DECEMBER 11-13, 2026

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

The tournament directors are Ann Stewart and Chris Salter. You can also contact Orlando Thunder Board President Brian Patrolia. **Tournament Line:** (407) 984-4564 ***(text or call)***

HELPFUL LINKS

- Digital Tournament Schedule - {https://otwp.zite.so/}
- How to Save Schedule as App - {https://bit.ly/beast_appvideo}
- Presale Ticket Purchase - {https://orlandothunderwaterpolo.ticketspice.com/beast-of-the-east-2026}
- Game On Live Studio Live Streaming - {https://gols.co/2026-beast-of-the-east/}

CHECKLIST FOR COACHES

To help keep games running on schedule, please complete the following requirements before and during the tournament.

BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT

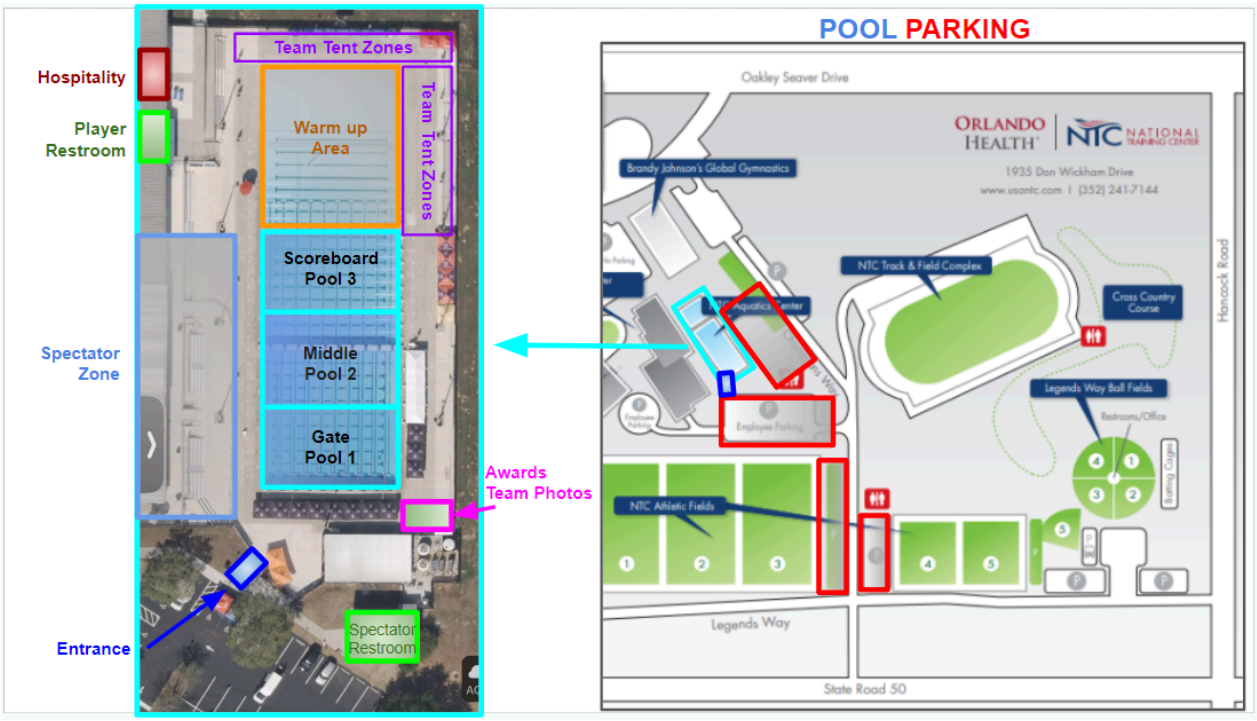
- ☐ **Submit your team rosters by Wednesday, December 9, at 12:00 PM (noon) for GOLS**
  *GOLS needs team rosters for broadcasting.
- ☐ Create a gate list of coaches for the Entry Gate. All coaches must be current USA Water Polo members and listed on the team's official USAWP roster. Email ahead of time, or drop the printed list off at the gate upon arrival. *This is required for gate entry!*
- ☐ Print enough copies of your official USAWP team score sheets.
- ☐ Print or have pictures on your phone of your team's USAWP membership ID cards.
- ☐ Review the tournament schedule, pool locations, assigned cap colors, and competition rules.
- ☐ Save the tournament app for schedules, scores, announcements, and updates.
- ☐ Share this document with your families.

