



Polar Bear Invitational

January 24-25, 2026

Sanction # PVI-26-64

Hosted by:



MEET DIRECTOR Melanie McKula admin@seadevils.org 703-283-1182	MEET REFEREE Al Meilus al.meilus@gmail.com	CLUB OFFICIALS CHAIR Corey Steiner corey.steiner70@gmail.com
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SANCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held under the sanction of USA Swimming through Potomac Valley Swimming: PVI-26-64. In granting this sanction it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming, Potomac Valley Swimming, The Capitol Sea Devils, and South Run Rec Center 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 style="text-align: center;">South Run Rec Center 7550 Reservation Dr Springfield, VA 22153 703-866-0566</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool at South Run Rec Center is 25yd x 25m. Competition will be held in 8 lanes, 25 yd. 10 lanes will be available during warm-ups. Water depth range of 12' at the starting end and 4' at the turning end. The meet hosts shall ensure the required course dimensions.
ENTRY DEADLINE	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, January 14 at 5:00 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 style="text-align: center;">Saturday, January 24, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 & Under Warm-Up: 12:45-1:00 pm, Start time: 1:05 pm 11 & Older Warm-Up: 3:15-3:40 pm, Start time: 3:45 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, January 25, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 & Under Warm-Up: 12:45-1:00 pm, Start time: 1:05 pm 11 & Older Warm-Up: 3:15-3:40 pm, Start time: 3:45 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Director reserves the right to adjust times/sessions after entries are received.
ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all invited Potomac Valley Swimmers All athletes shall compete at the age attained on the first day of the meet. 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.
SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PVS and host clubs along with their meet directors are committed to the Inclusion Policy as adopted by the PVS 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. NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS FORM
TIMING SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-automatic (buttons primary) timing will be used.

RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current USA Swimming rules 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 PVS 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 without the use of the backstroke ledge. 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. • Dive-over starts will be used. • The Meet Director and the PVS 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 swum mixed gender. • Athletes may enter a total of 6 events and no more than 3 per day • No deck entries will be accepted
POSITIVE CHECK IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events will be pre-seeded.
WARM-UP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prescribed PVS warm-up procedures and safety policies will be followed. The Meet Director will determine the structure of warm-up, including times/lane assignments.
SUPERVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their swimmers and for cleaning up their team areas.
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical assistance will be provided by the facility staff. If you require medical assistance, please notify a facility lifeguard or a member of the meet staff.
SEEDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events will be pre-seeded. No Deck Entries will be accepted.
SCORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ribbons will be provided for places 1st-8th
PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet programs will be available on the SDS website the evening before the meet at www.seadevils.org. • The meet will be available on meet mobile
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 have proof of active USA Swimming membership with them.
PUBLICATION OF RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By entering this meet, participants (and their parents or guardians, if applicable) acknowledge and consent to the posting of official meet results on the Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) website. Athlete birthdates will not be included in any posted results. Meet results may be accessed by third-party organizations or applications that use publicly available swimming data

	for purposes such as rankings, recruitment, or goal tracking
SPECTATOR ENTRY FEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
OFFICIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participating club is requested to provide at least one table worker or official (Referee Starter, Chief Judge or Stroke & Turn Judge) per session if entering 25 or more splashes. • Officials interested in volunteering should contact Corey Steiner, TCSD Official's Chair (corey.steiner70@gmail.com) • 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 officials' briefing will precede each session during warm-ups.
TIMERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating clubs are requested to provide timers in proportion to their entries. One timer is requested for each 25 entries. • 2026 Polar Bear – Timers and Volunteer Signup
ENTRY PROCEDURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entries should be submitted by email to the Meet Director – (admin@seadevils.org). - . • Include in the subject of the email, "Polar Bear Invitational - *****" 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. • 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 PVS and no further entries will be accepted from that club until the said fine is paid.
ENTRY FEES	<p style="text-align: center;">Per Swimmer Surcharge: \$5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Individual event fee: \$12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make checks payable to The Capitol Sea Devils. • Checks may be mailed to: The Capitol Sea Devils PO Box 7965 McLean, VA 22106 • 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 PVS Administrative Office at the conclusion of the meet.

Polar Bear

January 24-25, 2026

Saturday, January 25

10 & Under Warm-Up: 12:45-1:00 pm, Start time: 1:05 pm

11 & Older Warm-Up: 3:15-3:40 pm, Start time: 3:45 pm

Sunday, January 26

10 & Under Warm-Up: 12:45-1:00 pm, Start time: 1:05 pm

11 & Older Warm-Up: 3:15-3:40 pm, Start time: 3:45 pm

Saturday, January 24, 2026

	Mixed 10 & Under
	EVENT
1	8 & Under 25 y Backstroke
2	10 & Under 200 y IM
3	8 & Under 25 y Breaststroke
4	7 & Under 50 y Freestyle
5	10 & Under 100 y Breaststroke
6	10 & Under 100 y Butterfly
7	10 & Under 50 y Backstroke
8	10 & Under 100 y Freestyle

Sunday, January 25, 2026

	Mixed 10 & Under
	EVENT
18	10 & Under 100 y IM
19	8 & Under 25 y Freestyle
20	10 & Under 200 y Freestyle
21	8 & Under 25 y Butterfly
22	10 & Under 50 y Breaststroke
23	10 & Under 100 y Backstroke
24	10 & Under 50 y Butterfly
25	8-10 50 y Freestyle

	Mixed 11 & Over
9	11-12 100 y Breaststroke
10	13 & Older 100 y Breaststroke
11	11 & Older 200 y Backstroke
12	13 & Older 50 y Butterfly
13	13 & Older 100 y Freestyle
14	11-12 100 y Freestyle
15	11 & Older 200 y Butterfly
16	13 & Older 50 y Backstroke
17	11 & Older 200 y Breaststroke

	Mixed 11 & Over
26	11-12 100 y Butterfly
27	13 & Older 100 y Butterfly
28	11 & Older 200 y Freestyle
29	13 & Older 50 y Breaststroke
30	11 & Older 200 y IM
31	11-12 100 y Backstroke
32	13 & Older 100 y Backstroke
33	11-12 50 y Freestyle
34	13 & Older 50 y Freestyle