



**Gulf Open Water All-Star Team Qualifying Event
Sunday, April 12th, 2026**

HOSTED BY RICE AQUATICS and AQUASTAR Swimming

Gulf Sanction number #: GU-LC-26-004

ENTRIES DUE TO MEET HOST (amyschauss@yahoo.com) BY 11:59 PM, Wednesday, April 1, 2026

LOCATION: Lake Longhorn Multisport Training Lake, 2391 Gun Range Rd. League City, TX 77573.
Lake Longhorn is a 49-acre freshwater lake and has 20 acres of green space surrounding the lake.

DIRECTIONS: From I-45 exit League City Parkway head east, turn right onto Tuscan Lakes Blvd. and then Turn left at Gun Range Rd., just past the Amazon Fulfillment warehouse. Gun Range Rd., empties into Lake Longhorn parking to the left.

MEET STAFF:

MEET REFEREE: Louis Davis louis.davis1776@gmail.com
ADMIN OFFICIAL: Amy Schauss, amyschauss@yahoo.com
MEET DIRECTOR: Francesco Romano
SAFETY MARSHALLS: Jay Ferguson
COACH(ES): James Tomerlin

TIME AND DATE:

Sunday, April 12, 2026, Meet Start Time – 9:30 AM

Warm-up for 13–18-year-old boys will begin 45 minutes prior to the start of the first race and all subsequent warmups will begin 45 min prior to the start of the women’s race and the 12 and under race.

All pre-race and race day information will be posted on the Gulf Swimming website by Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 6:00 pm and the host team will email each participating team for swimmers/coaches/parents to review prior to meet attendance.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be registered with USA Swimming to be accepted into this meet. Proof of eligibility must be provided with entry. Age as of April 24, 2026, shall determine the swimmer’s age for the Southern Zone Open Water Championships. Teams from other LSC’s are allowed to enter but are not eligible for Gulf Zone Team qualifying slots.

MEET FORMAT:

RULES: The current USA Swimming Open Water rules will govern the Meet as outline in Part Seven 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 arrangements for such supervision.*

This is an Open Water Lake swim.

- The 13 and over racecourse will be 1250 meters - 4 laps.
- The 12 and under racecourse will be 1250 meters - 2 laps.

There are two meet distances offered at this meet. The 5K race will have 13 and over men's and women's separate races and the 2.5K mile race is limited to 12 & under and will be staggered in male and female wave. Swimmers must enter at the age/distance they are eligible to qualify to attend the Southern Zone Open Water Meet.

ORDER OF EVENTS with Estimated Start Times:

17-18 (5 kilometers/ four loops around course) – Men start @ 9:30am, women start @ 11:00am.

15-16 (5 kilometers /four loops around course) – Men start @ 9:35am, women start @11:05am.

13-14 (5 kilometers /four loops around course) – Men start @ 9:40am, women start @11:10am.

11-12 (2.5 kilometers /two loops around course) – Men start @1:00pm, women start @ 1:05pm.

****Start times will not occur before posted times but may begin later based on finish time of other participants. The women's 5K will start at the discretion of meet host not before 11:00 am, but possibly prior to all men completing the 5K. The 12 and under 2.5 will start at the discretion of the meet host, but not prior to 1:00 pm, but possibly prior to all women completing the 5k.**

**** Race instructions will be given 15 minutes prior to the beginners of each race.**

OPEN WATER ALL STAR QUALIFIER INFORMATION:

The Gulf LSC will sponsor an Open Water All Star Team to compete at the USA Swimming Southern Zone Open Water Championships, to be held April 24-26, 2026, in League City, Texas.

There will be boys and girls 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18 age groups. Six athletes in each age group and gender will be eligible to compete in the event. The athlete's age as of April 24, 2026, will dictate the age group you will swim, in order to qualify at the Gulf Qualifier and the age group that you will compete in at Southern Zones.

The top 6 swimmers representing boys and girls in each age group that are members of GULF LSC will be automatic qualifiers. The 7th and 8th finishers in each age group will be considered 1st and 2nd alternates in case a top six finisher declines the All-Star Team slot.