BEFORE EVERY GAME

- [ ] **Deliver your printed roster AND USAWP Score Sheet to the score table during the game immediately preceding yours.**
- [ ] Have all athletes ready and lined up **in numerical cap order by the end of the third quarter of the preceding game** for referee roster verification.
- [ ] **Confirm your assigned cap color listed on the tournament app.**
- [ ] **Ensure your athletes have their caps on and are ready to begin at the scheduled game time.**
- [ ] **Do not allow athletes to enter the water until a lifeguard is on the stand.** (1st game of the day)

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Roster checks are REQUIRED before every game. Please be prepared and help us keep the tournament running on time!

NTC FACILITY OVERVIEW



POOL ENTRANCE

1925 Don Wickham Drive, Clermont, FL 34711 *The address gets you close to the pool.

The pool uses the South Gate Entrance, which is found off Champions Way.

From Hwy 50, turn onto Champions Way (North)
Coming from Orlando, it is a right turn
Coming from Gainesville, it is a left turn

We do have bleachers, but parents may want to bring a chair and shade.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are available to spectators and coaches outside the main pool gate. An additional spectator bathroom is inside the building on the scoreboard side.

The athletes-only restroom is located inside the building near the shallow end of the pool.

*We recommend that athletes arrive wearing their suits.

- **No deck changing is permitted!**
- **Cell phone use is prohibited in ALL restrooms.** *Please make all TikToks or Reels on deck!*

VOLUNTEERS

The Orlando Thunder Board of Directors will lead all volunteers and wear a staff T-shirt to identify them. If you need help, please ask one of these people.

ATHLETES AND COACHES

Every athlete and coach will receive a 'credential.' Please show this when you enter the facility. Teams must provide a list of their coaches to the front gate. Only athletes and coaches will be allowed to enter the pool area early. Roster counts will be verified before EACH GAME per USAWP procedure. Remember, if they are not on a USAWP roster, they will have to PAY to come in.

- **18U: Athletes must be attending high school to be eligible to play.**
- **IMPORTANT:** The NTC will open to teams 45 minutes prior to the first game. Time will be official once the schedule is finalized.
- **DO NOT GET IN THE POOL UNTIL A LIFEGUARD IS ON THE STAND!**
- **Deck changing is prohibited!**

Athlete-only restrooms are located on the Pool Deck attached to the NTC near the shallow end. NTC Locker Rooms are for members ONLY.

Teams may have a shade structure on deck, but it must be weighted down. There is also grassy space outside the pool where teams can put up a shade structure.

Each team is responsible for their own belongings. It is your responsibility to keep your items safe.

HOTEL BLOCKS

Conveniently located hotels with free breakfast and guaranteed rates. Limited availability!

Hampton Inn & Suites Clermont
2200 East Hwy 50
Clermont, FL 34711
T: 352.536.6600
Last day to book is Nov 14!
Booking Link

Home2 Suites by Hilton Clermont (Walking Distance)
1450 Champions Way
Clermont, FL 34711
T: 352.227.2900* Use group code 90B.
Last day to book is Nov 14!
Booking Link

SPECTATORS

PARKING

The NTC has plenty of free parking and lots of young athletes running about. **Please drive safely through parking areas!** Pool parking fills quickly, but there are plenty of surrounding grassy areas in which to park.

TICKETING

- **Children under the age of 5 are free.**
- **CASH** ticket prices at the gate are $30 for the tournament weekend or $15 per day.
- **CREDIT CARDS:** *Presale* tickets for $32 are available for purchase here (or use the QR code below).
- **CREDIT CARDS:** Will be accepted at the tournament with added processing fees ($35/tournament, $17/day).

Presale ticket purchase

SCAN ME

Team "Parents" and "Managers" must have a ticket to be on deck.

FOOD TRUCKS

Food trucks will be available at the tournament offering coffee, pizza, burgers, wraps, chicken, and more—there's something for everyone!

MERCHANDISE

Tournament shirts and water polo merchandise will be available at our ThunderShop during the event.

Personalized items—including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and coffee mugs—are available for pre-order now at https://bit.ly/beast_merch26

The pre-order deadline is November 30th. All pre-ordered items can be picked up at the ThunderShop during the tournament.



Jolyn Pop Up Shop will be available at the tournament on Saturday, 12/12.

Javier Laser Engraving: Have your tournament medal laser engraved on-site Sunday, 12/13.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

USAWP ROSTER CHECKS

Roster checks are REQUIRED. Only coaches listed on each team's official USA Water Polo roster will be admitted as part of the team.

- **Please bring a copy of your printed roster AND USA Water Polo Score Sheet to the score table during the game before yours.**
- Each team must provide a **separate copy of both documents** for **every scheduled game.**
- **These documents must be delivered to the scoring table before the roster check.**

Referees will verify printed rosters, including player photos, at the end of the 3rd quarter of the preceding game. **Teams must be ready and available for roster checks at that time.**

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality (food and beverages) will be provided for coaches and officials. The hospitality room will be located inside the NTC. Please use the door to the right of the locker rooms. Food trucks will be on site.

