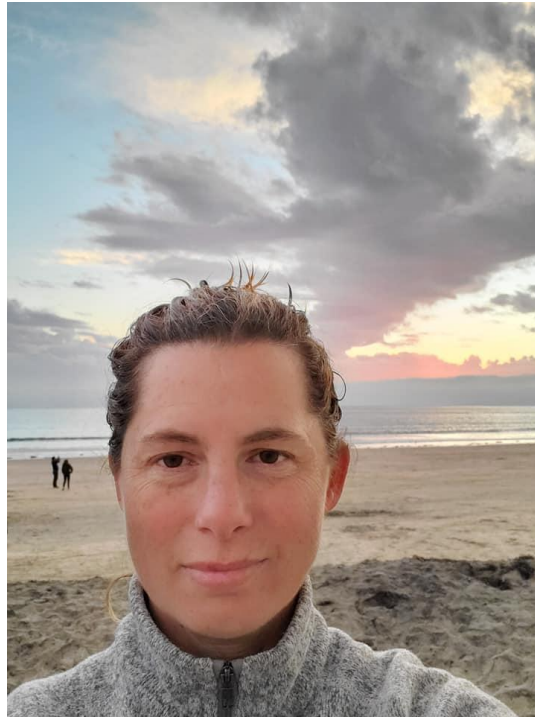




**Grace "Gracie" van der Byl, Honor Swimmer,  
United States of America, 2025**



Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Show 1](#) [Show 2](#) [Swim 1](#) [Swim 2](#)

**Grace "Gracie" van der Byl** set the overall speed crossing record for Catalina (Catalina to Mainland) in 2012 in 7 hours 27 minute 25 seconds, beating the swim times of fifty IMSHOF Honorees who completed this swim; 8 Bridges (total speed record) in 2012; Cape May in 2013; and the female speed record in Lake Memphremagog in 2014. All of these records still stand in 2024. Grace also set overall speed record in S.C.A.R in 2013 which stood until 2023.

She won many top (beating all the males and females) amateur races from 10 to 45.9 Km. These include Lake Memphremagog; S.C.A.R., Around Manhattan, 8 Bridges (all 7 stages) down the Hudson River, and Cape May. She won the female division in Rottneest in 2015.

Grace started the support kayak network that the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation uses today and supported over 50 crossings as coach, crew, kayaker, and captain.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)