

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2026 Belgian Open Long Course Swimming Championships, the highlight of the Belgian swimming season. For three days, the pool will be buzzing with energy, competition and sporting ambition. 1

From **15 to 17 May 2026**, athletes will compete for the Belgian titles at the **Olympic Swimming Pool Wezenberg in Antwerp**. The event is organised by the **Royal Belgian Swimming Federation**, in collaboration with the Flemish Swimming Federation.

The Open Belgian Long Course Championships also count as qualification for the 2026 International Summer Championships.

These regulations contain all the practical information, competition conditions and guidelines for the 2026 Open Belgian Long Course Championships. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at obc@belswim.be.

The Royal Belgian Swimming Federation (RBSF) warmly welcomes all swimmers, coaches, clubs and supporters and looks forward to exciting competitions and strong performances.



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NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION FOUNDED
IN 1902

AFFILIATED with World Aquatics, European Aquatics and C.O.I.B.
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The location: Wezenberg Olympic Swimming Pool

The Wezenberg Olympic Swimming Centre has a 50-metre pool with eight competition lanes, making it the ideal venue for the Belgian Long Course Championships. Address: [Desguinlei 17/19, 2018 Antwerp](#)

Thanks to the presence of a second 50-metre top-level swimming pool, the complex can be flexibly arranged: one pool is set up as an official competition arena, while the other remains available for warming up, cooling down and recovery between races.



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Programme Open Belgian Long Course Championships

Start times*

Morning warm-up	07:30-08:45
Start of heats	09:00
Open Finals	
Afternoon warm-up	training pool from 3:00 p.m.
Start of open finals	5:00 p.m.

*These times are indicative and may be subject to change

Additional warm-up possible in the competition pool on Thursday evening, 14 May 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

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Program

Friday 15 May 2026

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AM				PM			
race number			Maximum number of series	competition number			maximum number of sets
1	100m butterfly	men	12	12	1500m freestyle	women	fast series
2	100m butterfly	women	12	F1	100m butterfly	men	A+B
3	200m backstroke	men	8	F2	100m butterfly	women	A+B
4	400m medley	women	4	F3	200m backstroke	men	A+B
5	100m breaststroke	men	12	F4	400m medley	women	A+B
6	50m breaststroke	women	12	F5	100m breaststroke	men	A+B
7	400m freestyle	men	4	F6	50m breaststroke	women	A+B
8	200m freestyle	women	8	F7	400m freestyle	men	A+B
9	50m freestyle	men	12	F8	200m freestyle	women	A+B
10	50m backstroke	women	12	F9	50m freestyle	men	A+B
11	4x100m medley	mixed		F10	50m backstroke	women	A+B
12	1500m freestyle	women	1	13	4x200m freestyle	men	
				14	4x200m freestyle	women	

Saturday 16 May 2026

AM				PM			
race number			Maximum number series	competition number			max. number sets
15	200m medley	women	8	F15	200m medley	women	A+B
16	100m freestyle	men	12	F16	100m freestyle	men	A+B
17	100m breaststroke	women	12	F17	100m breaststroke	women	A+B
18	200m butterfly	men	8	F18	200m butterfly	men	A+B
19	50m butterfly	women	12	F19	50m butterfly	women	A+B
20	50m breaststroke	men	12	F20	50m breaststroke	men	A+B
21	200m backstroke	women	8	F21	200m backstroke	women	A+B
22	50m backstroke	men	12	F22	50m backstroke	men	A+B
23	100m freestyle	women	12	F23	100m freestyle	women	A+B
24	400m medley	men	4	F24	400m medley	men	A+B
25	4x100m freestyle	mixed		26	800m freestyle	women	fast series
26	800m freestyle	women	1	27	800m freestyle	men	fast series
27	800m freestyle	men	1	28	4x100m freestyle	women	
				29	4x100m freestyle	men	

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Sunday, 17 May 2026

AM				PM			
race number			Maximum number series	competition number			max. number sets
30	200m freestyle	men	8	F30	200m freestyle	men	A+B
31	200m butterfly	women	8	F31	200m butterfly	women	A+B
32	200m breaststroke	men	8	F32	200m breaststroke	men	A+B
33	100m backstroke	women	12	F33	100m backstroke	women	A+B
34	50m butterfly	men	12	F34	50m butterfly	men	A+B
35	200m breaststroke	women	8	F35	200m breaststroke	women	A+B
36	100m backstroke	men	12	F36	100m backstroke	men	A+B
37	50m freestyle	women	12	F37	50m freestyle	women	A+B
38	200m medley	men	8	F38	200m medley	men	A+B
39	400m freestyle	women	4	F39	400m freestyle	women	A+B
40	1500m freestyle	men	1	40	1500m freestyle	men	fast series
				41	4x100m medley	women	
				42	4x100m medley	men	

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Conditions of participation

General

Only athletes who hold a licence from one of the regional federations or a federation recognised by World Aquatics on the closing date for registration may participate in the OBK long course 2026.

