

June 16th, 2023

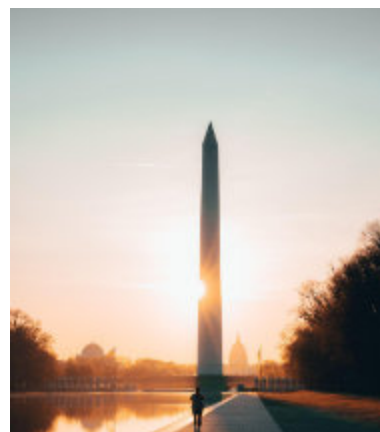
BID PACKAGE



2025 International Gayand Lesbian Aquatics Championships



Washington, DC- 2025



INTRODUCTION

Dear IGLA Board Members,

The District of Columbia Aquatic Club (DCAC) and the Washington DSeahorses Water Polo Team are excited to formally present this bid to host the 2025 International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championship (IGLA 2025), from May 31st to June 6th, 2025 in Washington D.C..

IGLA 2025 in Washington D.C. will not only be an amazing venue for aquatics competitions and comradery, but will also provide participants with the opportunity to be a part of World Pride 2025, occurring May 23rd through June 8th.. IGLA 2025 participants will therefore be able to enjoy the World Pride Festivities both before and after the competition.

2025 will also be a special milestone for the local LGBTQIA+ community. Not only will 2025 mark the 40th Anniversary of the DSeahorses, it also will be the 50th year of Pride celebrations in the District. In addition to all the festivities World Pride has to offer, IGLA 2025 will take place in conjunction with a larger, multi-sports LGBTQIA+ sports festival. The current plan calls for IGLA 2025 to anchor this larger sports festival which it is hoped will feature more than two dozen sporting disciplines.

In a time when some state and local governments are actively passing laws and ordinances to curtail and infringe upon human rights, it is truly refreshing and relieving to live in communities that value and protect LGBTQIA+ rights. Both Washington D.C. and Arlington County, VA have a long and strong history of standing by and advocating for the rights of our community. As an example, D.C. has established the first government-funded campaign focused exclusively on the betterment of transgender and gender non-conforming people. The program aims to increase understanding and respect for the transgender and gender non-conforming communities, decrease incidents of discrimination, and increase reporting of discrimination. While across the Potomac, Arlington County also has several programs assisting the LGBTQIA+ community, one such program provides a supportive environment for LGBTQIA+ youth through mentorship and social support groups. These examples are only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the support that D.C. and Arlington have shown to our community and just a few reasons why DCAC and the DSeahorses are eager to partner with them in bringing IGLA 2025 to the area.

Although IGLA 2025 in Washington D.C. will partner with World Pride, the District of Columbia, Arlington County, and various LGBTQIA+ organizations to ensure IGLA 2025 is a success, at the heart of our bid are DCAC and the DSeahorses, two IGLA member organizations that have participated in the IGLA Championships and been a part of the IGLA community for well over 35 years. Our experience and understanding of what makes the IGLA Championships such a magical event will ensure that all of you have an amazing experience in Washington D.C. in 2025.

Thank you in advance for this opportunity to bid on IGLA 2025. Our members and partners are excited to host the competition in Washington D.C. and Arlington County, VA in conjunction with World Pride 2025. We eagerly await your decision, so we can proceed ahead with the immense planning and coordination needed to provide a fun, competitive, and memorable experience to IGLA participants.

WHO WE ARE



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AQUATICS CLUB

With close to 200 swimmers, DCAC ranks as one of the largest U.S. Masters Swimming teams in the Potomac Valley region and is one of the largest (primarily, but not exclusively) LGBTQ teams in the United States. Our membership includes first time swimmers who have never competed in swim meets or swam on a team to experienced competitive swimmers, including Olympians, FINA Masters World Record holders, individual and relay All-Americans, and USMS individual and relay Top Ten swimmers.

DCAC has been a member of IGLA for over 30 years, supported IGLA events and championships and has had many members serve on the IGLA Board. DCAC, in coordination with the DSeahorses, has successfully hosted IGLA Championships twice, once in 1999 and again in 2008. DCAC has also hosted many USMS pool and open water swimming competitions. We have a proven track record of hosting the event but more importantly we have existing partnerships to a diverse set of community stakeholders such as local governments and associated departments, as well as LGBTQIA+ organizations and of course our bid partners the DSeahorses.



