

LAKE MONSTERS HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Mission Valley Aquatics • Polson, Montana

Hosted by Flathead Lake Monsters (LAKE)

USA SWIMMING BLOCK PARTY — SANCTIONED COMPETITION

About the Block Party format. USA Swimming created Block Party meets to expand access to sanctioned competition through a shorter, lower-barrier, single-day format that is easier for clubs to staff and operate. This format directly addresses one of the challenges facing smaller programs: providing athletes meaningful, sanctioned racing opportunities without the personnel demands of a traditional large meet. Block Party meets are sanctioned directly by USA Swimming, are conducted under USA Swimming rules, MAAPP and applicable policy, and results are uploaded to SWIMS. The format also uses streamlined officiating requirements intended to help clubs create more competition opportunities.

MEET INFORMATION

Date	Saturday, October 17, 2026
Facility	Mission Valley Aquatics, 309 Ridgewater Dr., Polson, MT 59860
Pool	8-lane, 25-yard indoor pool with non-turbulent lane lines and starting platforms. Approximate depth is 12 feet at the starting end and 4 feet at the turn end. Elevation approximately 3,000 feet. The competition course has not been certified in accordance with USA Swimming Rule 104.2.2C(4).
Host	Flathead Lake Monsters (LAKE) / Mission Valley Aquatics
Meet Director	Pat Gilmartin
Meet Type	USA Swimming Block Party — timed finals
Eligibility	Open to invited USA Swimming clubs and unattached athletes who are current USA Swimming members in good standing. Flex and Seasonal members may participate consistent with USA Swimming Block Party rules.

SCHEDULE

Distance Session — 500 Freestyle: Open warm-up for the 500 Freestyle will begin no earlier than 7:30 a.m. The 500 Freestyle will be conducted as the opening distance session. The exact warm-up and start times will be confirmed after entries are received.

General Session: Team/general warm-ups are expected to begin approximately 8:30–9:00 a.m., following completion of the 500 Freestyle session. The first event of the general session will begin after the scheduled warm-up period. Final session timelines will be distributed to participating teams after entries close.

ENTRIES AND FEES

- Swimmers may enter up to four individual events, including the 500 Freestyle.
- Fees: \$12 swimmer surcharge; \$3 per individual event. Fees are non-refundable.
- Entries should be submitted by Hy-Tek/TeamUnify entry file to the meet host. Entry deadline and submission email will be provided with the final entry communication.
- Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of meet management, may be charged at double the applicable entry fee, and may not be reseeded.
- Signed waivers and payment must be received before competition.

COMPETITION FORMAT

This is a timed-finals meet. All individual events will be conducted as OPEN events without age-group divisions for seeding. For each listed event, Open Girls will swim first, seeded by entry time, followed by Open Boys, seeded by entry time. The 500 Freestyle will be held as a separate opening distance session; the remaining events will follow in the general session. Meet management reserves the right to combine heats within the same gender, use over-the-top starts, insert breaks, or make other reasonable adjustments to maintain an efficient and safe session. There will be no clerk of course.

OFFICIATING AND TIMING

This meet will be officiated under USA Swimming Block Party requirements. Block Party meets fall under the minimum officiating requirements applicable to dual, developmental and intrasquad meets, with a minimum of three officials. USA Swimming-certified officials are preferred; eligible USA Swimming non-athlete members certified by another recognized swimming governing body and current USA Swimming coaches may serve in officiating roles as permitted by the Block Party program. All coaches and officials serving under these provisions must be USA Swimming members in good standing.

Electronic timing will be used where available, with manual backup timing. Meet management may use manual timing for events as operationally appropriate. Swimmers in the 500 Freestyle should be prepared to provide a timer and lap counter.

WARM-UP, SAFETY AND DECK RULES

- USA Swimming and applicable Montana Swimming safety and warm-up procedures will be observed.
- Three-point entry is required during general warm-up except in designated sprint lanes. Diving is permitted only in designated lanes under coach supervision.
- Swimmers must be supervised by a USA Swimming member coach. Athletes who are not certified for racing starts must begin in the water as required by USA Swimming rules.
- Running, horseplay and glass containers are prohibited on deck. Deck changing is prohibited.
- Use of audio or visual recording devices, including cell phones, is prohibited in changing rooms, locker rooms and restrooms.
- Spectator walkways, emergency exits and access areas must remain clear at all times.
- Limited coach-supervised warm-up/cool-down space may be made available at the discretion of meet management/referee.

MAAPP / MEMBERSHIP / CONDUCT

All applicable USA Swimming rules, Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) requirements, membership requirements, and facility policies apply. Only properly credentialed individuals may be in restricted deck areas. By entering the meet, participants and clubs agree to comply with USA Swimming rules and all applicable policies governing sanctioned Block Party competition.

RESULTS AND TIMES

Results from this sanctioned USA Swimming Block Party competition will be uploaded to SWIMS. Under current USA Swimming Block Party policy, times are not eligible for OME selection (Speedo Sectionals and above) and are not eligible for National Age Group records. LSCs are directed to accept Block Party times for LSC championship entries through the existing time-override process when Online Meet Entry is used.

ORDER OF EVENTS - OPEN GIRLS, THEN OPEN BOYS

Event 1 is the opening distance session. Events 2–12 comprise the general session. Each event will run Open Girls first, followed by Open Boys; each gender will be seeded by entry time regardless of age.

Event	Event Name	Session
1	500 Freestyle	Distance Session
2	200 Breaststroke	General Session
3	100 Individual Medley	General Session
4	50 Butterfly	General Session
5	200 Freestyle	General Session
6	50 Backstroke	General Session
7	100 Butterfly	General Session
8	50 Breaststroke	General Session
9	200 Backstroke	General Session
10	50 Freestyle	General Session
11	100 Breaststroke	General Session
12	200 Butterfly	General Session

ADDITIONAL MEET INFORMATION

Parking and spectator space at Mission Valley Aquatics are limited; please follow posted facility directions. Hospitality and deck access will be provided as operationally appropriate. Questions, protests and meet-administration matters should be directed to meet management in accordance with USA Swimming rules. Final warm-up assignments, timelines, entry deadline, entry submission address, and any additional operational instructions will be distributed to participating teams.

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