

Florida LMSC Sanctions & Top 10 Report

Anna Lea Matysek, October 18, 2026

New USMS Sanction Software

USMS launched a new sanction system on March 9. As I wrote in my April report, our meet directors had various issues with the new software that required assistance from USMS. I have been modifying the instructions I send to meet directors based on the types of problems they have experienced and hope that will help.

USMS Rules Changes for 2027

I have not seen official communication from USMS yet, but it is my understanding that a couple of rules proposals were approved at the USMS Annual Meeting in September that will affect swim meets.

SCY RELAY AGE GROUPS: One change is to the age groups for relays in Short Course Yards meets. The current rule, which has been in effect for many years, is that an SCY relay age group is determined by the age of the youngest swimmer on the relay team. The age groups are 18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, and so on in 10-year increments.

The rule approved in September changes the SCY relay age groups to the sum of the four ages of the relay team. This is the same as the current rule for relays in Short Course or Long Course Meters meets. The age groups are 72-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, and so on in 40- year increments.

The new relay age group rule is scheduled to take effect on June 1, 2027 (the start of the 2027-2028 SCY season). Preparation for this new rule will include USMS needing to update its meet results software. The Active Network's HyTek software (which is used to run most swim meets in the US) will also need to be updated.

BULKHEAD CONFIRMATION MEASUREMENTS: Another rules proposal that was approved relates to the current rule that requires that if a meet is held in a course that contains a moveable bulkhead at one or both ends of the course, the length of the course must be measured on the days of the meet (both before the first session and after every session) and those measurements submitted to the LMSC Top 10 Recorder, who then reviews and submits them to USMS.

I've been told that the revised rule will do away with the day-of-meet measurements, as long as the pool's initial, full-course measurements are on file with USMS. This will make things easier by reducing the paperwork required to be filled out by the meet directors after a meet. There are several meets in the Florida LMSC that are currently held in pools with bulkhead courses (three meets in Gainesville, and two meets in Sarasota).

Florida LMSC Meet Stipend Policy

A new meet stipend policy is in effect for 2026 meets. This policy was proposed and approved at the 2025 Florida LMSC Annual Meeting. Upon successful completion of a sanctioned meet, the LMSC sends a stipend to the meet host to cover the costs of financial gifts for the officials, assist with the costs of online meet entry, and any other meet expenses. Details of the policy are posted [in this document on the Florida LMSC website](#) and I am directing meet hosts to that document prior to approving their sanctions.

Meets in the Florida LMSC for 2026-27

The Southeast Zone website (<http://southeastzone.org>) contains a list of all meets scheduled in our zone as they become available. Below is a list of all of the USMS-sanctioned or USMS-recognized meets that have been held or scheduled in the Florida LMSC in 2026, plus some scheduled for 2027.

Date	Event Title	Course	Sanction Type
January 30-February 1, 2026	Rowdy Gaines Classic, Orlando 416 participants (414 USMS member, 2 foreigner)	SCM	Sanction
February 7, 2026	SwimRise Masters Invite, Jacksonville 146 participants (all USMS member, majority were College Club swimmers)	SCY	Sanction
February 7, 2026	Gulf Coast Senior Games, Sarasota 53 participants (41 USMS member, 12 nonmember)	SCY	Recognition
March 21-22, 2026	Bob Beach Championship Meet, St. Pete 103 participants (all USMS member)	SCY	Sanction
April 3-4, 2026	USMS Open Water National Championships (1-Mile and 5K), Sarasota 229 participants (all USMS member) <i>(Held in conjunction with the USA Swimming national OW champs)</i>	OW	Sanction
April 12, 2026	6th Annual Show Your SWAG Meet, Gainesville 75 participants (all USMS member)	SCY	Sanction
April 16-19, 2026	YMCA National Masters Meet, Sarasota 378 participants (335 USMS member, 43 nonmember)	SCY	Sanction
April 18-19, 2026	The Villages Senior Games 110 participants (49 USMS member, 61 nonmember)	SCY	Recognition
June 20-21, 2026	Bumpy Jones Classic, Sarasota 114 participants (all USMS member)	LCM	Sanction
July 11-12, 2026	St. Pete Masters LCM Championships, St. Pete 73 participants (71 USMS member, 2 foreigner)	LCM	Sanction
September 13, 2026	Gainesville Senior Games, Gainesville 79 participants (56 USMS member, 23 nonmember)	SCY	Recognition
September 19, 2026	2026 Rob Curry Pancake Pentathlon, Clermont 95 participants (all USMS member)	SCY	Sanction
October 18, 2026	4 th Annual SWAGtoberfest, Gainesville 99 participants (all USMS member)	SCY	Sanction
November 7, 2026	SwimRise Fall Festival, Jacksonville <i>currently open for entry</i>	SCY	Sanction
November 7-8, 2026	Shark Tank Meet, Sarasota <i>currently open for entry</i>	SCM	Sanction
December 5-6, 2026	Florida State Senior Games, Temple Terrace	SCY	Not yet recognized
January 29-31, 2027	Rowdy Gaines Classic 18, Orlando	SCM	Sanction
February 6, 2027	Gulf Coast Senior Games, Sarasota	SCY	Will be recognized
April 15-18, 2027	YMCA National Masters Meet, Sarasota	SCY	Will be recognized
May 22-23, 2027	Bumpy Jones Classic, Sarasota	LCM	Will be sanctioned