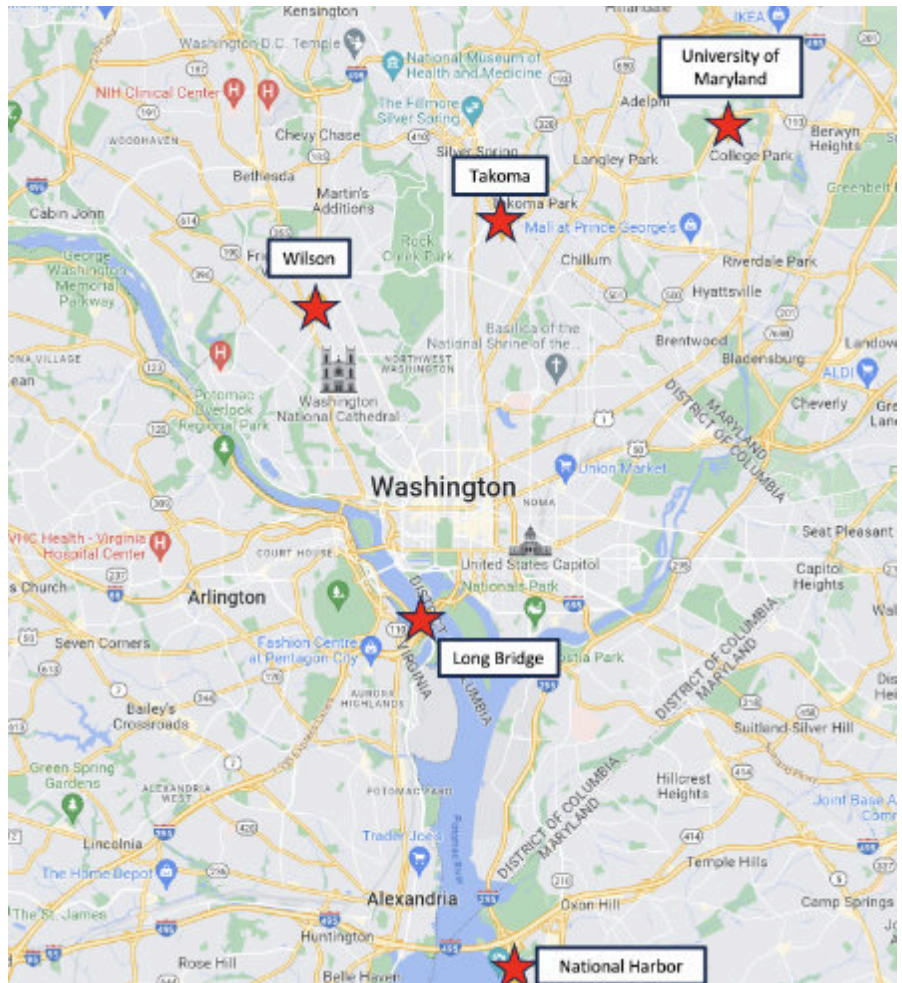
WASHINGTON DSEAHORSES

Founded in 1985, the Washington DSeahorses is the longest continuously operating water polo team in the U.S. openly welcoming to individuals who identify as LGBTQ+. Our team was built upon the foundation of acceptance which we extend to players of all sexual orientations, skill level, and backgrounds. Our roster boasts players who range in skill from former Division 1 college players to people who had not touched a water polo ball prior to joining. Our culture of acceptance goes hand in hand with the DSeahorses' focus on growing our players not only as athletes but as people. One of the ways in which we encourage our players to grow is by attending tournaments like IGLA Championships. We are fortunate to have hosted IGLA twice before with our fellow aquatic athletes of the D.C. Aquatics Club. In addition to IGLA, we have hosted our annual fall tournament for the last 18 years. Our nearly two decades of experience provide us with the foundation, knowledge, and relationships required to host an event as large as IGLA.

