

2023 Okefenokee Gator Fest Open Water Swim



Sanction GA23-092/OWS

Saturday November 4, 2023

5653 Laura Walker Rd, Waycross, GA 31503

SANCTION	The meet is being held under the sanction of USA Swimming and Georgia Swimming
RULES	The current USA Swimming open water rules will govern the Meet as outlined in Part Seven of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Handbook. USA Swimming Rules 202.3.2 - At a sanctioned competitive event, USA Swimming athlete members must be under the supervision of a USA Swimming member coach during warm-up, competition, and warm-down. The Meet Director or Meet Referee shall assist the athlete in making the arrangements for such supervision.
HOSTED BY	Okefenokee Aquatic Club
COMPETITION	The Open Water Race serves as the LSC Open Water Qualifier for Georgia Swimming Zone Team. The competition will be organized according to these age classifications: • 10 & Under • 11-12 • 13-14 • 15-16 • 17 & Over
LOCATION	The meet will be held at Laura S Walker State Park.
COURSE	The course begins just to the left of the designated swimming area (Swimmers will wade out waist deep) and will finish just to the right of the designated swimming area (through the finish arch). Swimmers will complete the inverted triangle course with the amount of loops correspondent with their age group. A turn judge will be stationed at each buoy. Lead out boat will stay ahead of the swimmers. Safety kayakers and boats will be stationed and circling throughout the race one on each side of the triangle and two roaming inside the triangle.



SCHEDULE

- 6:00a-6:30a- Race Check in, suit and nail check
- 6:30a- Safety Briefing with all lifeguards and officials
- 6:45a-7:20a- Course Open for Warm Up
- 7:30a- 5k Race briefing
- 7:45a- 5k start with 5 minutes between boys and girls waves
- 9:30a- 2.5K & 1.25K Race briefing
- 9:45a- 2.5K start (boys and girls)
- 9:50p- 1.25K start (boys and girls)

CHECK-IN Heats will be as follows:

1. 13 & Over Boys 5K
2. 13 & Over Girls 5K
3. 11-12 Boys 2.5K
4. 11-12 Girls 2.5K
5. 10 & Under Boys 1.25K
6. 10 & Under Girls 1.25K

Events will be swum in order. Events may be started prior to the completion of the previous event(s) at the discretion of the Referee. Swimmers must report to the check-in table appropriate for their age and sex and report to the Meet Volunteer that they are present and prepared to swim. At that time the swimmers will be numbered and have nails checked.

SAFETY	There will be a mandatory Pre-Race Briefing held before competition begins to discuss the course, rules and safety procedures. The Referee will remove any swimmer from competition who does not attend the clinic or is found to be inattentive during the clinic. Course will be patrolled by qualified safety personnel.
ATHLETE	Athletes conduct will be governed by Part Seven of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Handbook. Intentional obstruction, interference or intentional contact with another swimmer may be deemed "Unsporting Impedance" and lead to disqualification. Swimmers shall maintain clearance from other swimmers except at the start, turn, and the finish or where the course or race conditions dictate otherwise. Parents and swimmers should be advised there are a significant number of entrants, open water swimming may be expected to involve inadvertent contact with other swimmers. It is important that swimmers keep a cool head while in the water.
ELIGIBILITY	Swimmer(s) must be registered with Georgia Swimming to be accepted into this meet. Age as of October 14, 2023 shall determine the swimmer's age for the Open Water race. Registered athletes from other LSCs may enter but will not be eligible for Georgia Swimming Awards. Swimmers must swim up to the age they are trying to qualify in for Open Water Zones
ENTRY FEES	\$50 per individual event. Please make checks payable to Okefenokee Aquatic Club \$5/day parking at the lake or Georgia State Park Annual Park Pass https://dev.friendsofgastateparks.org/membership Please submit all Hy-tek Team Manager entries via e-mail. Meet entries should be emailed to ksullivan@ymcawaycross.org.

ENTRY PROCEDURES & DEADLINE

Entries and Fees must be received on or before October 9th, 2023.

(b) Manual Entries must be sent to meet entry coordinator with Athletes full name, age, gender and USA Swimming ID# by Friday, October 9, 2023 at 9am via e-mail. The e-mailed Entry Report sent to you confirming your entry, along with all subsequent Entry Reports notifying you of changed or updated entries, shall be the official record of your

entry. No other information will be considered if there is an entry error or discrepancy. There will be no deck entries allowed for this meet.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Entering clubs/swimmers need to remember to check all data BEFORE submitting. Entering club with unattached swimmer also needs to check all entry reports (and any exception reports) that the host returns. It is the responsibility of the entering club/unattached swimmer to heed deadlines and be responsible for the accuracy of club entries.

TIMING SYSTEM RFID Joey Chip Timing will be used with reusable tags (tags must be returned)

TIME LIMITS Time Limits - swimmers must finish within 30 minutes of the first swimmer in their event to be eligible for scoring and award.

ENTRY CHAIR Kevin Sullivan: ksullivan@ymcawaycross.org

MEET DIRECTOR Kevin Sullivan

MEET REFEREE Jason Frankel

INDEPENDENT SAFETY MONITOR

OFFICIALS We welcome all USA Swimming Certified Officials. Please refer to the Georgia Swimming website for complete certification requirements. The on-line tests for Open Water Judge and Open Water Referee can be found on the USA Swimming website in the Officials Section.

SCORING: No Scoring for this event

AWARDS 1st through 3rd place for each age group will receive awards.

MEET WARM-UP PROCEDURES

An area adjacent to the competition will be available for continuous warm-up and warm-down during competition. Swimmers found in the water outside of the designated area will be scratched from the meet regardless of whether or not they have completed their events

PROGRAMS: Psych sheets will be available on-line at gaswim.com and oacswim.com

FINAL RESULTS Final results and Hy-tek Team Manager Results file will be posted to gaswim.org

REFRESHMENT Concessions and food trucks will be provided

PARKING Parking is \$5 with over 200 spaces available, unless you have a Georgia State Park annual pass, in which case it is free.

RECORDING Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms.

CHANGING AREAS

Except where venue facilities require otherwise, changing into or out of swimsuits other than locker rooms or changing facilities, or other designated areas, is prohibited

DISABILITY ATHLETES

We welcome registered athletes with cognitive or physical disabilities, and the Referee will make reasonable accommodations to facilitate participation. We request you notify the Meet Director or the Meet Referee in advance, to allow us to understand the nature of any accommodation being requested.

OUTREACH ATHLETES

We welcome Registered Outreach Athletes to participate, and we are willing to waive the entry fee and Ga Swimming surcharges, provided the athlete has been registered by the LSC as an Outreach Athlete.

DRONES

Operation of a drone on state park facilities is not approved without prior consent through the park ranger.