

Illini District Coaches and Contacts,

Welcome to the 2026 Illini District Championships! The YMCA of Springfield is happy to host all District competitors over the course of the weekend. The purpose of this letter is to go over some reminders for this weekend. We want everyone to know what is going on to help make sure all athletes have a fair chance to compete their best this weekend.

Thank you to Darren Moser of the Clinton YMCA for serving as our Meet Referee for the competitions this weekend and thank you to all of the Officials and volunteers over the course of this season.

Awards and 10 and Under Sessions

We have a total of 39 Banners to hand out of the course of the weekend. The trophies will be given out at the conclusion of the Sunday sessions. There are 1st through 3rd place banners for each age group (8U,10U,12U,14U,21U) and Gender. That is 30 banners. We have 1st through 3rd place overall for both Genders, 6 more banners. Then combined team banners for 1st through 3rd. We will announce and give out the 8U and 10U banners at the completion of the AM session on Sunday. Then the remainder of banners after the afternoon session on Sunday.

For the 10 and under sessions (look at the timeline on the [District Page](#)) there are breaks for awards. We will give out the 1st through 8th place medals and athletes will have an opportunity to get on the podium if they place top 8. We will announce and recognize those athletes. We will place the podium on the recreation pool deck this year given the number of 10U athletes and expected spectators at the meet. We will give athletes medals in the recreation pool area and get them to the podium when everyone is present.

Vendors

Fine Designs is our T-shirt vendor for the meet. They will be at the facility setting up on Friday and may begin selling that night as well. They will be here throughout the entire weekend. They will be set up in the South end of the Gym (by the closets).

The Finalist will be here as a swimming equipment, etc. vendor. They will also be on the south end of the gym throughout the weekend.

Spirit Award

There will be a vote, 1 vote per participating association, for the Spirit Award for the District Meet. As in the past associations may bring posters or decorate their team area appropriately. The YMCA of Springfield asks that only blue painters' tape (or similar product) be used on any walls in the gymnasium. We will provide tape should you not have any. Coaches will be able to vote via the QR Code that will be in the Hospitality Room.

Senior Recognition

At the conclusion of Warm Ups on Sunday Afternoon we will host a Graduating Senior Recognition ceremony on the pool deck for Senior athletes competing. If you have a graduating Senior that wishes to be recognized please [use this google form to submit that information](#) and a picture for the scoreboard. Coaches (or athletes) should fill out those forms online and Alex Totura (Head Coach of SPY) will review and make sure everything is as the swimmers wish. Historically we go in alphabetical order by association and group all athletes of the same team together. After Senior Recognition, the meet will begin after wiping away a few tears.

Other Facility Reminders

- We want everyone to be able to watch their athletes, so please be respectful in the stands. We ask that spectators leave the pool deck after their athlete has competed to allow for other spectators to come in and watch their athletes. There should be no camping in the stands throughout the meet. The areas behind the blocks on both ends and underneath the scoreboard are for athletes, officials, coaches, and workers. During the afternoon sessions there will be 4 additional bleachers in the recreation pool for viewing. We need to minimize athletes in the stands to make room for spectators.
- Coaches and Officials Hospitality will be available in the Child Watch Room at the far end of the fitness floor.
- The Fitness Floor will be in use by Springfield YMCA members, so we ask that all athletes and spectators stray away from that area.
- The Gym will be the crash area for all visiting teams for the meet. We will have announcements into the gym throughout the meet. There will be areas marked for teams and team names on the walls prior to your arrival.
- SPY will be crashing in the Multipurpose Room
- The recreation pool will be available for warm up and cool down throughout the sessions. I strongly discourage 8U/10U athletes from using the recreation pool during their sessions. Those sessions will run quickly and athletes in that pool may be unaware of announcements for their events.
- We will run a bullpen for 8U Athletes. That bullpen will take place on the Recreation Pool deck. Bullpen people may assist 10U athletes as well. The

goal is that all swimmers get to their races. See point about recreation pool above.

- Additionally, we do want athletes to be able to cheer for their teammates, however we want to keep the turn-end of the pool clear of athletes so all spectators have an opportunity to watch. There should also be no filming from the Start or Turn ends of the pool during the competition.
- No Spectators should be on the Scoreboard side of the pool.

Alex Totura

Head Coach - Springfield YMCA Typhoons