FACILITIES & LOGISTICS:

IGLA 2025 Washington D.C. is currently working to secure five facilities to host the 2025 IGLA Championships, this includes an open-water venue and a back-up pool option. The following venues are under consideration:

- **Long Bridge Aquatic Center located in Arlington County, Virginia.** This Arlington County owned and operated facility will host the swimming, artistic swimming, and diving competitions.
- **Takoma Aquatic Center located in Washington D.C.** This D.C. Department of Parks & Recreation facility will co-host the water polo competition.
- **Wilson Aquatic Center located in Washington D.C..** This D.C. Department of Parks & Recreation facility will co-host the water polo competition.

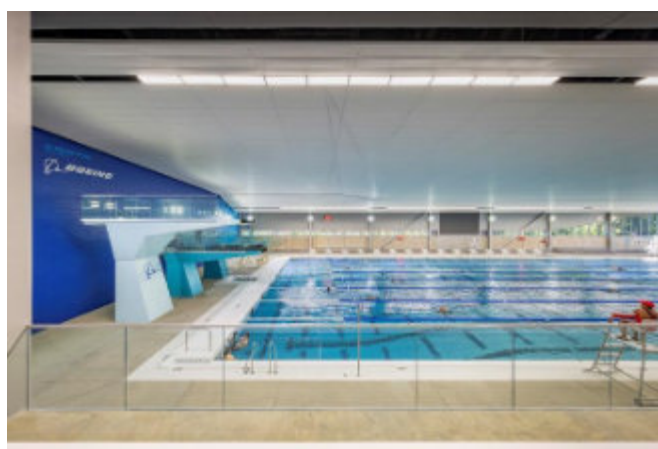
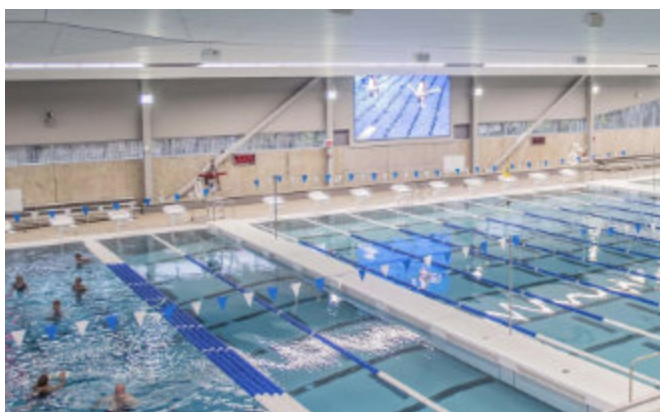
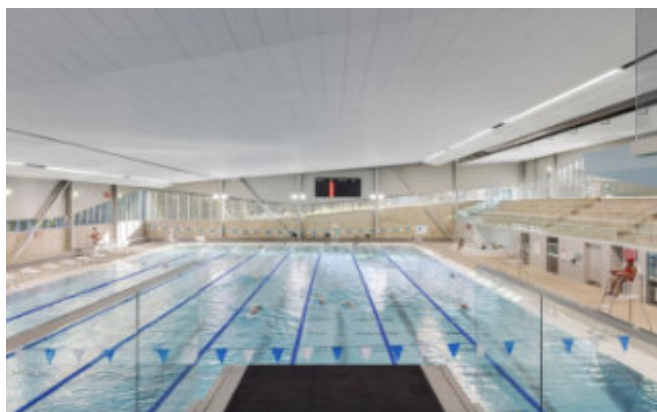


- **National Harbor in Fort Washington, Maryland** will serve as the launching point for the open-water portion of the championships which will take place in the Potomac River. Weather permitting, the 2.5 km and 5 km races will take place on Saturday May 31st with the option to reschedule due to inclement weather impacting the event on Saturday for Sunday, June 1st.
- **Eppley Recreation Center located in College Park, MD.** This University of Maryland at College Park facility will serve as a back-up option should one of the other proposed facilities encounter a setback.

