



2024 SPEEDO GRAND CHALLENGE AND SPEEDO CLASSIC PRESENTED BY: FMC AQUATIC AND HINSDALE SWIM CLUB



WELCOME STATEMENT FROM BOTH TEAMS

Thank you for considering attending one, or both of these meets, the Speedo Grand Challenge and the Speedo Classic. We are very excited to bring both these successful meets together this year! We as FMC Aquatic (FMC) and Hinsdale Swim Club (HSC) pride ourselves in running quality events. Our coaches and parent's organizations care about the athletes, and hope to provide a positive experience for all. The level of competitiveness and enthusiasm should be elevated due to interest from quality teams in-and-out of state. Head Coaches Dave Krotiak (FMC) and Scott Erdman (HSC) have known each other for many years and share a connecting passion to elevate swimming through competition in Illinois and USA Swimming.

ABOUT BOTH MEETS

There are two separate Meet Packets/Files, Qualifying Times, Sanctions, and Entry Processes for the Speedo Grand Challenge and the Speedo Classic. We have created two separate meets to reduce confusion (and this is the way the meets were successfully run in 2023). Please find detailed descriptions of each of the meets below:

The Speedo Grand Challenge

- Meet Packet/File are located on the FMC Aquatic website ([link here](#)).
- This event is a full 3-day Senior-level meet in a Prelims/Finals format with Qualifying Times. The Time Standards for the meet are based on modified 2021-24 National Motivational Time Standards. The Qualifying Times are detailed in the Meet Packet.
- Bonus Events & Entry Process: Bonus events are permitted if a swimmer has at least one individual qualifying standard. Please make sure you "click the bonus entry box when submitting a bonus event".
- For Prelim/Finals events there will be A, B, C, and D Finals (9 swimmers each heat). The D Final will be 16 & U only.
- All events for this meet will be swum at the FMC Natatorium.
- We have made some small changes from last year, mostly related to speeding up the Qualifying Times for the 50/100/200/500 Frees slightly. This has been done to ensure reasonable Timelines/Breaks for all athletes and to maintain the excellent level of competition that we have seen the past few years.



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The Speedo Classic

- Meet Packet/File is located on the Hinsdale Swim Club website ([link here](#)).
- This event is a 2.25-day meet in a Prelims/Finals format for 10 & Under, 11-12, and 13-14 swimmers and a Timed Finals format for 8 & Under and Open swimmers.
- There are Qualifying Times for the meet that are detailed in the Meet Packet.
 - The 10 & Under, 11-12, 13-14 Qualifying Times are based on the 2021-24 National Motivational "BB" Time Standards.
 - The Open Qualifying Times are based on the 2021-24 National Motivational "B" Time Standards, giving swimmers that could not make the Speedo Grand Challenge a chance to compete.
 - There are no Qualifying Times for the 8 & Under swimmers.
- Bonus Events & Entry Process: Bonus events are permitted if a swimmer has at least one individual qualifying standard. Please make sure you "click the bonus entry box when submitting a bonus event".
- For Prelim/Finals events there will be an A Final for 10 & Unders and an A and B Final for 11-12 and 13-14 swimmers (10 swimmers each heat).
- All events will be swum at the Don Watson Aquatic Center at HCHS.
- We have made some small changes from last year mostly focused on getting swimmers back home with their families at a reasonable time to rest for the next day of competition. Evening start times have been moved up 15 minutes to assist with this goal.

ENTRIES AND INTEGRITY

FMC and HSC have elected not to use Online Meet Entry (OME) by USA Swimming for these meets, so we all are on the honor system. Please be conscientious when doing entries to do the right thing, this is deeply appreciated! Both meets are expected to close well before the deadline dates. We will notify teams immediately if you are closed out of one or both events. If you have questions please ask, no early entries will be accepted.

WARM-UPS

Speedo Grand Challenge: Currently, warm-ups for all sessions at the FMC Natatorium are expected to be open (not team assigned) with the last 25 minutes being specific warm-ups. More details are included in the Meet Packet and will be provided prior to and at the Coaches Meeting, Tuesday, 11/19. There will only be assigned warm-ups if deemed necessary and all attending teams will be notified.



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Speedo Classic: Warm-ups for the Speedo Classic will be open (not team assigned) on Friday evening and for the Saturday/Sunday evening Finals. The rest of the weekend, warm-ups will be assigned based on the number of swimmers for each team in each session. The warm-up time for the Friday evening and Saturday/Sunday evening Finals has been slightly reduced from last year (due to the earlier Meet Start Times to get swimmers/families home sooner), so please plan accordingly. Note that the 5 shallow-end lanes at the Don Watson Aquatic Center will be available for warm-up and cool-down for the majority of the time the meet is running in the competition course. More details will be provided prior to and at the Coaches Meeting, Wednesday, 11/20. (Note there are separate Coaches Meetings for each meet.)

VENUES & LOCATIONS

FMC Natatorium, 275 Plaza Drive, Westmont, IL

Don Watson Aquatic Center (Hinsdale Central High School), 5500 S Grant Street, Hinsdale, IL

Both the FMC Natatorium and the Don Watson Aquatic Center are newer facilities built in the last 4 years. Both were well thought-out in their designs, displaying in-depth consideration of the total experience in respect towards swimmers, coaches, officials, and spectators as a priority. The facilities both offer deep, fast pools; state-of-the-art air handling systems; bright lighting; excellent sound; and plenty of space on deck and balcony areas. FMC Natatorium has been host to several USA Swimming TYR Pro-Series Meets and the 2023 USA Swimming Winter Junior Nationals, and will continue to host high-level National and International Level meets. The Don Watson Aquatic Center is located in historic HCHS. Less than 5 miles separate the two facilities, 10 minutes travel time. A variety of hotels, restaurants, shopping, movie theaters, etc. are all in the immediate area. If you're flying in, we're only 30 minutes away from both O'Hare and Midway Airports.

OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

FMC Aquatic and Hinsdale Swim Club parents will have a great presence as we are looking forward towards these events. That being said, covering two separate locations with three pools may require additional help with Officiating and timing. Details on how to sign-up for timing will be posted shortly after entries are accepted. If you're an Official, please contact the Meet Referee for the meet your swimmer is participating in. The Speedo Grand Challenge Meet Referee (Amber Pareja) will be responsible for organizing all Officials at the FMC Natatorium. The Speedo Classic Meet Referee (Jim Bey) will be responsible for organizing all Sessions conducted at the Don Watson Aquatic Center.



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HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

There are many great options for hotels in Westmont, Oakbrook, Lombard, and the surrounding areas. There are 2 we would like to recommend: Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Hills Resort (1 mile from FMC Natatorium/5 miles from HCHS) and the Oakbrook Marriott (across from Oakbrook Mall, only 7-10 minutes away from FMC/HCHS. Rates and information will be posted soon.

Please let us know if you have any questions about either of these meets.

All the best life has to offer! FMC Aquatic/Hinsdale Swim Club