Individual distances

Participation at the OBC long course 2026 is possible if it is met at qualifying times. The period during which these qualifying times must be met runs from 1 January 2025 to 1 May 2026. Only times recorded in a 50-metre pool are valid for participation in the 2026 OBK long course.

Swimmers who achieve the A-limit time, are at registration assured of participation. Swimmers with a B-limit time can register, but their participation depends on the number of remaining places available after processing the registrations with A-limit time.

If necessary, the organisation will increase the maximum capacity to allow all registered A-limit swimmers to start.

Swimmers aged 16 and under (born in 2010 or later), as well as swimmers who do not have Belgian nationality and are not affiliated with one of the regional federations, may only participate in a programme number if they have achieved the A qualifying time.

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Finals

There are 2 finals:

- An Open A final: 8 best times from the heats
- B final: reserved for swimmers who have a competition licence with a Belgian club or for swimmers who have Belgian nationality.

Qualifying times

Competition number	Women		Men	
	A	B	A	B
50m freestyle	00:28.27	00:28.84	00:25.03	00:25.66
100m freestyle	01:01.56	01:02.58	00:54.60	00:55.68
200m freestyle	02:12.11	02:15.20	01:58.63	02:01.64
400m freestyle	04:30.52	04:39.84	04:12.47	04:19.08
800m freestyle	09:15.91	09:36.06	08:44.78	09:14.76
1500m freestyle	17:56.19	19:06.28	16:37.50	16:55.09
50m backstroke	00:32.64	00:33.69	00:29.33	00:30.31
100m backstroke	01:11.04	01:13.33	01:04.23	01:06.06
200m backstroke	02:30.82	02:35.14	02:18.64	02:22.34
50m breaststroke	00:36.40	00:37.99	00:31.59	00:33.03
100m breaststroke	01:20.75	01:24.18	01:10.64	01:13.94
200m breaststroke	02:51.88	03:00.27	02:35.27	02:42.45
50m butterfly	00:30.37	00:31.23	00:26.63	00:27.35
100m butterfly	01:09.73	01:12.45	00:59.82	01:02.48
200m butterfly	02:43.64	02:43.64 (same as A time)	02:19.07	02:30.56
200m medley	02:30.92	02:35.09	02:16.47	02:19.95
400m medley	05:17.88	05:32.05	04:47.96	04:56.83

A and B qualifying times

The qualifying times are determined based on the results achieved by Belgian swimmers in the period from 1 January 2024 to 1 May 2025. An A and B qualifying time is used for each distance, linked to the maximum capacity per distance:

- A qualifying time: set at 70% of the maximum capacity. For example: with a maximum capacity of 60 swimmers, the A qualifying time is set at around the 42nd fastest time.
- B-limit time: set at 130% of the maximum capacity. For example: with a maximum capacity of 60 swimmers, the B-limit time is set at around the 78th fastest time.

Relays

Each club may register a maximum of one relay team per category.
The rankings are determined based on times in the heats without finals (ranking by time).

Competition rules

The OBC long course 2026 will be swum under the rules of World Aquatics.
The international anti-doping rules (World Aquatics, WADA) apply. Upon request, swimmers must cooperate with representatives of the Flemish/French-speaking official anti-doping authority and be available for testing.

Medals and ceremonies

Individual competitions (except the 800m and 1500m freestyle)

These events will be swum in heats and finals. The rankings for these events will be determined based on times in the A finals. There will be no medals for the B finals.

The 800m and 1500m freestyle

For the 800m and 1500m freestyle, the rankings are based on times in the heats without finals (ranking by time).

Relays

For the relays, the rankings will be determined based on times in the heats without finals (rankings based on times).

Results

The results posted in the swimming pool are the only valid official results. It is the responsibility of the club representative to familiarise themselves with these official results. These results always state the deadline for complaints, comments and cancellations for finals.

Medals

The first three Belgian athletes in each individual event will receive a medal. Athletes of foreign

nationality will only receive a medal if they finish in the top 3 of the individual event. For each relay event, the RBSF will provide the necessary medals. The medals will only be awarded to Belgian clubs (only the podium with the top three relays from 'Belgian clubs'). The title of 'Belgian Champion' will be awarded to the first Belgian swimmer/club in the final. Medals will only be awarded if the swimmers have achieved the qualifying time and if the swimmers are present at the medal ceremony on time, unless they have a justified reason for their absence. This must be reported before the medal ceremony. The competition organisers will determine what constitutes a justified reason without appeal.

