



EVENT PERMIT

Ordinance 17-08

2026 Florida Swimming Open Water Championship

PERMIT NUMBER: TMP2026-00081

Date(s) of Event: April 12, 2026 from 6:30am until 12:30pm

Property Owner: LEE COUNTY

Applicant: Don Henshaw
239-560-4820

Description: Lee County Parks and Recreation is partnering with Gulf Coast Swim Team to host open water swim races.


Location of event: 950 ESTERO BLVD, FORT MYERS BEACH, FL 33931

| | |
|---|-----|
| Will the event be attended by 1000 or more people ? | No |
| Will the event be held on County Owned Property ? | Yes |
| Will there be alcohol consumed or sold at the event ? | No |
| Will a bond be posted for this event ? | No |

Permit Conditions:

- * Applicant must meet all event application requirements, including requirements of the sign-off agencies.
- * The premises is to be left in the same condition as it was prior to the event.
- * The permit is to be readily available for inspection during the entire event.
- * If this approval includes the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages, no alcoholic beverages may be consumed 1 1/2 hours prior to the conclusion of the event and vacating the facility/property.

Board of County Commissioners
Lee County, Florida

 4/1/26

 County Manager Date



Lee County
Southwest Florida

Event Application

Special Event

Use of
County
Property

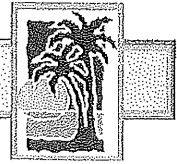
Alcohol
within Lee
County
Facilities

Film, Video
&
Photography

TMP2026-00081

2026 Florida Swimming Open Water Championship

Lee County Event Permit Application



Event Application

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
- USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT
- PERMIT TO SELL AND CONSUME ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN LEE COUNTY FACILITIES
- FILM PERMIT

| Section I - GENERAL INFORMATION (All Permit Types) | |
|---|---|
| Title of Event / Name of Production | 2026 Florida Swimming Open Water Championship |
| Date(s) of Event / Production: | 4/12/2026 |
| Location(s) of Event: | Lynn Hall Memorial Park, Fort Myers Beach |
| Name of Applicant: | Don Henshaw |
| Applicant Address: | 20560 Rookery Dr. Estero, FL 33928 |
| Applicant Phone Number: | 239-560-4820 |
| Contact Person: (If different from applicant) | |
| Contact Phone Number: (If different from applicant) | |
| Email Address: | gcst@comcast.net |
| Estimated Attendance: | 200 |
| Event Description: Include each activity, when activities take place, etc. | Lee County Parks and Recreation is partnering with Gulf Coast Swum Team to host open water swim races on April 12th only. April 11th registration off property. April 12th on site check in begins at 6:30 AM. Races expected to conclude by 12:30PM. Further details attached. |
| Hours of Operation: | |
| STRAP # of Parcel: | 24-46-23-W3-00023.0000 |
| Owner of Premises*: | Lee County Parks and Rec |

*Notarized statement from the property owner specifically consenting to the proposed use required.

Lee County Event Permit Application



What is the Zoning Classification of the premises? County Park

Are any temporary structures to be installed for the event? Yes No Type: 4 10x10 tents

Do you have the appropriate permits for the temporary structures? Yes No

* For a 'Special Event' and 'Use of County Property' permit, submit a site plan with all proposed facilities and activities identified, including all parking areas.

Insurance Company Insuring the Event: USA Swimming Risk Management

Note: Certificate of Insurance must be submitted at time of application

Surety Company Bonding this Event (Name and Address): _____

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Will Vehicles be Used as Part of This Event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, automobile coverage must be included on the certificate of insurance.</p> | <p>Will Food be Available at this Event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, products liability coverage must be included on the certificate of insurance.</p> | <p>Will Alcoholic Beverages be served/consumed at this Event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, liquor liability coverage must be included on the certificate of insurance.</p> |
|---|--|---|

Name & Address of Organization

Providing Food: _____

Type of Food being Served: _____

Section II - USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT

Organization Sponsoring the Event: Gulf Coast Swim Team / SW Florida Swim Club, Inc

Section III - SALE/CONSUMPTION OF ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMIT

Is alcohol being sold/consumed on County Property? Yes No

If Yes, then a "Lee County Alcohol Permit" is required. Only non-profit organizations can sell alcohol on County Property.

Non-profit certificate/registration number:

(Required if alcohol is to be SOLD at the event) _____

Please note: A permit from the State of Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco may also be required; please call (239) 344-0885 for further details

Lee County Event Permit Application



Type of Production (choose all that apply):

- TV Movie or Special TV Series / Pilot TV Commercial Still Photos
- Public Service Announcement Industrial / Documentary Other: _____

Will any of the following be needed or included*?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Street Closure | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Traffic / Crowd Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Fire or Burning | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Explosives or Pyrotechnics | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Animals, Large or Small | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Construction of Any Kind | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Large and/or Numerous Vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Helicopters, Boats, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Stunts | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

* For any marked Yes, provide further details below:

Special Parking Requirements:

City or County Services Required: (Personnel, equipment, facilities, etc.)