SCORING: This meet will not be scored.

MEET DAY INFORMATION:

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:

WAIVERS - Lake Longhorn requires: All participants and spectators MUST sign a Lake Longhorn waiver of liability prior to coming on site. You will be asked by parking attendant to read the waiver and sign it when you arrive at the lake prior to parking.

There will be multiple port-a-lets between parking and the lakeside.

CHECK-IN – Please proceed to the check-in area to verify and confirm liability waiver has been signed prior to entry. A pre-race inspection of their fingernail and toenail check, receive your race card for entry into the race, mark body swimmer's race number on-site by meet personnel and assigned a timing chip to be placed on the ankle, just prior to the race.

** As a courtesy to the host, coaches should inform the clerk of course of swimmers not attending the meet.

WARM-UP PROCEDURES:

All swimmers will enter the starting dock at the designated warm up area based on age group/gender and be directed by lifeguard into the water off the starting dock, swim the course and exit the water one at a time onto the finish dock. Any swimmer who would like to warm up more can line back up at the starting dock for another loop.

Swimmers will be asked to walk from the warmup area to the competition area and are expected to arrive at the entrance competition at least 15 minutes prior to their assigned race start time.

MEET PROCEDURE:

Event Timing - Each swimmer will be assigned a timing chip to be placed on their ankle, just prior to race.

Start/Finish - Each Race will start in the water, from a dock entry and will have a timed group start. It will be swum in a counterclockwise direction with buoys staying on your left shoulder. The finish shall take place on the shore, just beyond the last turn/start buoy.

All swimmers must exit the lake and cross the finish line to activate timing chip stop time.

- USA Swimmers are not allowed to wear any device that will aid their speed.
- Athletes should wear brightly colored caps for this event.

Time Limits – Any swimmer(s) who causes a delay to start the next event may be asked to retire from the race at the discretion of the meet referee.

SAFETY PROCEDURES:

Safety is our primary consideration. For this reason, participants should be able to swim a mile (1650) swim in 25 minutes or faster to swim in this event.

This meet will be swum under all conditions except thunder and lightning. If there is hazardous weather in the area, we will delay the meet for 30 minutes per occurrence. We will make every attempt to swim all the races. There will be no entry fee refunds.

A. There is a mandatory pre-race briefing held 15 minutes before the start of each event to discuss the course, rules and safety procedures. Responsibility of athlete to attend briefing.

B. Swimmers must report to check-in area for pre-race inspection of their nails, Swimmers must be body marked with race numbers on upper arms and back. Swimmers will receive race cards for entry into the race once all check-in inspections are successfully completed.

C. Athletes should wear brightly colored caps for this event.

MEDICAL FACILITY:

Clear Creek Emergency Room – 281-4074887 @ 3725 E. League City Pkwy #150; approximately 3 miles way from event with an approximate transfer time of 7 minutes.

A medical area will be available to respond to any incidents. A certified Athletic Trainer will be on site to care for minor injuries, determine the severity of the situation and take the necessary action. Medical personnel have been requested to be on site to treat any swimmers, if necessary.

ACCOUNTING FOR SWIMMERS:

Meet volunteers and officials will track and guide the swimmers from the staging area to the meet start and meet finish. These volunteers will be taking the total number of swimmers entering the water and their race numbers. During the finish phase of the competition, the swimmers will exit from the lake and cross a finish line and have their finish time, race number and order of finish recorded. Safety Monitors will be positioned in both the warmup area and at the start/finish area of racecourse.

RESCUE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT:

Rescue personnel will be in kayaks positioned at each turn buoy and at the start and finish of the race. All rescue personnel will have lifesaving buoys throughout the race. Water ??? will also be available for emergency situations on the platforms. There will be safety stations set up on shore nearest to the turn buoys.

MEDICAL EVACUATION PLAN:

If a swimmer is struggling or needs assistance, they should swim to the nearest shoreline and wait for the safety staff to arrive. If unable to make it to the shore, the swimmer should wave their hand and stay in the same location, rescue personnel will come to their assistance. Swimmers will then be transported to the nearest shoreline or finish line by kayaking. The safety marshal will determine the severity of the situation and take the necessary action.