Longbridge Aquatic Center

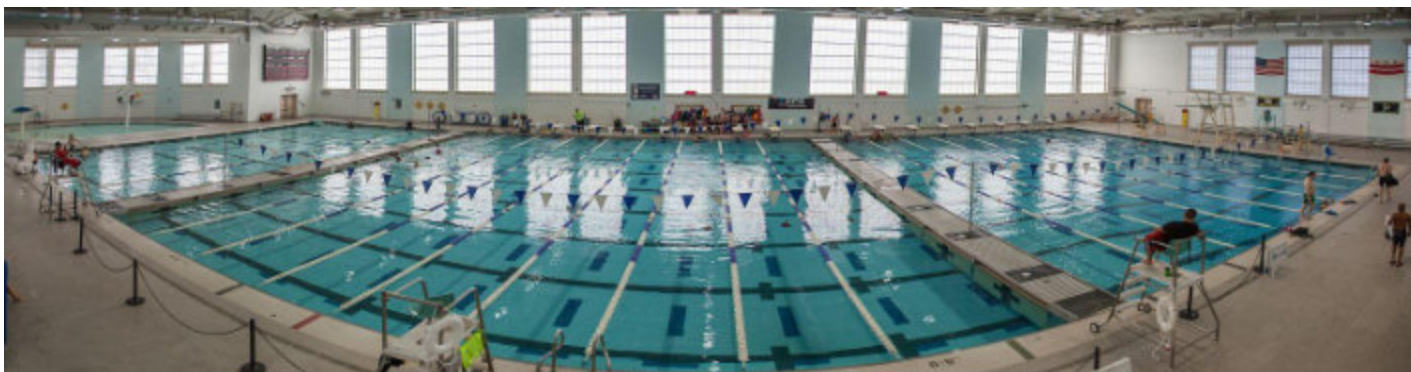
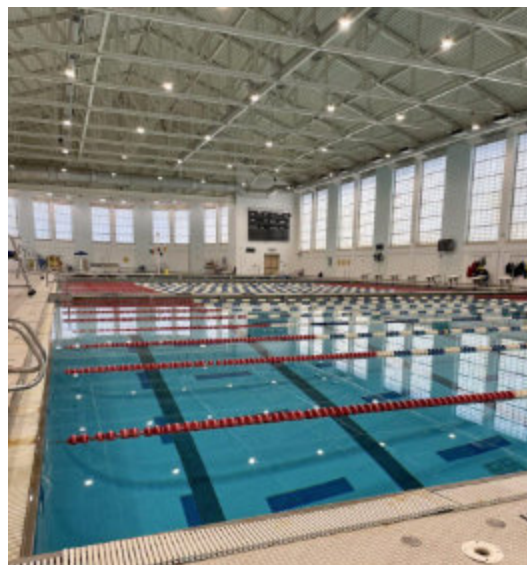
Located just across the Potomac River from the District in Arlington County, Va; Long Bridge Aquatic Center is the area's premiere swimming and diving competition facility. This 8-lane, 50 meter competition pool lends itself to multiple configurations. DCAC proposes hosting the swimming, artistic swimming, and diving portions of the competition here. For IGLA 2025, the swimming portion of the competition would be short course meters and take place in the deep end of the pool where the pool's depth ranges from 14 to 8 feet deep. Warm up/warm down would take place in the other half of the pool. A state of the art scoreboard (not pictured) and timing system would be included and the gallery offers seating for over 500 spectators. For diving, the facility offers 1 meter and 3 meter springboards along with 3 meter and 5 meter platforms.

Long Bridge is a quick 15 minute subway ride + 15 minute walk or 15 minute drive from downtown Washington DC.



TAKOMA AQUATIC CENTER

Located in the District, the Takoma Aquatics Center is a 50-meter by 25 yard competition pool with elevated spectator seating. DCAC and the DSeahorses propose Takoma Aquatic Center as one of two venues for the water polo tournament. The size of the pool allows for a FINA-regulation water polo course with lanes left over for a player warm up area on the other side of a bulkhead. Takoma has long served as the Washington DSeahorses' year-round practice location and annual tournament venue. The facility is accessible by car, D.C. Metro, and multiple bus lines. The Takoma Metro Station and closest bus stops are all located no more than 0.6 miles (1 kilometer) from the pool. Takoma is a quick 20 minute subway ride or drive from downtown Washington D.C..



WILSON AQUATIC CENTER

Located in the District, the Wilson Aquatic Center is a 50-meter by 25-yard competition pool with elevated spectator seating. DCAC and the DSeahorses propose Wilson Aquatic Center as a second water polo venue to accommodate the anticipated size of that competition. The size of the pool allows for a FINA-regulation water polo course with lanes left over for a player warm up area on the other side of a bulkhead. DSeahorses are also familiar with Wilson from using it as a long-term practice location and tournament venue when Takoma Aquatic Center has been unavailable. The facility is accessible by car, D.C. Metro, and multiple bus lines. A Metro stop and bus stops are located across the street from the pool. Wilson is a quick 20 minute subway ride or drive from downtown Washington D.C..