The following information is required for local and state records on production in Florida to track the economic impact of the industry. If exact figures are not available, please estimate as closely as possible.

Number in Cast: _____ Number in Crew: _____ Number of locals hired: _____

Total budget: _____ Estimate amount spent in Lee County: _____

Hotel room nights: _____ Number of shooting days: _____
number of rooms x number of nights



SECTION I - SAFETY

The Applicant agrees to provide adequate traffic and crowd control, emergency medical services and any other items, at the Applicant's expense, required by Lee County to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Lee County shall have the power to review the proposal and require, as necessary, detailed plans, diagrams, and explanations to clearly outline to Lee County, exactly what the Applicant is proposing.

SECTION II - INSURANCE

The Applicant, at its sole expense, agrees to procure and maintain in force during the entire term of the application, liability insurance in the amounts determined by Lee County Risk Management to protect against damages or other claims arising from use of County property by the applicant or its guests. Other limits may also be established by Lee County Risk Management for events which will be serving or consuming alcoholic beverages at approved County property. The insurance policy must also include coverage for Applicant's contingent liability on damages, claims or losses. "Lee County Board of County Commissioners" must be named as "additional insured" on the Certificate of Insurance, and the Certificate must be delivered to Lee County prior to Applicant's use of the property. The Insurance may not be canceled during the term of the event, if this occurs, the County has the right to revoke approvals related to use of the County property for the event, without recourse by the applicant.

SECTION III - INDEMNIFICATION

The Applicant agrees to indemnify, release and save harmless Lee County against any and all claims, costs, demands, damages, judgments or injuries of any nature arising from the conduct or management of, or from any work or thing whatsoever done in or about said Lee County property or any building or structure appurtenant thereto or equipment thereof during the term of this Permit, or arising during such term from any act of negligence of the Applicant, Applicant's agents, contractors, or employees, or arising from any accident, injury, or damage whatsoever, however caused, to any person or persons, or to any property of any person, persons, corporation or corporations, occurring during the term of this agreement on, in, or about said Lee County property, and from and against all costs, attorney's fees, expenses and liabilities occurring in connection with any such claim or any action or proceeding brought thereon.

For film permit applicants: The permittee shall have on-site a responsible representative empowered with authority over the filming director, filming crews, participants and filming operation. Permittee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the county, its officers, agents and employees from and against all claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, expenditures or causes of action of any kind arising out of or occurring during the activities of the permittee, and resulting or occurring from any negligent act, omission or error of permittee, resulting in or relating to injuries to body, life, limb or property sustained in, about or upon the permitted premises or improvement thereto, or arising from the use of the premises.

SECTION IV - DELIVERY, ACCEPTANCE AND SURRENDER OF PREMISES

The Applicant agrees to accept the County property on possession as being in a satisfactory state of repair and in sanitary condition.

The Applicant must surrender the premises to Lee County in the same condition as when Applicant takes possession, allowing for reasonable use and wear, and damage by acts of God. Applicant agrees to remove all business signs or symbols placed on the premises by the Applicant before redelivery of the premises to Lee County, and restore the premises to the condition in which it existed before their placement. Any signs and markings created or used in connection with this event must be temporary and removable; painting roadways, trees or any other fixed object is strictly prohibited. Applicant agrees to clear the Lee County property of litter at the close of the event.

Lee County Event Permit Application



SECTION V - AGREEMENT

The Applicant agrees that Lee County can, at its sole discretion, terminate and cancel its permit to use Lee County property at any time without prejudice. Applicant further agrees to waive, release, save and hold harmless Lee County from any and all claims, demands or cause of actions based upon Lee County's cancellation or termination of said permit.

The Applicant agrees that the Lee County permit does not provide Applicant with any property rights in the County property in question or in the permit itself.

The applicant does acknowledge and hereby affirms that any and all information is accurate to the best of his/her knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Witness

Don Henshaw

Print Name of Applicant and Title

Heather M. Fort

Print Name of Witness

01/30/26

Date

1/30/24

Date

Lee County Event Permit Application



LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
14750 SIX MILE CYPRESS PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33912
(239) 477-1199

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
- USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT
- PERMIT TO SELL AND CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN LEE COUNTY FACILITIES
- FILM PERMIT

AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

Parking: Parking in authorized areas only. Right-of-way should not be impeded.