WEATHER EVACUATION PLAN:

If there is hazardous weather during a race, foghorns will be used to alert swimmers to exit the lake at the nearest point. Swimmers are to meet back at the registration area and proceed to their vehicles. Coaches or contact persons will be notified of any delays or cancellation through messaging with meet management and will be responsible for relaying this information to their athletes and families.

ENTRY INFORMATION:**ENTRY TIMES:**

Swimmers may enter at No Time (NT). Entry times are not needed.

**While there are no qualifying standards for this event, you should be able to swim a mile (1650) swim in 25 minutes or faster to swim in this event.

AGE: As of April 24, 2026

** Enter in age group as determined by Southern Zone Open Water Championship Rules**

NUMBER OF EVENTS: Each swimmer may enter a single event at this meet.

- Swimmers aged 10 (aging up to 11 for Zone Team eligibility) and 11-12 may swim the 2.5K M race only.
- Swimmers aged 12 (aging up to 13 for Zone Team Eligibility) and 13 & Over may swim the 5K M race only.

ENTRIES: All teams MUST submit their entries electronically via-email, using Hy-Tek Meet Manager & Team Manager computer software.

ENTRY DEADLINE: 11:59pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

EMAIL both: shuston@rice.edu and amyschauss@yahoo.com

Individual Event Entry Fee (per event): \$50.00

Swimmer Facility Surcharge Fee (per swimmer): \$10

Make entry fee checks payable to: RICE AQUATICS MASTERS

Mail entry fees with forms (POSTMARKED BY APRIL 3, 2026) to the address below:

Seth Huston - RICE AQUATICS

4312A Stanford St

Houston, TX 77006

ON-DECK ENTRIES: There will be no on-deck entries

ATHLETE ATTITUDE:

Athlete 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 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.

UNACCOMPANIED SWIMMERS:

Any swimmers 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 within the water. When unaccompanied by a member coach, it is the responsibility of the swimmer or the swimmer’s legal guardian to ensure compliance with the requirement. Athlete members who attend meet without a member coach should contact the Meet Referee for assistance with making arrangements for supervision.

SWIMMERS WITH DISABILITIES:

Coaches and/or swimmers are responsible for notifying the Meet Referee of any disability prior to the competition and for providing their own assistant or equipment. However, Coaches/Swimmers may contact the Meet Director at least two weeks in advance of the meet to allow us to understand the nature of any accommodation being requested.

SAFE SPORT**RULES AND SANCTIONS:**

The current USA Swimming and Gulf Swimming rules will apply. The meet will be held under the sanction of USA Swimming and Gulf Swimming. It is understood and agreed that USA Swimming and Gulf Swimming shall be free from any liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event. No entries can be accepted unless the entrant is a registered member of USA Swimming as provided in Article 302. On deck USA Swimming membership registration will not be permitted.

POOL DECK RESTRICTION:

Because of USA Swimming Insurance Safety Regulations, the swimming pool deck, during the operation of all Gulf Swimming sanctioned meets, is closed to all persons except swimmers, coaches, marshals, officials, meet personnel, and timers. All registered non-athletes are required to display their current USA Swimming registration card. If you are asked to leave the deck by any registered personnel, please do so. It is for your safety. The deck is defined as the fenced area surrounding the start and finish docks of the lake. Coaches and Officials must present their membership cards to be admitted. Coaches must supervise their swimmers

DECK CHANGES:

Deck Changes are prohibited. Deck Change definition – “changing, in whole or in part, into or out of a swimsuit when wearing just one suit in an area other than a permanent or temporary locker room, bathroom, changing room or other space designated for changing purposes”. This is a lake front venue of which there are only open-air changing areas.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES:

Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in the area behind the starting blocks, in changing areas, restrooms, showers or locker rooms. Violators may be reported to law enforcement or other governmental authorities and/or may be barred from the facility during the sanctioned event.

MAAP POLICY:

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.

DRONES:

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.