POTOMAC RIVER AT NATIONAL HARBOR

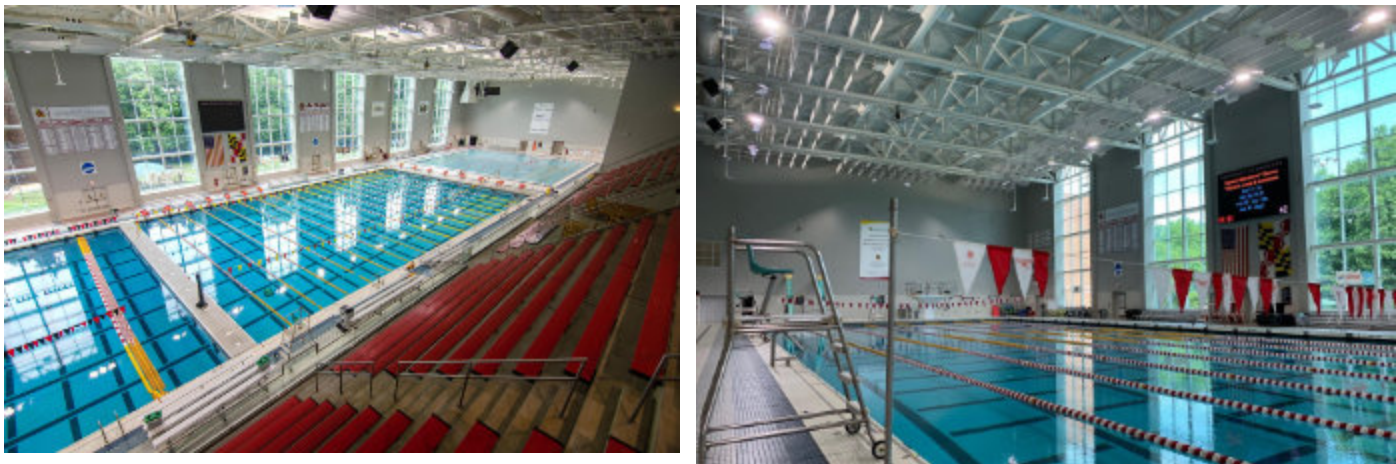
Located in Fort Washington, MD; National Harbor is approximately a 25 minute drive from downtown Washington D.C.. The area has hosted many open water competitions such as Sharkfest Open Water Swim in 2022. This protected area offers open-water swimmers fantastic views in a current-free area. DCAC plans to host its annual open-water competition, the Maryland Swim for Life in 2024 at National Harbor as part of our preparation efforts for IGLA 2025.



Left photo: View is from the highway off-ramp on the northeast shore (upper right corner of right photo), looking southwest across the area where the open-water course would be situated (see right photo). Right photo: Sample open-water, please note the location of the Ferris Wheel for scale and perspective and note this will not be the course or distances for IGLA 2025.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND NATATORIUM

Located a short distance across the northeast D.C. border at the University of Maryland - College Park, this facility would serve as the back-up swimming, artistic swimming, and diving facility should we encounter an unforeseen setback with Longbridge. This 8-lane, 50-meter competition pool served as the primary venue for the 2008 IGLA Championships and has hosted many high-level swimming competitions such as the United States Swimming National Championships and the Atlantic Coast Conference Swimming Championships.



SCHEDULE

	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Swimming							
Diving							
Water Polo							
Artistic Swim							
Open-Water	Preferred Day	Alternate Day					
Pink Flamingo							



Given that World Pride will be occurring in Washington D.C. during the IGLA Championships there will be no shortage of events for participants to attend. This will also ensure that a diverse and inclusive set of social activities will be planned as well during the week's competition. Some of these events could be specific to the IGLA Championships, while others will be a part of the larger sports festival and World Pride Celebrations. We intend to leverage our partners, Team DC and Destination DC, when planning social events. Events could range from a larger event such as an LGBTQIA+ night out at the ballpark for a Washington Nationals baseball game to a smaller, more targeted and themed social event at one of many LGBTQIA+-owned bars/restaurants. A tentative list of events is included below:

May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8
Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Welcome Reception	BBQ	Monument Sightseeing Cruise	Pool Party	Underwear Party & Women's Social	Closing Celebration	World Pride Parade	World Pride Festival

The District has many larger-sized event spaces that could host IGLA 2025 social events. Hook Hall and Hi-Lawn are two venues that could be utilized for larger IGLA Championship events.