Deputies (How Many?): None

Fee for Services: None

Special Arrangements: LCSO Marine Unit will provide assistance during the event for safety and security. Vendor will need to follow all special arrangements with Parks & Rec as indicated on their permit page. All amplified sounds must adhere to the Town of Ft Myers Beach noise ordinance.

Print Name: Joseph Henrich
Signature: *Joseph Henrich*
Title: Captain
Date: 2/13/26

Lee County Event Permit Application



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department serving the area where the event is to be held signs this form.

Please see User's Guide for contact information and Fire District Map.

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
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AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fire Guards (How Many?) | N/A |
| Fee for Services: | Invoiced for standby services |
| Flammable Vegetation: | Not permitted |
| First Aid Equipment: | On site |
| Fire Extinguishing: | There should be at least one (1) 2A:10BC fire extinguisher available on site, more |
| Special Arrangements: | None. |

Print Name: Jennifer Campbell
 Signature: Jennifer Campbell, Fire Official
 Title: Fire Marshal
 Date: 03/18/2026



FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

17891 SAN CARLOS BOULEVARD - FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931

Special Events Application and Guidebook

Event Type:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Outdoor/Indoor Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Outdoor/Indoor Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Firework Display |
| Date of Application: 2/13/2026 | Date of Event: 4/12/26 | |
| Location: Lynn Hall Park 950 Estero BLVD, FMB, FL 33931 | | |
| Event Start Date/Time: 4/12/2026 8:00 AM | Event End Date/Time: 4/12/2026 1:00PM | |
| Setup Date: 4/12/2026 | Setup Time: 5:00 AM | Inspection Time: |
| Event Sponsor: Gulf Coast Swim Team/ Lee County Parks and Rec | | |
| Sponsor Contact: Mike Hammond | Sponsor Phone #: (239) 707-7981 | Sponsor Email: mhammond@leegov.com |
| Anticipated Number of Attendees: 120 | Anticipated Number of Event Workers: 24 | |
| Will there be carnival or mechanical rides: NO | Number of Stages: 0 | |
| Total Number of Vendors: 0 | Total Number of Hot Food Vendors: 0 | |
| Number of Tents larger than 20 x 20: 0 | Number of 10 x 10 Tents: 5 | |


Every vendor with a booth will receive a fire inspection and is responsible for paying an inspection fee. Please list the contact information for the responsible party below.

Please Note: If the event sponsor elects not to pay the vendor's inspection fee, a list of vendors with full contact information must be provided to the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department. This information will include contact name, number, and e-mail. All inspection fees will be due at time of service. All fees must be paid prior to releasing any permit.

Event applications submitted less than thirty (30) days prior to the event will be subject to additional fees. An expedited review may be requested and will be based upon availability, additional fees will apply.

Applications shall include the following:

- A legible site plan to include proposed layout of the event; fire hydrant locations; fire/emergency access; and distances to any structures.
- A life safety evaluation may be required based on the size of the event in accordance with the fire code.
- All vendors should review FMBFD guidelines, on our website at www.FMBFire.org
- Failure to comply with requirements of the FMBFD may result in additional fees and/or shutdown of the vendor(s).

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Mike Hammond | Administrative Use Only | |
| Submitting Party Name (Print) | Date Received: | |
|  | Received By: | |
| Submitting Party Name | Fees Due: | Paid: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (Sign) Date: 2/13/2026 | Forwarded for Review: <input type="checkbox"/> | |



Lee County Event Permit Application

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES / PUBLIC SAFETY
2000 Main St., Suite #100
FORT MYERS, FL 33901
(239) 533-3911.

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT
FILM PERMIT

AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

Form with fields for Treatment Facilities, Medical Personnel, Medical Supplies / Equipment, Safety Requirements, Fee for Services, and Special Arrangements. Each field contains the text 'See Special Arrangements below.' except for Special Arrangements which contains specific text about EMS coverage.

Print Name: Douglas B. Higgins
Signature: Douglas B. Higgins (Digitally signed by Douglas B. Higgins, Date: 2026.02.12 08:19:58 -05'00')
Title: Captain, EMS Operations
Date: February 12, 2026

Lee County Event Permit Application



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1500 MONROE STREET
FORT MYERS, FL33901
(239) 533-8580

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
- USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT
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- FILM PERMIT

AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

Parking:

No event parking is permitted in Lee County maintained road right of ways.

Ingress and Egress:

Please use all established means of ingress and egress.

Special Arrangements:

Shall use Lee County Sheriff's Office for assistance with traffic control as needed. Emergency vehicle access and public vehicular access shall be maintained on all surrounding Lee County maintained roads.