Call room

Each participant must report to the call room in good time before the start and remain there until instructed by the person in charge to proceed to the starting platform. Failure to report to or pass through the call room may result in exclusion. The call room is only accessible to participants who are expected there. Coaches may accompany swimmers to the call room. Once the swimmer has reported, he/she may no longer be accompanied by the coach or anyone else, unless he/she is a para-swimmer with exception code 'A' (assistance permitted).

Accreditations

Clubs are required to submit the name of their representative (ONE) and the name(s) of their coach(es) via TeamManager (see table below). The programmes and results will be available in PDF format on the RBSF website. Each participating club is entitled to the following number of free admission tickets for coaches and club representatives:

Number of swimmers	Delegate	Coaches
1 to 10	1	1
11 to 20	1	2
21 to 30	1	3
31 to 40	1	4
...

Delegates must report to the jury table every day (or when replacing someone). This must be done during the warm-up of their club's swimmers.

Registrations and cancellations

- Registrations must be sent exclusively by e-mail toentriesswimming@belswim.be, no later than 23:59 on 1 May 2026.

- Swimmers must be registered with their absolute best times, swum in a 50m pool between 1 January 2025 and 1 May 2026.
- All registration times must come from an official competition, swum in a 50m pool, and verified via Swimrankings. If there are registration times that cannot be verified via Swimrankings requires the link to the international database (e.g. swimcloud) to be provided.
- Split times are not accepted as entry times, with the exception of the time of the first swimmer in a non-mixed relay team.
- Entries must be made via the TeamManager (Splash) programme.
- When registering, each club must also provide the name and licence number of its representative. Representatives may be changed per half-day.
- Entries that do not meet the above conditions will not be accepted.
- Relay registrations (Relay only swimmers & reserves)
 - Please state the full name, licence number and relevant relay race number and register for swimmers who will only be participating in relay races and therefore not in individual races! Only to be entered in TeamManager (not by email) as – "Races" – "Edit relay registrations F5"
 - All swimmers who only swim relays, including any substitutes and reserves, must be registered by name on the closing date for registrations! Procedure to be entered in TeamManager (not by email) as – "Competitions" – "Relay registrations F3" - open team and enter name
 - Entries without times will not be accepted. The team time is either a time swum by the team or the sum of the individual swimmers' times. All times must have been swum between 1 January 2025 and 1 May 2026.

Important notes

- Lenex registration files must be created as follows: "BK-50M-name of the club".
- Within five days of their registration, clubs will receive a "receipt" (the only proof of receipt of your registrations) via the official e-mail address. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that this registration receipt is received within five days and that the registrations submitted are correct. Clubs with registrations that do not comply with the regulations will receive a message detailing the incorrect registrations.
- Clubs registering swimmers with dual nationality (BEL/other) must email a copy of the identity card of the swimmers concerned to toentriesswimming@belswim.be, together with the registration.
- After sending the registrations, all changes must be made by email to entriesswimming@belswim.be. A new Lenex file may be sent, but please always include

an explanation of the changes by email.

- Late registrations received after the registration deadline will not be accepted.
- The starting lists will be published on the RBSF website on Monday 5 May 2026.
- To avoid administrative costs, clubs will be given the opportunity to cancel one or more 'races/registrations' until Sunday 10/05/2026 at 23:59 by sending an email to entriesswimming@belswim.be.
- The final programme will be published on Monday 11 May 2026.

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Financial provisions

The registration fee

The registration fee is:

- Individual start (Belgian club): 12 euros
- Relays (Belgian club): 17 euros
- Individual start (foreign club): 17 euros
- Repayment (foreign club): 22 euros

The total amount due will be invoiced to the club (club invoice).

Administrative costs

- For cancellations submitted on time within the specified period, clubs will not pay any administrative costs, only the registration fee.
- Clubs do pay administrative costs:
 - If cancellations are made late or if a forfeit is given.
 - For failing to designate/provide the required number of officials

For the specific amounts, please refer to the document: Rates, administrative costs and registration fees.

Officials

A pre-selected and announced jury will be used. This jury will be selected by the National Swimming Committee (CNWZW).

The official must be registered for each full day in TeamManager (not by email) under – "Matches" – "Export registrations" – "Splash/lenex file" – "Officials".

An administrative fee will be charged for each shortage of mandatory officials. (see Rates BK-CB SWI 2026). The number of officials to be provided is determined by the registration closed by the clubs on 1/05/26, 23:59. Only if the registration of the swimmer(s) is cancelled by the RBSF can this have an impact on the number of officials to be provided

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officials.

The officials must report to the entrance no later than 08:00 (jury meeting at 08:15):

Number of swimmers	Officials
< 3 swimmers	0
3 to 9 swimmers	1
10 to 19 swimmers	2
20 to 29 swimmers	3
...	...