Hook Hall:



DC's premier event venue, beer garden, and tavern featuring a large indoor and outdoor space located in the heart of Washington, D.C.. The main hall features 20 foot ceilings, and can accommodate up to 700 guests. The outdoor, themed, beer garden can accommodate an additional 675 guests.

Hi-Lawn:



Located on the Rooftop at Union Market, Hi-Lawn is one of DC's largest rooftops for outdoor dining, drinking and socializing. Our sprawling rooftop space is outfitted with colorful picnic tables and patio umbrellas, an artificial turf picnic area and vibrant lawn lounge, and wood decking with an artfully-designed shipping container bar dispensing craft cocktails, boozy punch pouches, spiked seltzers, craft beers by the can and bucket, and affordable, well-curated wines.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:



The nation's capital offers an abundant and diverse set of tourist attractions. Tour one of D.C.'s many historic monuments, or enrich oneself at one of the many top-rated museums along the National Mall. If exploring the District is more your style, explore one of D.C.'s charming and historic neighborhoods or give your palate a culinary adventure by experiencing one of the area's local restaurants. Participants can research and plan their trip by visiting our partner's website [Destination DC](#).

In terms of LGBTQIA+ bars and clubs, the D.C. area has something for everyone. See below for a list of popular clubs and bars:

- A League of Her Own
- Bunker
- Dirty Goose
- Freddie's Beach Bar (Arlington, VA)
- Green Lantern
- JR's
- Kiki
- Larry's Lounge
- Little Gay Pub
- Nellies Sports Bar
- Number Nine
- Pitches DC
- Trade
- Uproar

GETTING TO & AROUND DC

Washington DC is serviced by three international airports: Dulles International (IAD), Baltimore-Washington International (BWI), and National Airport (DCA). Multiple airports mean more flight options and better pricing for travelers both national and international. Each airport offers multiple and easily accessible transportation options, like the Metro subway, to and from the city. Amtrak rail service and multiple bus lines provide additional access for travelers arriving via the Eastern Seaboard corridor. Once in the district, IGLA participants will find our



world-class Metro Rail service (the second busiest in the United States) ready to provide easy access to events and the district at large. Each participant will receive a week-long Metro pass as part of their registration packet. Two of the venues are located within walking distance from Metro Rail stations, while two others would require shuttle bus service (a service provided in the 2008 IGLA Championships) and finally the fifth venue would require a combination of Metro Rail and Metro Bus transportation services. Below are highlights of DC's Metro System. D.C. and Arlington both offer an extensive network of bike lanes with several being completely isolated from auto traffic. [Capital Bikeshare](#) offers an extensive network of bike rental points.

Highlights of the Metro System:

- Direct Metro Rail service to and from National and Dulles Airports. Shuttle service and commuter rail service to and from Baltimore-Washington International.
- Long Bridge Aquatic Center can be accessed via Metro Rail (Yellow and Blue lines) from either the Pentagon City or Crystal City Stations. The walk is about 20 minutes and shuttle bus service could be provided to and from the station(s) to Long Bridge.
- Takoma Aquatic Center can be accessed via Metro Rail (Redline) from the Takoma Station. The pool is a short 8 minute walk from the metro station.
- Wilson Aquatic Center can be accessed via Metro Rail (Redline) from the Tenleytown Station. The pool is a short 2-minute walk from the metro station.
- National Harbor can be accessed via a combination of Metro Rail (Greenline Southern Ave. Station) and Metro Bus (Lines 35 & W4).
- University of Maryland is served by the College Park stop on the Green Line. The walk from the College Park Metro Station to Eppley Recreation Center is 36 minutes, should this venue be utilized shuttle service would be set up, similar to 2008.
- AccessPass also allows use of Metro Bus as well.