Print Name: Nathan Thoman

Signature: Nathan Thoman

Digitally signed by Nathan Thoman
Date: 2026.02.19 08:23:29 -05'00'

Title: Project Manager

Date: 02/19/2026

Lee County Event Permit Application



LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
3410 PALM BEACH BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33916
(239) 533-7275

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
- USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY PERMIT
- PERMIT TO SELL AND CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN LEE COUNTY FACILITIES
- FILM PERMIT

AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

Illumination: Lighting is not permitted between dusk and dawn during Turtle Season as per DEP regulations.

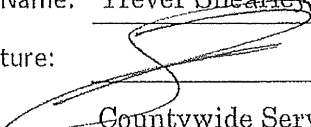
Parking Areas: Paid parking at our Beach Parks is available on a first come, first serve basis. No RV's or oversized vehicles are permitted in the Beach parking areas.

Special Arrangements: Events should not interfere with normal daily park operations, programs or maintenance.

Vessels are not permitted within designated swimming areas. Participants and spectators must disperse and leave the beach park area to seek safe shelter during lightning alerts or threatening weather.

Additionally, the event organizer must comply w/th all terms stated in the signed agreement and adhere to Lee County Ordinances No. 22-10(noise), 25-14 (smoking) and Parks & Recreation Ordinances 18-12 and 18-27 (as amended). Pursuant to Lee County Ordinance No. 25-14, smoking and vaping is not permitted at any school property or within the boundaries of any public park facility or public beach.

Print Name: Trever Sneasley

Signature: 

Title: Countywide Services Manager

Date: 2/9/2026

LYNN HALL MEMORIAL PARK - OPEN WATER SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP
(4/12/2026)

Lee County Event Permit Application



LEE COUNTY RISK MANAGEMENT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - 4TH FLOOR
2115 SECOND STREET
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33901
(239) 533-2221

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
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- FILM PERMIT

AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE BELOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH FOR THEIR EVENT.

Insurance Requirements:

Commercial general liability insurance to include participant legal liability coverage with minimum limits of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence to protect against bodily injury and/or property damage relative to applicants use of aforementioned event within Lee County.

Certificate Must Read As:

Lee County, a political subdivision and Charter County of the State of Florida, its agents, employees, and public officials are automatic additional insureds and includes an automatic waiver of subrogation with regard to general liability. The certificate holder is an additional insured on a primary and noncontributory basis with regards to general liability.

Special Arrangements:

A Certificate of Insurance shall be submitted as evidence of the required coverage listing Lee County, a political subdivision and Charter County of the State of Florida, P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902 as the certificate holder and as an additional insured as listed above.

Subject to proof of insurance.

Print Name: Mike Figueroa

Signature:

Title:

Risk Program Manager

Date:

February 11, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

PRINT DATE: 2/11/2026

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 202602101190352

AGENCY:

Edgewood Partners Insurance Center
5909 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30328
678-324-3300 (Phone), 678-324-3303 (Fax)

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.

NAMED INSURED:

USA Swimming, Inc. Gulf Coast Swim Team
1 Olympic Plaza 20560 Rookery Dr
Colorado Springs CO 80909 Estero FL 33928-3036

INSURERS AFFORDING COVERAGE:

INSURER A: Accredited Surety and Casualty Company, Inc. NAIC# 26379
INSURER B: United States Fire Insurance Company NAIC#: 21113

EVENT INFORMATION:

Sanctioned Open Water Competition (2/10/2026 - 1/1/2027)

POLICY/COVERAGE INFORMATION:

THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. AGGREGATE LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

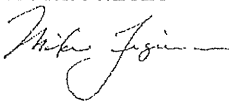
| INS | TYPE OF INSURANCE: | POLICY NUMBER(S): | EFFECTIVE: | EXPIRES: | LIMITS: |
|-----|---|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| A | GENERAL LIABILITY | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occurrence | 1-RSL-CO-17-01538639-01 | 1/1/2026 12:01 AM | 1/1/2027 12:01 AM | General Aggregate (Policy Aggregate Cap) \$20,000,000 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participant Legal Liability | | | | General Aggregate (Per Event) \$4,000,000 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse & Molestation | | | | Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 |
| | | | | | Damage to Rented Premises (Each Occ.) \$2,000,000 |
| | | | | | Medical Expense (Any one person) Excluded |
| | | | | | Personal & Advertising Injury \$2,000,000 |
| | | | | | Products-Comp/Op Agg \$2,000,000 |
| | | | | | Abuse-Molestation (Each Occurrence) \$2,000,000 |
| | | | | | Abuse-Molestation (Annual Aggregate) \$4,000,000 |
| A | UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occurrence | 1-RSL-CO-17-01538640-01 | 1/1/2026 12:01 AM | 1/1/2027 12:01 AM | Each Occurrence \$3,000,000 |
| | | | | | Aggregate \$3,000,000 |
| B | PARTICIPANT ACCIDENT | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCESS MEDICAL | US2166905 | 1/1/2026 12:01 AM | 1/1/2027 12:01 AM | Excess Medical \$50,000 |