SAFETY & FACILITY GUIDELINES

The safety and well-being of all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators are a top priority. Please review the following guidelines with your teams before arriving at Beast of the East.

Pool & Facility Safety

Lifeguard Supervision: Athletes may not enter the water until a lifeguard is on duty and positioned on the stand.

Changing Areas: Deck changing is strictly prohibited. Athletes are encouraged to arrive in their swimsuits.

Restroom Access: Designated athlete-only restrooms are located on the pool deck near the shallow end. NTC locker rooms are reserved for facility members.

Photography & Recording: Photography, video recording, and cell phone use are prohibited in restrooms and changing areas.

Team Tents: Shade structures are permitted in designated areas and must be securely weighted.

Personal Belongings: Teams and individuals are responsible for securing their personal items.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & DELAYS

The National Training Center (NTC) is an outdoor facility. While December in Central Florida typically brings pleasant temperatures in the 70s, weather conditions can change quickly. We encourage all teams to come prepared for varying conditions, including sun exposure and occasional rain.

Weather Safety & Facility Access

In the event of lightning or severe weather, all participants must follow instructions from lifeguards, facility personnel, and tournament officials.

During weather-related interruptions, spectators and athletes must clear the pool deck and return to their vehicles as directed. Indoor shelter at the NTC will not be available to tournament attendees.

Coaches will be notified of weather-related delays and any changes to the competition schedule.

Schedule Adjustments

Every effort will be made to complete all scheduled games.

Depending on weather conditions and available competition time, games may be delayed, rescheduled, or canceled.

If the tournament falls behind schedule, running-clock procedures may be implemented in any quarter, and game times may be adjusted to help keep competition moving.

Refunds will not be issued for weather-related disruptions or cancellations.

Sun Protection & Athlete Preparation

Even in December, Florida sunshine can be strong. We encourage athletes to apply sunscreen well before entering the water to allow adequate absorption and minimize slippery skin during competition. Teams should also plan for hydration and changing outdoor conditions.

We appreciate your flexibility and cooperation as we work to provide a safe, enjoyable tournament experience for everyone.

ATHLETE PROTECTION & SAFESPORT

The safety and well-being of all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators are a top priority at Beast of the East.

All individuals present at a USA Water Polo event must abide by USA Water Polo's rules and policies, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). The MAAPP are mandatory safeguards designed to prevent abuse by regulating one-on-one interactions, communications, and settings involving minor athletes within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

All event participants are expected to review and follow the USA Water Polo MAAPP. Review the USA Water Polo MAAPP

REPORTING MISCONDUCT OR SAFETY CONCERNS

- To report emotional or physical misconduct or violations of the MAAPP, please email compliance@usawaterpolo.org and report@usawaterpolo.org.
- To report sexual misconduct, please report your concern by going to the SafeSport Website here or calling SafeSport at **833-587-7233**.
- Although 'day-of' participants (athlete substitutions) are not typically allowed in USAWP events, if the occasion should happen, the "18+ day-of" participant must review MAAPP information prior to participating.

Immediate Safety Concerns

Notify a lifeguard or tournament official immediately. **Call 911 in an emergency.**

In accordance with USA Water Polo and U.S. Center for SafeSport policies, all individuals present are expected to uphold a safe and abuse-free sport environment.

VOLUNTEER & EVENT STAFF REGISTRATION

All tournament volunteers, including gate/admission workers and score table staff, must complete the USAWP Sanctioned Event Volunteer Registration before beginning their assigned shifts.

COMPLETE USAWP VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Registration Instructions

- Enter **Beast of the East 2026** as the event name.
- Parents or guardians may complete the registration on behalf of minor volunteers.
- Review and acknowledge the MAAPP requirements included in the registration form.

All volunteers must follow applicable USAWP athlete safety policies throughout the event.

In accordance with USA Water Polo and U.S. Center for SafeSport policies, all individuals present are expected to uphold a safe and abuse-free environment.

SCHEDULE

The schedule will be tight! Please make sure that roster checks are completed by the 3rd quarter of the game prior, and your teams are ready to begin games on time.

Stay connected throughout Beast of the East with our **official tournament web app!** Access schedules, live score updates, pool assignments, cap colors, brackets, standings, and more, all in one convenient location.

OPEN THE TOURNAMENT APP

SCAN ME

Our app is updated in real time, so you can stay informed about game results, schedule changes, and tournament announcements.