LODGING & ACCOMMODATIONS

One of the most important resources for an event like IGLA 2025 is hotel and lodging capacity. As a destination for business and convention travel, as well as special events, the Washington D.C. area has numerous hotel options at many price levels. DCAC has an existing relationship with Destination DC, an organization that serves to successfully manage and market Washington, D.C. as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination, with a special emphasis on the arts, cultural and historical communities. IGLA participants can leverage resources found on [Destination DC's website](#) to find the perfect accommodations for the trip. Additionally, homestay services, like airbnb, misterbnb and flipkey are plentiful in the Washington D.C. region and offer many options at a huge range of price points.

DCAC recognizes that many simply cannot afford a hotel room or prefer less formal arrangements. Again, Washington D.C. has great options available. One hosted housing option that will be explored is Gallaudet University which could provide lower-cost housing for participants in its dormitories, offering close to 800 beds. In addition to hosted housing at Gallaudet, Washington D.C. boasts 15 Hostels that offer quality lodging at prices from \$19-\$50 per night (<http://www.hostels.com/washington-dc/usa>). Many, like the large Hostelling International Center are just a short walk to the Silver Spring Metro Rail Station on the Red line, just one stop away from Takoma Aquatic Center. Finally, DCAC and DSeahorses will also open their homes to IGLA Championship participants free of charge.

Letters of Support from Community Partners

DCAC and the DSeahorse thank our partners for their initial support. We look forward to planning, coordinating, and providing a top-notch championship for all participants.



GOVERNMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mayor Muriel Bowser



Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs
Director Japer Bowles (He/Him)

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

DC Aquatics Club
P.O. Box 77125
Washington, DC 20013
(202) 615-3931

RE: Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs Letter of Support

Dear DC Aquatic Club:

The Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning Affairs (MOLGBTQA) is delighted to support DC Aquatics Club's bid to host the 2025 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) Championship in Washington DC. As you know, Washington, DC is a city that boasts of its diversity, unique businesses, lively neighborhoods, and an unparalleled international community. MOLGBTQA endorses any initiative that promotes the visibility of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) community in Washington DC, a city renowned for its leadership in LGBTQ+ rights.

Washington, DC was one of the pioneers in the United States to allow same-sex couples to marry, even before the United States Supreme Court recognized and validated this fundamental right. That pioneering continues to this day. For instance, Washington, DC stands out as one of the first jurisdictions in the country to mandate LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for healthcare providers. The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, one of the most well-resourced offices of its kind in the nation, is committed to the effective representation of Washington, DC's LGBTQ+ community in local government and connecting DC's LGBTQ+ residents with the city's many services and programs.

The IGLA Championship, which began in San Diego in 1987, has been held annually since then. The first games in Washington, DC took place in 1996 and then again in 2008. The District of Columbia Aquatics Club and the Washington DC Seahorses Water Polo Team, both of which have previously hosted the Championships, will organize the games if selected to host the 2025 IGLA Championship. These teams have extensive experience in managing an event of this magnitude and anticipate the games will draw more than 1,000 competitors who, in addition to the games, will surely enjoy all that DC has to offer. Again, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs is pleased to support DC Aquatics Club's bid to host the 2025 IGLA Championship.

Sincerely,
Japer Bowles, Director
Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs (MOLGBTQA)
Cell: 202.631.9356
2000 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009





June 18, 2023

Jeff Atteberry
DCAC Competition Chair

Dear Jeff,

On behalf of the Capital Pride Alliance (CPA), please accept this letter of support to bring the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) Championships to Washington, DC in 2025. Not only does the Capital Pride Alliance feel that Washington would be a fantastic host city, but that the District of Columbia Aquatics Club (DCAC) would be the ideal organization to coordinate such an event, as it has done before. As the next destination for WorldPride in 2025, Washington, DC is uniquely positioned, qualified, and prepared to host the IGLA Championships, by incorporating them into the international Sports Festival, as one of the core sports.

The Capital Pride Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the LGBTQ+ community all year long, through educational programs, major events, fundraising, outreach and advocacy, providing platforms for visibility, and supporting the work of our many community organizations and local businesses. One of these organizations is Team DC, who we've partnered with to organize the international Sports Festival of WorldPride Washington, DC 2025.