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS/LOCATIONS/VEHICLES/EXCLUSIONS ADDED BY ENDORSEMENT/SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Certificate holder is additional insured as required by written contract as per RSCG 03 03 (09/21).
Verification of General Liability and Excess Liability coverage for COVERED ACTIVITIES (see attached).
30 Day Notice of cancellation applies per policy provisions.
Other Insureds include the following: USA Swimming individual members (including but not limited to member athletes, coaches, officials, and other members), group members (including member clubs and organizational members), and volunteers; but only while such parties are acting in their capacity as such with respect to events and related activities organized, operated, sanctioned, or approved by USA Swimming, Inc. or any of its Local Swimming Committees (LSCs).

CERTIFICATE HOLDER:


Lee County Board of County Commissioners
3410 Palm Beach Blvd
Fort Myers FL 33916

OK 02.11.2026


NOTICE OF CANCELLATION:

Should any of the above described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:



DESCRIPTIONS OF OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

Covered activities include events and related activities organized, operated, sanctioned, or approved by USA Swimming, Inc. or any of its Local Swimming Committees (LSCs):

Swim Meets

[Competitive pool swimming events, including world, national, regional, and local swimming competitions.]

Open Water Competitions

[Competitive open water swimming events, including national, regional, and local open water swimming competitions.]

Observed Swim Meets

[Coverage is limited to the activities of the USA Swimming official acting in their capacity while assigned to observe the event for compliance with USA Swimming's technical rules]

Swim Practices and Dryland Training Activities

[Swimming practices (pool and open water), dry land training activities, camps, and learn to swim programs where participants are USA Swimming members or U.S. Masters Swimming members and under the direct and active supervision of a USA Swimming member coach.]

Organized Practices

[Recreational swim meets hosted by a USA Swimming member club with local swim teams that are not USA Swimming member clubs. Coverage is subject to underwriting review, approval, and payment of additional premium]

Swim Tryouts

[Swim practices where a swimmer who is NOT and has NEVER been a USA Swimming member participates in swimming activities with a USA Swimming member club for up to a maximum of thirty (30) days from the first day of practice. Tryout swimmers may not participate in more than one tryout period within the same twelve month span.]

Swim-A Thons

[Swim-A-Thon fundraising events sponsored by or registered with USA Swimming, Inc.]

Educational & Safety Training Programs (for member coaches)

[Safety Training for Swim Coaches, including in-water training, CPR & AED training, and Lifeguard Certifications (all the prior training activities through approved agencies): all training conducted by USA Swimming member coaches who are member representatives of one of the approved agencies and providing training to member coaches or members completing the requirements to become a member coach.]

Approved Social Events & Fundraising Activities

[Approved social events and fundraising activities for member clubs or organizational members, including beginning/end of season parties, awards banquets, meetings, retreats, car washes, concession stand work, bake sales, parades (walking only, no riding/driving), info booth at community events, etc.]

2026 Florida Swimming Open Water Championship
Zone Team Selection Event
April 12, 2026

Host: Gulf Coast Swim Team

Sponsored: Florida Swimming and GCST

Sanctioned By: Issued by Florida Swimming, Inc. Sanction #FL-

This meet will be conducted under the auspices of Florida Swimming, Inc. of USA Swimming. USA Swimming technical rules and regulations will be followed except for items specifically addressed in the meet information Sanctioned by Florida Swimming, Inc.

In applying for this sanction (ed event), the Host, Gulf Coast Swim Team (specifically named Club or other entity) agrees to comply and to enforce all health and safety mandates and guidelines of USA Swimming, Florida Swimming, the State of Florida and Lee County (local jurisdiction).

Location:

Lynn Hall Memorial Park, Fort Myers Beach, FL. The race registration and starting point will be located just North of Lynn Hall Park on the beach. Please park in paid lots. Do not park on the street, or on private property. Parking is also located in Bowditch Park at the north end of Estero Island. We will have a shuttle van to pick up anyone attending the race and will return back to the parking lot after the race. Several paid parking lots are located near Lynn Hall Park with a short walk to the course. Lynn Hall Park will be closed due to construction of the new pier.

Eligibility:

All swimmers must be 2026 athlete members of USA Swimming that can meet the following time standards:

10 & under (800m swim): National BB time in any event 200 yards or over (time entered in USA Swimming database or in results section of Florida Swimming web site); or proof of completion of a sanctioned open water swim.

11-12 (2K): National BB times in any event 400 meters or more (time entered in USA Swimming database or in results section of Florida Swimming web site); or, proof of completion of a sanctioned open water swim.

13-14 (5K): National BB time in any event 400 meters or more (time entered in USA Swimming database or in results section of Florida Swimming web site); or, proof of completion of a sanctioned open water swim.