FOLLOW YOUR TEAMS

Use the app's filters to select your team or division and quickly find the games and information that matter most to you. No more scrolling through the entire tournament schedule!

SAVE THE APP TO YOUR PHONE

You can save the tournament website directly to your phone's Home Screen for quick access, just like a regular app. No app store download required! Watch the tutorial video to learn how to save it as an app or follow the directions below:

iPhone (Safari)

1. Visit https://otwp.zite.so/
2. Tap the **Share** icon.
3. Select **Add to Home Screen**.
4. Tap **Add**.

Android (Chrome)

1. Visit https://otwp.zite.so/
2. Tap the **three-dot menu**.
3. Select **Add to Home screen** or **Install app**, depending on your device.
4. Follow the prompts to confirm.

IMPORTANT: Make sure to check the app regularly throughout the tournament for the latest schedules, results, and announcements.

DIVISIONS

Division	Ball Size	Cage
10U Mixed	Size 3	Junior Cages
12U Mixed	Size 3	Junior Cages
14U Boys and Girls	Size 4	Standard Cages
16U & 18U Girls	Size 4	Standard Cages
16U & 18U Boys	Size 5	Standard Cages

10U Mixed

- 12U Mixed
- 14U Girls
- 14U Boys
- 16U Boys
- 16U Girls
- 18U Boys
- 18U Girls

** Age cut-off for the tournament is Dec 14th, allowing athletes to play through their birthday weekend.*

TOURNAMENT RULES

- Cap colors are listed on the tournament schedule.
- White caps will start to the left of the table.
- Flying substitutions are not permitted.
- All 18U Athletes MUST still be enrolled in high school.
- Ejection time is 20 seconds, and the shot clock will reset to 30 seconds.
- Goalkeepers can switch caps to other numbers (not limited to 1 or 13).
- 12U rules will apply as stated in USAWP rules – NEW RULES APPLY.
- 6 min periods. Clock will run in the 3rd & 4th quarters if there is a lead of 10 or more and may not stop for timeouts/stoppages depending on schedule.
- Overtime: Pool play games that are tied at the end of the game will end in a will proceed directly to sudden victory (golden goal), played in 3-minute periods. No additional timeouts will be granted, but unused timeouts from regulation may carry over into sudden victory.
- Championship games (1st and 3rd place games) that end in a tie, will go into a shootout, no overtime.
- Timeouts: Each team is permitted one 20-second timeout and one full timeout per game.
- Referees will conduct roster checks before games (photo ID required). Teams need to be ready at the end of the 3rd quarter of the preceding game. Athletes should line up in numerical order for officials to verify their identification. Printed rosters and player identification are required.
- Brutality may result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Halftime will be 2 minutes, with 1-minute breaks between quarters.
- Forfeits in non-advancement play will be recorded as 5-0 for tie-breaker purposes.
- Goalkeepers may wear protective headgear.
- Medals and trophies will be handed out in the designated award area.
- After Championship games, coaches are asked to bring their teams to the award area for medals and team photos.
- By entering the tournament, each team agrees to complete all assigned games. Withdrawing before all scheduled games are played places an unfair burden on other teams that have paid for and committed to a full tournament experience. Teams that fail to complete their scheduled games may be fined and/or disqualified from participation in next year's event.

RUNNING CLOCK

In addition to inclement weather, if a team leads by more than 10 goals in the 2nd half, the clock may run. If the tournament is behind schedule, the clock will run. We want athletes to play, so if we stay on time, we will not run the clock.

Help us stay on time by having teams ready to go, with caps on at game time.

TIE BREAKERS

In the event of a tie in division standings, the following tiebreakers will be applied in order. In the event of more than 2 teams ending up in a tie, the rules will be applied to eliminate a team and then reapplied from the top to eliminate the next team until only 1 remains.

- **Head-to-Head:** Results of games played between the tied teams.
- **Fewest Goals Allowed:** The team allowing the fewest goals will receive the higher ranking (defense-focused).
- **Most Goals Scored:** The team scoring the most goals will receive the higher ranking.
- **Coin Flip:** If teams remain tied after the above criteria, a coin flip will determine the final ranking.

THANK YOU

On behalf of Orlando Thunder Water Polo, we sincerely thank all participating teams, coaches, athletes, families, officials, volunteers, and sponsors for being part of **Beast of the East 2026!**

We are excited to welcome teams from near and far for a weekend of competitive water polo, sportsmanship, and unforgettable memories. Your participation and support make this tournament possible, and we are grateful for the opportunity to bring our water polo community together.

We look forward to an incredible tournament. Best of luck to all teams, and LET'S RELEASE THE BEAST!

The Orlando Thunder Water Polo Board of Directors & Tournament Committee