FINA LAUNCHES SERIES OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Following the last Bureau Meeting held in December 2017 in Sanya, China, FINA approved a series of new Development initiatives.

Firstly, as announced previously, a new programme directly aimed at supporting the National Federations, through the distribution of up to 70% of the IOC TV revenue share was presented and approved by the FINA Bureau.

Entitled the **FINA Olympic Aquatics Support Programme**, this project represents a quadrennial budget of over US$ 21 million, and directly assists the FINA Member Federations in their development activities and comes as an addition to the amount already available through the various FINA Development Programmes – support for the participation in FINA events and prize money - and will be distributed on an equal share basis (up to US$ 25,000 each year for specific projects).

The objective of this initiative is to enable the FINA National Member Federations to develop, strengthen and fine tune their activities in all forms, including all Aquatic Disciplines in the pursuit of improving the organisation and professionalism of their operations and the sport level of their athletes.

Only National Federations that take part in the FINA World Championships, FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) or FINA World Junior Championships are eligible for the programme. More info [here](#)
In parallel, FINA is also launching a **FINA Continental Support Programme**, providing a subsidy to each Continental Association (UANA, CANA, AASF, LEN and OSA). The support focuses on three development areas: administration, promotion (including **Swimming for All-Swimming for Life** activities), and the organisation of Continental Championships.

The goal of the latter programme is to help the Continental Associations to carry out activities promoting aquatic sports and to offer financial support necessary to run the administrative structure but also to increase the competitive level of the athletes in the respective regions as well as the participation number at grassroots level.

In 2018, FINA will continue and increase the number of **Clinics and Schools** to train officials, judges and referees. Around 200 Clinics are already settled for the year, while approximately 80 Schools will take place, all led by highly experienced aquatic coaches. Participants will have to be recommended and put forward by their National Federations.

FINA will allocate a total budget of US$ 2’000’000 in **Scholarships** in order to offer additional opportunities to young talents to get financial and technical support to qualify for the FINA World Championships and/or the Olympic Games. FINA regularly follows the Scholarship holders and reports on their progress and evolution.

Lastly a new **FINA National Aquatics Managers Programme** aimed at supporting the National Federations in their efforts to manage and administer their organisations will spring this year. This programme will offer the mentorship of recognised experts that will guide the Federations to strategically plan their activities in order to promote aquatics in the best possible way within their countries.

Detailed information can be found on **FINA website**

**FINA WORLD AQUATICS CONVENTION HEADS TO HANGZHOU, CHINA**

FINA has announced on January 19 that the 5th **FINA World Aquatics Convention (FWAC)** will take place in Hangzhou, China, from December 8-10, 2018.

While releasing the information, FINA President, Dr. Julio C. Maglione said:

“We are particularly excited to bring the Convention to Hangzhou!”

“**The Chinese government expects the value of its Aquatics industry to reach $30bn by 2020, and FWAC 2018 provides the perfect platform for international businesses to learn more about the unprecedented opportunities in China.**”

The 2018 Convention is set to bring together once again the great and the good from the world of Aquatics: 209 National Federations, Organising Committees, Host Cities, athletes, coaches, and team doctors.

It will include a 3-day exhibition; panel discussions; one-on-one interviews; Coaches Clinics; social activities; lunches; and dinners.

Furthermore, all Convention delegates are invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the **FINA World Swimming Championships (25m)** which takes place from December 11-16, also in Hangzhou. The FINA Best Athletes of 2018 will also be awarded during this two-week long Aquatic festival and celebration.

The timing and location of these events ensure FWAC remains Aquatics’ most important industry event, and confirms the vibrant City of Hangzhou as the Aquatics capital of China in 2018.

To learn more about the 5th FWAC edition, visit [www.worldaquaticsconvention.com](http://www.worldaquaticsconvention.com)

Further information regarding registration will be communicated soon on **FINA website**

**WPWL: HUNGARY AND THE NETHERLANDS TO PLAY RUSSIA AND SPAIN**
The FINA Women’s Water Polo World League resumes on Monday January 29 and Tuesday January 30 in Budapest (HUN) and Ede (NED) for the third round of the European preliminaries, which will run until May 2018.

After a tight start of the season during which each of the four teams have won and lost a game, the provisional ranking based on the goal difference is as follows:

1. Russia 3 pts; 3. Hungary 3 pts; 3. Spain 3 pts; 4. Netherlands 3 pts

On Monday January 29, Hungary will welcome the Russians in their capital. Hungary have narrowly lost 7-6 on November 11 against the Netherlands, while they have defeated Spain 10-9 on December 19.

The other match of the third round will be the Russians playing the Netherlands in Ede (NED), after losing against Spain on November 21 and defeating the Dutch on December 22.