15 & up (5K): National BB time in any event 400 meters or more (time entered in USA Swimming database or in results section of Florida Swimming web site); or, proof of completion of a sanctioned open water swim.

Disability Swimming:

Florida Swimming encourages the participation of USA Swimming members with disabilities in this meet. The swimmer's disability must meet the definition of a disability as outlined in USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations: "A permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life

activities." Swimmers with disabilities may compete, earn awards, and score points for their team in the same manner as able-bodied swimmers.

The coach or athletes are responsible for notifying the Referee of any accommodations that are required in accordance with USA-Swimming Rule 105.4.

Events:

Sunday

Check-in 6:30 a.m. next to Lynn Hall Memorial Park, on the beach just to the north.

Sunday Events:

13 & O 5K**

11 & 12 – 2K****

10 & U – 800 Meter***

** 13 & over 5K will swim all ages together by gender and scored separately by age groups, 13-14, 15-16, and Open.

***If a 10-year-old turning 11 before June 1st and wants to be considered for selection for the 11-12 Zone roster, the coach must contact Don Henshaw (gcst@comcast.net) for entry. Athletes will be scored in their 'new' age group.

****If a 12-year-old turning 13 before June 1st and wants to be considered for selection for the 13-14 Zone roster, the coach must contact Don Henshaw (gcst@comcast.net) for entry. Athletes will be scored in their 'new' age group.

Course:

5K/2K/800m

Multiple buoys will be placed on course to identify on course boundaries. The course will be a triangle course with 3 turns.

Pyramid buoys are 7 ft. in height; Round buoys are 4 ft in height.

Water depth - Varies

Conditions

Water temperatures should range from 72-78 degrees F

Air temperature range is 75-85 degrees F.

FL Awards:

Top eight medals for individual events for competing Florida Swimming athletes.

FL Team Awards:

FL Championship & FL Runner Up

Scoring:

Top 8 Finishers in each division Score

Individual events 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

Entry Format:

Hy-Tek Team Manager or Team Unify. Entries should be submitted to Don Henshaw (gcstfl@gmail.com)

Deadline/Fees:

Entry Fee: \$75 per swimmer

Entries must be received no later than Friday, April 3, 2026 at 5:00pm EST. Enclose check payable to Southwest Florida Swim Club, Inc. or pay at check-in.

Check-in: All swimmers must be checked-in before the pre-race meeting. Check-in will begin once the preceding race has started. GPS race chips will be issued to swimmers at check-in. Coaches should apply race number tattoos on their swimmers prior to arriving at the race. Numbers go on both arms and right shoulder.

Pre-Race Meetings:

Swimmers' Pre-Race meeting will be held for swimmers on the morning before the start of races on Sunday morning.

Swimmer briefings will be held 15 minutes prior to each race for race officials to review the course diagram with all the swimmers in that race.

Race Countdown: 30 minutes prior to each race, the announcer will count-down the start of the race in 5-minute intervals. 1-minute intervals will be announced for the last 5 minutes until the start of the race. Before each race, swimmers will be counted as they walk down to the start line. At the finish, each swimmer will be checked in as they exit the course, in accordance with USA Open Water Swimming Safety guidelines. Any swimmer missing this check in will be disqualified.

Start: The start will be an in-water start.

Finish: The finish will be a beach finish.

Time Limit: Swimmers who are unable to complete the course within 30 minutes of the first place finisher in their age group/gender may be picked up and taken off the course.

Protests: Must be filed in writing on the designated form with the Clerk of Course within 45 minutes from the time unofficial results are posted.

Escorts: Paddlers and escort boats will be spaced throughout the course under the supervision of the race committee to provide help to swimmers as needed. USA Swimming Rules will govern any interaction with escort crafts. Coaches and other non-credentialed persons will not be allowed on the course.

Race Committee: Consists of OW Referee, Independent Safety Monitor, Meet Director, Safety Officer, and three coaches appointed by the OW Referee.

Event Administration:

OW Referee: Mike Brewer

Meet Director: Don Henshaw, Mike Hammond (On Land Director - Lee Cty P & R)

Admin Official: Don Henshaw (gcstfl@gmail.com)

Independent Safety Officer: John Zavachy

Course Officer: John Zavachy

Rules:

Current USA Open Water Swimming Technical rules will govern. For the safety of the swimmers, fingernails and toenails must be clipped. Officials will check fingernail length prior to the events. Non-conformation will result in disqualification.

Current USA Swimming Rules, including Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy ("MAAPP"), will govern this meet.

No USA Registration will be allowed at the meet.

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.

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

Deck changing is prohibited.

Safe Sport:

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

Deck changes are prohibited. Restrooms will be on site.

Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, 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. Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Vice President of Program Operations.

All 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 MAAPP is a condition of participation in the conduct of this competition.

Timeline:

Sunday, April 12

6:30 a.m. Check In

7:15 – 8:00 am Beach open for warm-ups

8:15 am 5K * **Timeline for races will be determined after entries close**

(Heat start times TBD) 2K for 11 & 12 age group race start

(Heat start times TBD) 800M for 10 & Under age group race start

Medical Facility:

HealthPark Medical Center Emergency 9981 S Healthpark Dr, Ft. Myers, FL

Zone Selection:

This event will be a selection meet for the Florida Open Water Zone Team that will travel to the 2026 Southern Zone Open Water Championships held at League City, TX on April 24-26, 2026.

Qualifications will be based on the swimmer's age on the first date of the Zone Competition (April 24th).

FL Open Water Zones Selection:

- The 6 athletes in each age group and gender will be picked from the results of the 2026 US Open Water National Championships(26USOWN), 2026 US Open Water Junior Championships(26USOWJN), and 2026 Florida Open Water Championships(6).
- Priority One: Florida Swimming athletes in each gender and age group that are the first six (6) Florida Swimming athletes to finish the 10k at 26USOWN.
- Priority Two: If six (6) athletes were not chosen for each gender and age group using priority one, then the top four (4) Florida Swimming athletes in each gender and age group from 7.5k 26USOWJN will be eligible for the 2026 Florida Open Water Zone Team.
- Priority Three: If six (6) athletes were not chosen for each gender and age group using priority one & two, then the top six (6) Florida Swimming athletes in each gender and age group from the 5k 26USOWN, who were not already eligible for the 2026 Florida Open Water Zone Team, will be eligible for the 2026 Florida Open Water Zone Team.
- Priority Four: If six (6) athletes were not chosen for each gender and age group using priorities one-three, then the top six (6) Florida Swimming athletes in each gender and age group from the 5k 26USOWJN, who were not already eligible for the 2026 Florida Open Water Zone Team, will be eligible for the 2026 Florida Open Water Zone Team.
- Priority Five: If six (6) athletes were not chosen for each gender and age group using priorities one-four, then the remaining roster spots will be chosen based on the results for each gender and age group for each race (5k and 2k) from the 26FLOW.
- Priority Six: If six (6) athletes were not chosen for each gender and age group using priorities one-five, then the Open Water Chair and the Zone Coaching staff will choose athletes in each age group and gender based off of: 13 and over 1650y/1500m time, 11-12 1000y/800 meter time.

Applications must be completed electronically by Monday, April 13th by 8:00 p.m. Only applications received by the deadline will be considered.

Safety:

Safety is of paramount consideration during this competition. Safety provisions contained in the [USA Swimming Open Water Meet Directors Guidelines](#) will be strictly followed. All applicable USAS rules, regulations and safety requirements will be enforced for the well-being of the swimmers. USA Swimming, Inc., Florida Swimming, Lee County Parks and Rec, and GCST 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. Safety boats will be provided in accordance with the FL Swimming Open Water Championships Safety Plan. If the swimming conditions are not deemed safe, the meet will be rescheduled or canceled.

Safety Information

Safety Authority

Emergency Services will be provided by Lee County Lifeguards, Paramedics and Medical Staff on-site

Lee County Lifeguards will be located throughout the course and venue areas. AED's, First Aid kits, and Basic Life Support gear will be available on-site.

Race Operations will be manned by the Race Director, Administrative Referee, and LG Representative

The race is held within Ft. Myers Beach, FL

Communications Plan

Primary - There will be two separate radio networks using two different frequency plans. The radios are not interchangeable.

Communication across radio networks will be coordinated through Race Operations. Personnel using GCST VHF radios include the Race Director, Race Operations, Race Referees, Safety Officer, Course Officer, Spare vessels, Feed Station Referee, Administrative Referee, Turn Judges, and event announcers.

Staff will utilize their own radios, and will be in contact with Race Operations, Life Guard Supervisors, and On-Water Life Guard.

Secondary communications between all parties will be via cellular telephones. The following positions will be issued a phone number listing:

- Race Director
- Meet Referee
- Safety Officer
- Race Referees
- Course Officer
- LG Supervisors

Swimmer in Distress

Lee County Lifeguards will activate their water rescue protocols.

Any swimmer withdrawing from the race must report to the Officials Tent for identification.

Lifeguard will radio race-control with the competitor number and direct the swimmer to return to the start area.

A First Aid tent will be maintained on site in the Start/ Finish area.

Swimmers needing emergency medical care will be administered care in the nurse's station and if transportation needed by calling 911 for EMS transportation.

