

Regulations Flanders Open Short Course 2026

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1. Introduction

The **Flanders Open Short Course 2026** is a centrally organized competition of the Flemish Swimming Federation (Zwemfed) and is open to swimmers of all age categories.

With this competition format, Zwemfed aims to offer a clear, attractive, and technically sound event for swimmers, with a focus on:

- Clearly defined age categories.
- A logical and development-oriented competition program.
- Professional organization.
- Clear rules for clubs, coaches, swimmers and officials.

The Flanders Open Short Course will take place from Friday, 6 November to Sunday, 8 November 2026.

The competition is recognized by World Aquatics and European Aquatics, giving the event an international profile. In addition, this competition will serve as a qualifying event for the World Championships Short Course, taking place from 1 to 6 December in Beijing, China.

The event is organized by the local club MOZKA, with the support of Zwemfed.

2. Location

Vita Den Uyt, Rode-Kruislaan 18, 2400 Mol

The competition will be held in a 25m pool with 8 competition lanes.

3. General Information

3.1 Session times

The session times for the full competition weekend are as follows.

- Morning session
 - Warm-up: 7.30 a.m.
 - Start of competition: 9.00 a.m.
- Afternoon session:
 - Warm-up: 2:00 p.m.
 - Start of competition: 3:30 p.m.

These times are indicative. Zwemfed reserves the right to adjust the session times if this is necessary for organizational reasons.

3.2 Competition Format

- Only individual events will be held.
- All events will be swum in a 25m pool.
- The competition will be organized in accordance with the regulations issued by World Aquatics, the Royal Belgian Swimming Federation (RBSF) and Zwemfed.

3.3 Doping

The international anti-doping regulations of World Aquatics and WADA apply. Swimmers must cooperate, upon request, with doping controls carried out by the competent official authorities. Minors may be assisted by their legal representative during such controls.

4. Conditions of Participation

4.1 General Conditions

Participation in the Flanders Open Short Course is limited to swimmers who:

- hold a valid competition license with a foreign club or federation affiliated with World Aquatics.
- have achieved an official qualifying time in a 25-metre or 50-metre pool.
- have achieved this time between 1 January 2025 and 19 October 2026.

4.2 No Entry Without Time

- Entries without time (NT) are not permitted.
- Split times will not be accepted.

4.3 Qualifying Times

Swimmers who do not hold a Zwemfed license may participate in the Flanders Open Short Course provided they have achieved an A qualifying time.

5. Program and sport-technical principles

5.1 Maximum Number of Entries per Swimmer

There is no limit on the number of events a swimmer may enter.

5.2 Heat Seeding

The heats, with the exception of the 800m and 1500m freestyle, will be seeded based on entry times, with seeded swimmers, in accordance with SW 3.1.1.

800m and 1500m freestyle

For both the 800m and 1500m freestyle, two heats will be included in the program.

Ten places in each distance event will be reserved for the swimmers with the fastest entry times who hold a Zwemfed license. The remaining six places will be allocated to the swimmers with the fastest entry times who do not hold a Zwemfed license.

5.3 Required Qualifying Times

Event	Women	Men
50 m freestyle	00:28,1	00:24,8
100 m freestyle	01:00,8	00:54,3
200 m freestyle	02:11,7	01:57,9
400 m freestyle	04:34,7	04:14,7
800 m freestyle	09:19,6	08:52,0
1500 m freestyle	18:13,5	16:38,7
50 m backstroke	00:32,4	00:29,0
100 m backstroke	01:09,0	01:02,5
200 m backstroke	02:27,9	02:15,1
50 m breaststroke	00:36,0	00:31,6
100 m breaststroke	01:18,5	01:09,5
200 m breaststroke	02:47,4	02:31,0
50 m butterfly	00:30,4	00:26,7
100 m butterfly	01:08,3	01:00,1
200 m butterfly	02:34,0	02:17,3
100 m medley	01:10,0	01:02,7
200 m medley	02:29,7	02:14,3
400 m medley	05:18,3	04:50,5

5.4 Finals

For events with heats and finals, two finals will be held:

- One open A Final.
- One B Final, exclusively for swimmers holding a Zwemfed license who have not qualified for the A Final.

The B Final will only be held if at least 3 swimmers participate in this final.

Swimmers who have not achieved the required qualifying time in the heats are not eligible to compete in a final.

Withdrawals from finals may only be submitted by the team representative to the referee. This must be done within 30 minutes after the publication of the results of the relevant event.

Once all withdrawals for an event have been processed, the final line-up will be announced.

For each final (A and B), four reserve swimmers will be designated. These reserves are subject to the same obligations as swimmers who have qualified for a final. If a reserve swimmer does not wish to participate in the final, the swimmer must also formally withdraw.



