



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**2011 YMCA Short Course, Masters & Diving National Swimming
Championships
Facility Update: 02/10/11**

In our effort to keep everyone informed about the upcoming National YMCA Swimming/Diving Championships at the Ft. Lauderdale Aquatic Complex (FLAC), we share the following overview regarding changes to the National 2011 Championships. Additional details will follow in the coming days and weeks leading up to the 2011 experience. Please visit www.ymcaswimminganddiving.org/2011SC for all information that will support your planning purposes.

Our priority is and always will be the safety of all participants, parents, coaches, volunteers and spectators attending YMCA sponsored activities. Although we've had to make concessions and reconfigure how the Championships will be run this year, the final plan meets the safety requirements established by Y-USA legal counsel, architects and insurance providers. Further, this plan allows us the best opportunity to mitigate the impact of related legal commitments made while maintaining the safety, quality and reputation that this event has established over the past many years. In advance, we appreciate the support you will give to making this another outstanding YMCA National Championship **FOR ALL**.

Summary of Changes to 2011 YMCA National Short Course Swimming Championships

- ★ Parents and friends attending the 2011 YMCA National Swimming Championships will encounter a different spectator experience than they have in prior years. Earlier this year, the Fort Lauderdale City Engineers discovered some structural deterioration and weaknesses in the grandstands and, in the interests of everyone's safety, the grandstands have been closed. As a result, spectator seating around the pool will be limited and our schedule of events, as well as tickets sales for the events, have been changed.
- ★ The preliminary events **have been split by gender** to help with crowd control and reduce congestion on the deck. With these changes, we request everyone's cooperation as we attempt to provide the best opportunity for parents and friends to see their swimmers compete. We would ask that everyone please practice the YMCA core values by being considerate of others, sharing tickets where possible, and generally leaving the area around the pool when your swimmer has finished swimming.

- Women will compete at 8:00 AM each day to allow for a consistent approach to the week's competition related to rest, consistent sleep patterns and meal consumption.
- Men will compete at 11:00 AM each day to allow for a consistent approach to the week's competition related to rest, consistent sleep patterns and meal consumption ** Time is tentative and could change to a later time after entries are received.
- **We will hold time trials** at approximately 1:30 PM. ** Time is tentative and could change to a later time after entries are received.
- Using last year's meet for comparison, no session is expected to be more than 2 ½ hours long.

IMPORTANT NOTE – Odd Heats will be run in the East Pool (Closest to the beach). Even Heats will be run in the West Pool (Closest to the Dive Well). This will ensure Pools ending at approximately the same time.

★ To partially make up for the loss of the grandstands, we have arranged three distinct areas for parents and friends to view the competition:

1. ***There will be bleacher seating on the north and west sides of the competition pools.*** 700 seats will be sold per session at a cost of \$5 per ticket. Tickets may only be purchased on a per-session basis; weekly passes will **not** be available this year. Due to the anticipated demand, there will **not** be a children's discount in the price of tickets. Also, due to our lack of plentiful seating, seat saving will NOT be permitted under any circumstances. When the gates open for spectators, everyone will be able to immediately sit wherever there is an open seat in the designated Spectator Section only.
 - No more than 700 deck bleacher tickets will be sold per session.
 - All those admitted to the deck area must hold their ticket on their person at all times while in the deck area. Tickets are transferable upon leaving the deck area. Sharing tickets off-deck is encouraged.
 - Those who have finished viewing the session and wish to share their ticket with another spectator waiting to gain admittance to that session may drop their ticket off at the ticket sales table. This is voluntary and no funds will be exchanged.
 - Due to our limited space, carry-in items will be limited to those that are worn or held on the lap of the ticketholder.
 - People sitting in the bleachers on the deck can anticipate coaches and officials walking in front of them at times. People in these seats must not enter the actual competition area or interfere with the officials as they conduct the meet. People are encouraged to remain seated so those behind them can also view the competition.
2. **A new area of seating for this meet will be our \$10 "Skybox" tickets which will allow you to view the meet from an enclosed, air conditioned exhibition space at the Hall of Fame. A total of 100 tickets** to this area will be sold per session. This viewing area is located on the second floor in the Hall of Fame building closest to the street. (From the pool you may have noticed the viewing window immediately adjacent to the scoreboard.) This area is large enough to allow for

combination viewing and mingling space for 100 people. Swimmers will not be permitted in the Skybox area. Spectators using our "Skybox" will not have access to paid deck bleacher seating.

3. There will be over 350 free bleacher seats, as well as abundant standing room, provided in the lawn area in between the rear Hall of Fame building and the dive well where **two Jumbo-tron (12' x 8') video screens** will be installed, one for the east pool and one for the west pool.

4. Seating for Athletes and Coaches

The entire roof of the men's and women's locker rooms on the south side of the pool complex is specifically designated for swimmers and coaches. Entrance to this area will be from diving tower to back stairs by the women's locker room. A tented area will be available. Team seating is on a daily first come first come basis throughout the complex. Teams will not be allowed to use portable seating on the upper deck or in behind the diving boards. No athletes in bleachers on the east or west end of the pool during preliminaries.

There will be additional seating for teams in the grassy area immediately in front of ISHOF. Swimmers wishing to move from areas west of competition to the 50 meter warm-up pool during competition are asked to travel outside the facility and back in at the front gate to avoid walking in front of the spectators

5 Coaches only will use the east bleachers of the pool complex during preliminaries. The area behind the blocks is off limits at all times to all except officials and those contestants getting ready to swim. Coaches may walk in front of the west bleachers but may not sit in the bleachers on the west end of the pool.

6 Three Officials Platforms to be placed at corners and middle of the pool. These will replace the bridge so that sightlines of the entire pool will be improved.

500 on deck bleacher tickets per session, as well as **the 100 "Skybox"** tickets per session will be sold online beginning Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 12:00 PM EST. No more than four tickets per session may be purchased by any one credit card. The remaining 200 bleacher seats will be sold online Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 12:00 PM EST. Thereafter, any bleacher or "Skybox" tickets not sold will be offered for sale at the meet.

★ A new '**Aqua Zone**', formerly known as 'Vendor Village' will be set up in the back parking lot of the ISHOF museum which will provide tents, tables and chairs, music, games, a mobile arcade and activities along with snack and apparel vendors, creating a celebration of YMCA Swimming for all participants.

- ★ We are working through safety and feasibility issues to continue our **Annual Parade of Athletes**, a unique feature of the meet experience. The parade will be conducted on Monday, just before the Athlete Welcome Party in the spectator Overflow area and Athlete Village, complete with video highlights and a more intimate setting for the athlete experience.
- ★ **Awards:** Staged in regular room, athletes paraded to awards stand which will be located behind the West Course Starting Blocks. All recipients will be photographed which will then be made available online at no charge.

This meet has historically been an example of a YMCA family event, unlike any other meet held in the world. We have done our very best to accommodate athletes, their parents and family members, coaches, officials and volunteers in making this a rewarding experience all will be pleased to be a part of. We appreciate your patience and understanding. With your support, we will make this the best "Y Nationals" experience **FOR ALL**.

Bob McDowell, Chair, National YMCA Competitive Advisory Committee

John Mendell, Short Course Meet Director

Claudia Multer, Masters Meet Director

Gary Cox, Diving Meet Director

Mike Leonard, Coaches Representative

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