Swimmers requiring evacuation via ambulance will be transported to HealthPark Emergency approximately 6 miles away from Lynn Hall Memorial Park.

Missing Swimmer

All swimmers will be issued a "Race Ticket" with their competitor number during the registration process. This "Ticket" will be collected as the swimmers enter the water.

All swimmers will be required to provide a personal cell phone contact and a coach/handler cell phone contact at registration.

All swimmers will be videotaped during the final inspection/accounting prior to the start.

If a swimmer is reported missing and last seen in the water: Lee County Lifeguards will activate their underwater search and recovery protocol. Concurrently, meet operations will attempt contact with the coach/handler and swimmer via cell phone. Meet Operations will also review the start list, withdrawal list, site race tickets, and view the pre-race video tape to confirm the swimmer actually started the race. All swimmers are reminded before the race start that they must report to the nearest lifeguard if they withdraw from the race. All swimmers who depart from the water will be identified by their race number.

Support Vessels

The following vessels will be used:

- Boats
- Jet-skis
- Kayaks/Paddlecraft

All vessels Captains will attend a briefing by the Safety Officer.

Spare vessels will remain clear of the vessel exclusion zone unless summoned on to the course by race control.

Once the course has been set, the Course Officer vessel will remain clear of the vessel exclusion zone unless summoned to the course by the Referee or race control.

All official's boats will be equipped with VHF radios on the race control network.

Parameters for Abandoning the Race

Any one of the following individuals are empowered to independently order the race abandoned due to unsafe course or other conditions.

- Meet Referee
- Safety Officer
- Meet Director

If the race is to be abandoned, Race Control will relay via radio to all vessels to signal abandonment. Simultaneously, the Lee County Lifeguard Supervisor will signal via their radio net to signal abandonment. The abandonment signals will be:

From Officials Boats – 5 short blasts followed by one long blast.

From the Lifeguards – 5 short blasts of the whistle followed by one long blast.

Swimmer actions are to:

- * Discontinue swimming
- * Look for directions from the Officials or water safety personnel
- * Once safe on land, proceed to the start/fish area and check-in.

Contingency Plan

Due to venue restrictions, it is unlikely any change to the shape of the course will be possible.

If weather conditions require, the directions of swim (CW/ CCW) and the location of the start/finish structure may be changed.

If the race is abandoned, it will be postponed until later the same day. If the race must be abandoned for the entire day, the race will be cancelled.

2026 FL Open Water Championship - Summary of Fees/Release Form

Complete and email or mail this form along with entry fees to:

Attn: Don Henshaw 20560 Rookery Dr. Estero, FL 33928

gcstfl@gmail.com

(Checks payable to Southwest Florida Swim Club, Inc.)

| Team Name | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|-------|
| Coach | | | |
| Coach Phone | | | |
| Coach Email | | | |
| Team Address | | | |
| Item | Total Number | Cost per Swimmer | Total |
| Swimmer Entry Fee | | \$75.00 | |
| Total Fees Due | | | |

Waiver, Acknowledgement and Liability Release:

I, the undersigned coach or team representative, verify that all of the swimmers and coaches listed on the enclosed entry are registered with USA Swimming. I acknowledge that I am familiar with the Safety Rules of USA Swimming, Inc. and Florida Swimming, Inc. regarding warmup procedures and meet safety guidelines, and that I shall be responsible for the compliance of my swimmers with those rules during this meet. GCST, Lee County Parks and Rec, Florida Swimming, and USA Swimming, Inc., their agents, employees, and coaches shall be held free and harmless from any and all liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of illness or injury to anyone during the conduct of this meet. I also acknowledge that by entering this meet, I am granting permission for the names of any or all of my team's swimmers to be published on the internet in the form of Psych Sheets, Meet Results, or any other documents associated with the running of this meet.

| | |
|--|------|
| SIGNATURE (Coach or Club Representative) | CLUB |
| TITLE | DATE |

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Our Organization has teamed up with a local non-profit, Lee County Sports Housing, to offer discounted hotel accommodations for this event.

A team of local reservation specialists will share their knowledge of each hotel's amenities; also the best beaches, attractions, shopping, and restaurants.

Reservation specialists are available Monday through Friday, 9AM – 5PM Eastern Time by calling 239-541-1800.

Discounted rates are only available by calling the above number or reserving DIRECTLY through the event's housing website link:

Florida Open Water Championship - April 12,
2026: <https://groups.reservetravel.com/group.aspx?id=90875>

Please click the link to view accommodation choices/rates and reserve your lodging. Everyone is encouraged to reserve through this special housing link!

Lynn Hall
Memorial Park

T1 5k Buoy



T1 2k Buoy



T2 5k Buoy



T2 2k Buoy



1/2 buoy



1/2 Buoy



T4 Buoy



T3 Buoy