OTHER INFORMATION:

SWIMWEAR: All swimwear must comply with USA Swimming rules 701.4

MEET RESULTS:

Meet results will be posted on the Gulf Swimming Web Page within 2 days after the conclusion of the meet. A QR code will be posted on-site to access real-time results on race day.

HOSPITALITY: There will be light hospitality will be offered to coaches and officials.

CONCESSIONS:

There are no concessions offered at this meet. Swimmers are encouraged to bring filled water bottles and snacks – no glass containers allowed in the facility.

USA/GULF SWIMMING/ RICE AQUATICS AND AQUASTAR SWIMMING DISCLAIMER:

1. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and individuals with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.
2. USA Swimming, Inc., Gulf Swimming, RICE Aquatics and AQUASTAR Swimming cannot prevent you (or your child(ren)) from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in USA Swimming sanctioned events. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned event, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.
3. BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, YOU VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AND FOREVER RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS USA SWIMMING AND (GULF SWIMMING) EACH OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY LIABILITY OR CLAIMS INCLUDING

FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, DEATH, DISEASE OR PROPERTY LOSSESS, OR ANY OTHER LOSS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE AND GIVE UP ANY CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE TO SEEK DAMAGES, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, FORSEEN OR UNDFORSEEN, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Gulf Open Water All-Star Team Qualifying Event Sunday, April 12th, 2026

HOSTED BY RICE AQUATICS and AQUASTAR Swimming

OPEN WATER EVENTS:

<u>BOYS</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
1	17-18 5 km FREE	2
3	15-16 5 km FREE	4
5	13-14 5 km FREE	6
7	11-12 2.5 km FREE	8

LAKE LONGHORN RACECOURSE:





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ENTRY SUMMARY AND WAIVER

Please fill out the information requested below and submit with your payment. Payment and waiver must be received by the start of the meet. Make check payable to Rice Aquatics Masters and mail forms to: Seth Huston Rice Athletics/Swimming 4321A Stanford St., Houston TX 77006

Please check races to be entered:

Race Entry Fees

2500-meter race (USA Swimming) \$50 _____

5000-meter race (USA Swimming) \$50 _____

Swimmer Surcharge \$10 per swimmer _____

Total Due: _____

Name of Club _____ CODE _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Head Coach Email _____

Phone _____

Official Club Email _____

Coach _____

Coach _____

Coach _____

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

In consideration of being permitted to participate in this swim meet, and for other good and valuable considerations, the undersigned, for himself, his successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever discharges RICE Aquatics, AQUASTAR Swimming, GULF Swimming, and its Board of Directors, USA Swimming Inc., Lake Longhorn and each of their respective officers, agents, employees, members, successors, and any other persons in any way connected with this meet, from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, or causes of action of whatever kind of character arising out of or in connection with said event.

Further, the undersigned shall indemnify and hold harmless RICE Aquatics, AQUASTAR Swimming, and Gulf Swimming, USA Swimming Inc., Lake Longhorn and the officers, trustees, agents, employees, and members of the foregoing and all other persons in any way and claims arising out of or in connection with any injury, including death, or alleged injury of damage to property sustained or alleged to have sustained in connection with or to have arisen out of said event.

Signature of Club Official/Coach _____ **Date** _____



**Gulf Open Water All-Star Team Qualifying Event
Sunday, April 12th, 2026**

**HOSTED BY RICE AQUATICS and AQUASTAR Swimming
USA Swimming Membership Meet Entry Form**

Meet Name: Gulf Open Water All-Star Qualifying Event
Location: Lake Longhorn – 2391 Gun Range Rd., League City, Tx 77573
Date: April 12, 2026

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH ENTRY FORMS

The undersigned team representative certifies by his/her signature that all athletes participating for or entered by the team in this sanction swim meet are currently the undersigned coach or team representative, verify that all of the swimmers and coaches listed on the enclosed entry forms or entry disk are currently registered with USA Swimming. Additionally, I verify that the on-deck coaches have met the current certification requirements.

TEAM: _____ DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

No entrant will be permitted to compete unless the entrant is a member as provided in Article 302
Held under the sanction of USA Swimming