedures will be in effect at this meet.

Photography/Videography
To minimize risk, all photographs and videos taken at Swimming Canada and Swim Alberta sanctioned competitions, whether taken by a professional photographer or videographer, spectator team support staff or any other participant, must observe generally accepted standards of decency. Under no circumstances are cameras permitted or other recording devices allowed in the area immediately behind the starting blocks during practice or competition starts or locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other dressing areas. The full details on the Event photography and Videography Procedure can be found HERE.

Friday, January 29	
Preliminaries	**Finals**
Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am	Warm-up: 4:00 pm / Start: 4:45 pm
100 Butterfly	100 Butterfly
50 Freestyle	50 Freestyle
200 Backstroke	200 Backstroke
50 Breaststroke	50 Breaststroke
400 Freestyle	400 Freestyle
	4x50 Freestyle – 10 & Under
	4x50 Freestyle – 12 & Under
Saturday, January 30	
Preliminaries	**Finals**
Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am	Warm-up: 4:00 pm / Start: 4:45 pm
100 Freestyle	4 x 50 Freestyle – North vs South
50 Freestyle Para	100 Freestyle
200 Butterfly	50 Freestyle Para
100 Breaststroke	200 Butterfly
50 Breaststroke Para	100 Breaststroke
50 Backstroke	50 Breaststroke Para
200 IM	50 Backstroke
	200 IM
	4x50 Medley – 10 & Under
	4x50 Medley – 12 & Under
Sunday, January 31	
Preliminaries	**Finals**
Warm-up: 8:00 am / Start: 8:45 am	Warm-up: TBC*
100 IM	Youth Recognition Awards
50 Butterfly Para	100 IM
200 Breaststroke	50 Butterfly Para
100 Backstroke	200 Breaststroke
50 Backstroke Para	100 Backstroke
50 Butterfly	50 Backstroke Para
200 Freestyle	50 Butterfly
	200 Freestyle

**Sunday finals start time to be confirmed based on session timeouts.*

Appendix A

Alberta provincial meets will use the Swim Alberta Scratch Rule.

SWIM ALBERTA SCRATCH RULE

Heats & Finals Competitions including Swim Alberta Festivals, Provincial Trials, and Provincial Championships

Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet. The meet information package should clearly state the deadline for receiving scratches by the meet manger after the entry deadline. Any scratches that are not received by the published deadline will need to be submitted to the Administration Desk according to the information detailed below:

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Preliminaries:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk 30 minutes after the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the preliminary session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Administration Desk 30 minutes prior to the start of each session. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the Referee.
- There will be no penalty for scratching from preliminary events. No-shows, step-downs, and unexcused incomplete swims will have no penalty assessed.

Scratch Deadline for Time Final Events (including relays):

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk by the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Administration Desk 30 minutes prior to the start of each session in which a Time Final Event is scheduled. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the Referee.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining finals, including relays, scheduled for that session.

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Time Final Events utilizing Positive Check-in

- The deadline for Positive Check-in shall be clearly communicated in the meet package and communicated to coaches at the technical meeting.
- Failure to check-in by the deadline will be deemed a scratch and the swimmer will be removed from the event. There is no penalty for swimmers who fail to check-in.
- Once checked–in a swimmer is not entitled to scratch from the event. No-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer being scratched from all remaining events, including relays, scheduled for that day.

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Finals:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the Administration Desk 30 minutes after conclusion of the preliminary session. The conclusion of the preliminary session will be the

completion of the final preliminary race of the session. Time final events that run at the end of the session will not be considered part of the preliminary session.

- The Late Scratch Deadline shall be 30 minutes prior to the start of the finals session. However, there shall be no re-seeding to include scratches made after the initial scratch deadline.
- The Late Scratch Deadline only applies if the coach of the late scratch swimmer notifies the Referee and the coach of the alternate. The alternate is under no obligation to swim. Should the alternate decline to swim the coach of the late scratch swimmer must contact the coach of the 2nd alternate.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining events, including relays, scheduled for that day.
- Although alternates are not required to swim, all swimmers not intending to swim finals should scratch by the scratch deadline. This will ensure that those swimmers, who would be intent on swimming in a final, would be provided the opportunity.

Deadlines for Relays

1. **Name Submissions:** The deadline for relay name submissions shall be clearly communicated in the meet information package, in the coaches meeting or in the technical bulletin.

2. **Name Changes:** Name changes will be permitted for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Meet Manager or the Meet Management Team (Meet Manager, Meet Referee and/or Swim Alberta) and may be accepted no later than 30 minutes prior to the first relay event based on session timeouts, regardless of which event (age or gender) the team is entered in.