We are excited to about the prospect of incorporating the IGLA Championships into WorldPride 2025, for the first international Sports Festival, hosted in Washington, DC. Thank you for continuing to be a strong member of Team DC and we appreciate the efforts behind this amazing endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan A. Bos'.

Ryan A. Bos
Executive Director
Capital Pride Alliance
CapitalPride.org



June 15, 2023

Jeff Atteberry
DCAC Competition Chair

Dear Jeff,

Please accept this letter of support to bring the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships here to Washington, DC in 2025. We are proud of DC as an incredibly diverse, global and welcoming city. We are confident, through the partnership of the city led by Team DC and the Capital Pride Alliance, that we will host a unique and memorable championship.

Destination DC is the official destination marketing organization for Washington, DC, and serves as the lead tourism organization to successfully manage and market the city as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination.

We have worked closely with the team at Team DC and the Capital Pride Alliance for several years to help coordinate and promote an exciting celebration of pride and diversity. Our experience with both organizations has been nothing short of exceptional. There are no better organizations to take the lead on such a great event and Destination DC is in full support of their leadership.

As the nation's capital, hosting large, historic, and impactful events is in our DNA. Hosting the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships would be an amazing extension for our community. We look forward to supporting Team DC and the Capital Pride Alliance throughout the bidding process and hope to see you in Washington, DC in 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott L. Ferguson, II".

Elliott L. Ferguson, II
President & CEO, Destination DC



June 10, 2023

Jeff Atteberry
DCAC Competition Chair

Dear Jeff,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our 41 member clubs and leagues representing an estimated 7,000 participants, we are thrilled to add our support to your bid to host the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships here in Washington DC in 2025.

As you know, Washington DC will be hosting a multisport festival in conjunction with the World Pride celebration in 2025. Sports were an integral part of the bid from the beginning and we anticipate two dozen different sports being a part of this exciting event. Having a full Aquatics program of Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Synchronized Swimming, and, of course, the Pink Flamingo Relay would truly make it special.

Washington's strong foundation of sports clubs will be a good source of volunteers during your meet. Coupled with the excellent venues proposed and the extensive experience that DCAC brings, we feel confident that participants will have an extraordinary experience.

Team DC will be working directly with the World Pride organizers to organize and oversee the Sports Festival. This will include ensuring that the necessary funds are secured to ensure world-class competition while keeping costs low for participants.

By hosting the Sports Festival as part of the World Pride celebrations, all sports will have a tremendous opportunity to showcase their sport and build enthusiasm for their member clubs. We stand committed to working with you and IGLA in making your championships in 2025 the best ever.

Sincerely,

Brent Minor
Executive Director

Team DC is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization (#26-0078527) and your donation is tax-deductible, to the full extent of the law. Please contact your tax professional for further information.

www.teamdc.org

Preliminary Budget:

Expenditures	Budget
Application Fee	\$2,500
Pool (cost/day x number of days)	\$40,000
Open-water venue cost	\$6,000
Timing Equipment	\$20,000
Officials	\$25,000
Vendor Fee	\$0
Sound Equipment	\$0
Cleaning	\$0
New Water Polo Balls & Nets	\$4,600
Administration	\$2,500
Sanction Fee	\$1,000
Governing Body Fees	\$5,000
Insurance	\$28,000
Meet Processing	\$5,000
Computer Software	\$2,000
Supplies	\$6,000
Printing	\$0
Postage	\$0
Phone	\$0
Officials/Volunteer food/drinks	\$2,500
Advertising	\$9,000
Cost of Merchandise	\$10,000
Party/Banquet (deposits)	\$15,000
Transportation	\$18,000
Awards	\$15,000
Medals	\$0
Ribbons	\$0
Pink Flamingo	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$217,100
Income	
Entry Fees	\$156,125
Community/private donations	\$5,000
Program Advertising	\$0
Concessions	\$1,500
Event Sponsors*	\$0
Ticket Sales	\$0
Raffles/other fundraising	\$20,000
Event Socials	\$30,000
Merchandise Sales	\$8,000
Other	\$0
Total Income	\$220,625
Balance	\$3,525

*Note: For event sponsors DCACHas not locked in any firm commitments, therefore a zero value was placed here. Given World Pride and our initial conversations with our partners, we anticipate event sponsors' income will be firmed up later in the process.