



Northumberland Festival of Sport

Open water challenge swims

Saturday 30th May 2026

Hello and welcome to the Northumberland Festival of Sport. The event team anticipate for this to be a fantastic weekend for you.

The Venue

The Visitor Centre
Druridge Bay Country Park
Morpeth
NE61 5BX
[Druridge Bay country Parks](#)

Car Parking

Car parking charges operates within the Country Parks, they are:
Up to 1 hour – free parking
Up to 2 hrs - £2.50
All day - £4.50

Please Park in the car parks provided. You can pay for parking online via phone or by cash at the machine on site.

Camping / Caravans / Motor Homes

The country parks allow camping, caravans and motor homes overnight stays.
Please book via the electronic booking system link here:
[Northumberland County Council - Druridge Bay Country Park & visitor centre.](#)

Or call the visitors centre on 01670 760968
or email: druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk

On Site Café - Refreshments

Hot and cold food/drinks will be available from the café within the Visitors Centre. The café will be open late on the festival of sport weekend.

Weekend Event Schedule

Thursday 28th May:

6.15pm – 7.30pm-Join us at our VO2Max QE2 lake open water swim training session. QE2 Country Park, Ashington NE63 9AT.
Info here: [Open water swimming training](#)

Saturday 30th May.

- 12.30pm: Registration opens for challenge swims.
- 1.30pm: 3km Challenge Swim start.
- 2pm: 1.5km & 750m Challenge Swim start.
- There will be a swim safety brief at the start line before the swim start.

Registration

Registration is at the Visitors Centre (Event HQ).
At Registration, all competitors will receive essential items for the race:

- Coloured Swim hat to be worn throughout the event.
- Timing chip, please wear around your ankle for the duration of the event to get your swim time.

Swim route

All Course Route maps are available to view or download on the event website: [Northumberland Open water Swim Challenges - VO2Max Racing Events](#)

The Challenge Swims

- 750m – 1 lap
- 1.5km – 2 laps
- 3k – 4 laps
- Anti-clockwise swim course keeping buoys to your left always.
- Swim start is at the end of the pontoon / Jetty.
- You will have plenty of time to warm up before you start & there is a warm up area available.
- The wearing of a Wetsuit is advised.
- Exit the lake in front of race HQ, large flags on the lakeside will guide you safely to the exit point.
- Water safety cover is provided, and swim exit marshals are located around the lakeside on the swim route at nearest point to the side of the lake.
- If for whatever reason you happen to get into any difficulties during the swim section, please roll onto your back, raise one arm into the air, and you will be attended to by the safety crew.



- Swimmers will finish their event after Exiting the Lake and crossing the finish timing line at the end of their swim.
- It is the competitor's responsibility to know the course and count their own laps.

Finish Line

Once you have finished your event, Collect your finishers medal.

The flag backdrop will be available at the finish for you to take your photo.

Event Photos

Aptitude media will attend this event. All photos will be free to download. We will send the download link out to all competitors after the event.

If you have your own event photos, Please feel free to share your event photos on our social media pages [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#).

Prize Ceremony

This will be held outside Race HQ.

Podium medals will be handed out in the 750m-1.5k -& 3k for 1st-2nd-3rd

Female / Male.

Medals must be collected on the day. We cannot post Medals out after the event.

Timing & Results

This will be undertaken by Timing Up North Ltd. Results will be live throughout the event and provisional results will be posted on their website following the event. [Timing up North Results](#)

For any timing result queries, amendments, or clarifications, please email Mark at:

info@timingupnorthltd.co.uk

Previous Years Results

[2021](#) [2022](#) [2023](#) [2024](#) [2025](#)

Medical Cover & Conditions

Medical cover will be available on site. If you have any medical conditions, you should have declared this on your entry, if you have any medical issues during the event, the medical team will check first before any emergency treatment is performed.

Get in Contact.

For any queries, please Email.

info@vo2maxracingevents.co.uk