

## 2026 ORCA Awards Nominees

We are proud to announce the nominees for the 2026 ORCA Awards—recognizing outstanding athletes and coaches from across the country who are making a meaningful impact on the sport of swimming.

These individuals represent excellence not only in performance, but in leadership, dedication, and the way they elevate those around them. We are honored to celebrate each of them this April in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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## Coach of the Year

### Division I

- Herbie Behm — Arizona State
- Bob Bowman — Texas
- Todd DeSorbo — Virginia
- Dave Durden — California
- Anthony Nesty — Florida

### Division II

- Brent Noble — Indianapolis (UIndy)
- Ben Hewitt — Nova Southeastern
- Jimi Kiner — Tampa
- Brian Reynolds — Drury

### Division III

- Jess Book — Kenyon
- Jon Howell — Emory
- Trevor Miele — NYU
- Gregg Parini — Denison

### NAIA

- Caesar Asadi — St. Thomas
- Adam Epstein — Keiser
- Rob Zamorano — SCAD Savannah

## **NJCAA**

- Sion Brinn — Indian River State College
  - Sandra Bullock — Southwestern Oregon
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# **Special Coaching Awards**

## **Tom Himes Award – Age Group Coach of the Year**

- Amy Kilpatrick — Rochester Swim Club
- David Schreck — NOVA of Virginia
- Gabriela Sofia — Highlands Ranch
- Jim Skirboll — Racer X
- Ben Sutton — Fort Wayne Swim Team

## **Mark Schubert Award – Senior Club Coach of the Year**

- Paul Donovan — Jersey Wahoos
- Kyle Goller — Laker Swim
- Steve Morsili — Pleasanton Seahawks
- Chris Plumb — Carmel Swim Club
- Kevin Zacher — Santa Clara Swim Club

## **Mike Leonard Award – YMCA Coach of the Year**

- Dave Anderson — Schroeder YMCA
  - Jack Caucino — YMCA of the Jersey Shore Mammoth
  - Mike Gobrecht — WSY
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# Open Water Swimmer of the Year (18 & Under)

## Male

- Gabriel Mantuefel — Sandpipers
- Colin Jacobs — Sarasota Sharks
- Eli Rolfsen — Greater Kalamazoo Crocs
- Max Spory — American Energy Swim Club

## Female

- Brinkleigh Hanson — St. Pete Aquatics
  - Daisy Collins — NCAC
  - Lolly Milbaum — Sarasota Sharks
  - Alexandra Siegel — Long Island Aquatic Club
  - Riley Christensen — Sandpipers
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# USA Swimming Age Group Swimmer of the Year

## Senior Boys

- Luka Mijatovic — Pleasanton Seahawks
- Baylor Stanton — Gwinnett Aquatics
- Ty Thomas — River City Aquatics

## 15–16 Boys

- Charlie Cancelmo — Seattle Metropolitan Aquatic Club
- Syunta Lee — West Coast Aquatics
- David Sammons — SwimMAC

## 14 Boys

- Joey Eaddy — Revolution Aquatic Club
- Reef McMeeking — Laker Swim
- Jayden Tsai — Laker Swim

## 13 Boys

- Jude Burkhart — NBAC
- Jacob Garcia Villar — Texas Ford Aquatics
- Ayden Tan — San Ramon Valley Aquatics

## 12 Boys

- Noah Arthiaba — Bellevue Club Swim Team
- Alex Kirsling — Nitro Swimming
- Aaron Tong — Shawmut Aquatic Club

## 11 Boys

- Eaton Heng — Xtreme Swim Club
- Jasper Ye — Aquazot Swim Club
- Ethan Zhang — Sarasota Tsunami

## 10 Boys

- Luca Ferrera — St. Pete Aquatics
- Nico Lahre — Westchester Marlins

## 9 Boys

- Gabriel Brown — Fishers Area Swim Team
  - Robert Legg — Pleasanton Seahawks
  - Rubix Szolusha — Santa Clara Swim Club
  - Isen Wolfe — St. Pete Aquatics
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## **Senior Girls**

- Charlotte Crush — Lakeside Swim Team
- Kayla Han — La Mirada Armada
- Sydney Schoeck — CSP Tideriders

## **15–16 Girls**

- Audrey Derivaux — Jersey Wahoos
- Rylee Erisman — Windermere Lakers  
Sadie Buckley — NCAP

## **14 Girls**

- Lexi D'Amico — Razorback Aquatic Club
- Adalyn Lee — Brea Aquatics
- Finola Whelehan — TAC Titans

## **13 Girls**

- Grace Gannon — Fishers Area Swimming Tigers
- Willa Kulp — NBAC
- Lauren Lonsdale — Sacramento Aquatic Club

## **12 Girls**

- Penelope Chao — North Carolina Aquatics Club
- Collins Kim — SwimMAC
- Sara Young — Rockville Montgomery Swim Club

## **11 Girls**

- Shelby Bigby — First Colony Swim Team
- Annabelle Hayes — Irvine Novaquatics
- Yara Tsybulina — NOVA of Virginia

## **10 Girls**

- Elizabeth Burke — Madison Aquatic Club
- Erica Wang — Lakeside Aquatic Club

## 9 Girls

- Reign Belzer — Florida Atlantic Aquatics
- Olivia Covey — Bellevue Club Swim Team
- Addie Farrier — Clearwater Aquatic Team
- Elizabeth (Liza) Takahashi — Hawaii Swimming Club



## Specialty Awards

**\*These nominees will be contacted individually**

**Heart of the Sport Award**

**ISCA Coach of the Year**

**Brent Rutemiller Award**

**Heart of the Sport Award**

**Official of the Year Award**

**Comeback of the Year Award**

**Family Dedication Award**

**Lifetime Giving Award**

**Best Team Social Media Presence**



## Event Details

**Location:** Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront

**Dates:** April 17–18, 2026

Nominees will be recognized throughout the weekend, culminating in the ORCA Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening.

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 **Join Us**

We look forward to celebrating these incredible athletes and coaches and bringing together the swimming community for a weekend of connection, recognition, and inspiration.