6. Program

Friday 6 November 2026							
AM				PM			
	event	M / W	#heats		event	M / W	finals
1	100 m butterfly	men	12	12	1500 m freestyle	women	fast heat
2	100 m butterfly	women	12	F1	100 m butterfly	men	A+B
3	200 m backstroke	men	8	F2	100 m butterfly	women	A+B
4	400 m medley	women	4	F3	200 m backstroke	men	A+B
5	100 m breaststroke	men	12	F4	400 m medley	women	A+B
6	50 m breaststroke	women	12	F5	100 m breaststroke	men	A+B
7	400 m freestyle	men	4	F6	50 m breaststroke	women	A+B
8	200 m freestyle	women	8	F7	400 m freestyle	men	A+B
9	50 m freestyle	men	12	F8	200 m freestyle	women	A+B
10	50 m backstroke	women	12	F9	50 m freestyle	men	A+B
11	100 m medley	men	12	F10	50 m backstroke	women	A+B
12	1500 m freestyle	women	1	F11	100 m medley	men	A+B

Saturday 7 November 2026							
AM				PM			
	event	M / W	#heats		event	M / W	finals
13	200 m medley	women	8	24	800 m freestyle	men	Fast heat
14	100 m freestyle	men	12	25	800 m freestyle	women	Fast heat
15	100 m breaststroke	women	12	F13	200 m medley	women	A+B
16	200 m butterfly	men	8	F14	100 m freestyle	men	A+B
17	50 m butterfly	women	12	F15	100 m breaststroke	women	A+B
18	50 m breaststroke	men	12	F16	200 m butterfly	men	A+B
19	200 m backstroke	women	8	F17	50 m butterfly	women	A+B
20	50 m backstroke	men	12	F18	50 m breaststroke	men	A+B
21	100 m freestyle	women	12	F19	200 m backstroke	women	A+B
22	400 m medley	men	4	F20	50 m backstroke	men	A+B
23	100 m medley	women	12	F21	100 m freestyle	women	A+B
24	800 m freestyle	men	1	F22	400 m medley	men	A+B
25	800 m freestyle	women	1	F23	100 m medley	women	A+B

Sunday 8 November 2026							
AM				PM			
	event	M / W	#heats		event	M / W	finals
26	200 m freestyle	men	8	36	1500 m freestyle	men	Fast heat
27	100 m backstroke	women	12	F26	200 m freestyle	men	A+B
28	200 m breaststroke	men	8	F27	100 m backstroke	women	A+B
29	200 m butterfly	women	8	F28	200 m breaststroke	men	A+B
30	50 m butterfly	men	12	F29	200 m butterfly	women	A+B
31	200 m breaststroke	women	8	F30	50 m butterfly	men	A+B
32	100 m backstroke	men	12	F31	200 m breaststroke	women	A+B
33	50 m freestyle	women	12	F32	100 m backstroke	men	A+B
34	200 m medley	men	8	F33	50 m freestyle	women	A+B
35	400 m freestyle	women	4	F34	200 m medley	men	A+B
36	1500 m freestyle	men	1	F35	400 m freestyle	women	A+B

For the 800m and 1500m freestyle events, the swimmers with the eight fastest entry times will qualify directly for the finals.

7. Capacity

7.1 General principle

The Flanders Open Short Course is organized according to a fixed and manageable session structure. The aim is to complete the competition within a reasonable timeframe.

7.2 Acceptance of Entries

Entries are based on the fastest official time achieved during the applicable qualifying period.

8. Medals and ceremony

As this competition is a Flemish Championship, medals will only be awarded to participants who are affiliated with a Flemish swimming club/organization.

9. Call room

- Each participant must report to the call room on time.
- The participant must remain in the call room until instructed by the person in charge that they may proceed to the starting area.
- Failure to report to the call room or to pass through the call room may result in disqualification from that event.
- The call room is accessible only to swimmers who are expected to be there at that time.
- Coaches and team representatives may accompany their swimmers as far as the call room. Once the swimmer has reported, no further assistance is permitted, except for para-swimmers with exemption code A (assistance permitted) or T (tapper).

10. Results, protests and Official Results

10.1 Official results

The results posted at the swimming venue are the only official results. Any results published online are for information purposes only.

10.2 Responsibility of the clubs

It is the responsibility of the club representative to monitor the official results and the applicable deadlines for submitting protests or comments.

10.3 Protests

The deadline for submitting protests or comments will be stated on the official results. Any protests must be handled in accordance with the applicable regulations of World Aquatics, the Royal Belgian Swimming Federation (RBSF) and Zwemfed.

11. Entries

11.1 Entry procedure

- Entries must be submitted via email to ofkb@zwemfed.be.
- Entry deadline: Thursday 22 October 2026 at 9.00 a.m.
- The entry submission must include either a Lenex file or an Excel file exported from Team Manager.

11.2 Entry times

- The entry time used is the fastest official time achieved in a 25m or 50m pool.
- Qualifying period: 1 January 2025 to 19 October 2026.
- Entries without time (NT) are not permitted.
- Split times are not accepted.

12. Publications and communication

The final program will be published on Wednesday 28 October 2026.

13. Financial provisions

13.1 Entry fee

Individual entry: €14

13.2 Invoicing

The total amount due will be invoiced by Zwemfed to the relevant club.

14. Team representatives

- Each club must appoint a **team representative**.
- The team representative must report to the **resolution desk** on each competition day, or whenever a replacement representative takes over.
- This must be done during the warm-up period for the swimmers from the relevant club.
- The team representative is the club's **official point of contact** for competition organization, results, protests and on-site communication.

15. Key dates and deadlines

- Thursday 22 October 2026 - 9.00 a.m.: Entry deadline;
- Wednesday 28 October 2026: Publication of the definitive program;
- Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November 2026: Flanders Open Short Course 2026.

16. Final provision

In all cases not covered by these regulations, Zwemfed will decide in accordance with the applicable regulations of World Aquatics, the Royal Belgian Swimming Federation (KBZB) and Zwemfed.