February 21, 2018

SEVEN HOSTS READY TO RAISE CURTAIN ON 2018 SWIMMING WORLD CUP

FINA is delighted to announce the dates and hosts and revised format of the highly-coveted 2018 FINA Swimming World Cup, an annual competition launched in 1979 which gathers the world's swimming elite.

For this 30th edition, FINA designed a brand new concept which will integrate meets held in 25m-pool as well as meets in 50m-pool, with the main objective to increase the level of participation.

Normally split across seven to nine locations, the 2018 circuit is divided into three Clusters, including two legs in the first two stages and three in the final Cluster. The World Cup distributes a total of prize money reaching over US$ 2.5 million equally awarded between the genders.

A total of seven internationally renowned hosts in Europe, Middle East and Asia will be staging the 2018 World Cup in grand style. The swimming Series will get off the blocks in Kazan (RUS), on September 7-9. The capital of Tatarstan successfully hosted the 2015 edition of the 16th FINA World Championships.

The following weekend, from September 13-15, the swimmers will race in Doha (QAT), also a fantastic host of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in December 2014.

Both meets will be held in a 50m-pool, with a total of 32 individual events and 2 relays.

The second Cluster however will be raced in 25m-pools, with the 17th FINA World Championships organiser Budapest (HUN) to welcome the circuit from October 4-6. A city to be confirmed yet will organise the first leg of the second Cluster prior to the Magyar capital, on September 28-30.
Finally the third and final Cluster (25m-pool) of the 2018 World Cup will take place in Asia: Beijing (CHN, from November 2-4), Tokyo (JPN, November 9-11) and Singapore (SGP, November 15-17).

Clusters #2 and #3 comprise of 34 individual events and 2 relays.

All meets will run across three days (including mandatory heats) and swimmers are allowed to swim an unlimited number of individual events, however only the best 3 results will count toward the ranking/scoring.

Last year's top male and female finishers of the World Cup were South Africa's Chad Le Clos and Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom.

You can follow LIVE all the pool action on FINAtv.

**WORLD WATER POLO CONFERENCE: A UNIQUE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITIES**

FINA is thrilled to organise the FINA World Water Polo Conference in Budapest (HUN) from April 26-28, 2018.

Water Polo leaders and experts will come together at this Conference to discuss the latest issues and challenges of this discipline, which represent a key milestone in the development and promotion of the oldest Olympic team sport.

The Conference will be run around the theme “How to improve Water Polo?” and has for main objective to review the current game’s format and rules. The presentations will look at possibilities to grow and harmonise the game’s environment and create a competitive product for the sports market and the broadcasters around the world.

The three-day programme includes worldwide water polo experts, sport leaders, sports business lecturers and other relevant stakeholders from the different fields linked to sport.

All FINA National Federations are invited to attend the Conference to take place at the InterContinental hotel in the centre of Budapest. Around 200 delegates are expected to join.

**WPWL 2018: THE WOMEN ARE WARMING UP FOR ROUND 4**

Teams from Hungary and Spain advance confident to the fourth round of the European preliminaries of the FINA Women’s Water Polo World League 2018, as both countries have cumulated 6 points since the start of the season by winning two games and losing one respectively.

Next Tuesday (February 27), the Hungarian women are going to face the Netherlands at home in Budapest for the return match. The Dutch were too strong for the Magyar squad (7-6) on November 21.

In the other game, Spain will meet Russia in Khanty-Mansiysk (RUS) after narrowly defeating them 9-8 on November 21.

The battle for the World League Super Final is always an intense one as only three European teams will secure a spot alongside the best teams from the rest of the world.

Both men and women Inter-Continental Cups will be staged in Auckland (NZL) from April 3-8.
Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)

The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide. Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 207 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).