EVENT SUMMONS

11 - 12 May 2019

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
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INTRODUCTION

From 2019, elite swimming stars will have the opportunity to shine in a brand new FINA competition, the “FINA Champions Swim Series”, a circuit gathering the top athletes of the Sport. With an original competition format including only finals, the Series aims to be a milestone in the Aquatic Sports calendar.

The main goals of this new international gathering are to give high-level swimmers increased attention and additional occasions to compete, thus generating stronger global interest to the sport of swimming.

The Series will be an exceptional showcase for the sport and its top swimmers. The competition will be held in 50-metre pools and together with innovative sports presentation and entertainment, it will comprise events of 50m, 100m and 200m in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly (as well as the 400m free and 200m IM), in addition to relay races.

The athletes’ participation in this exclusive Series is on an invitation-only basis, comprising the Olympic and World medallists, the current World Record holder and the best in the world rankings in each discipline. Attractive prize money will be paid in each individual race, with overall prize money pool over 4.2 million US dollars.

With an extensive and well-developed range of broadcast partners throughout the globe, alongside digital distribution platforms like FINALIVE.TV, FINA is uniquely placed to deliver an unforgettable circuit of the “FINA Champions Swim Series” to the fans, followers and our potential new stars.

In 2019, the inaugural edition of the FINA Champions Swim Series will be hosted by:

Guangzhou, China, on April 27-28;
Budapest, Hungary, on May 11-12;
Indianapolis, USA, on May 31-June 1.
I. EVENT INFORMATION

1. Host, Place and Date of Competitions

The second leg of the FINA Champions Swim Series 2019 will be held in Budapest, Hungary:

Saturday, 11 May 2019: Competition – Day 1
Sunday, 12 May 2019: Competition – Day 2

The hosts for these event, the Hungarian Swimming Association and the City of Budapest.

2. Budapest

Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary, a metropolis which leaves the visitor thirsting for more. This impressive capital has the very best of what Hungary has to offer. It is a large, vibrant city, with a population of approximately 2 million people. Being one of the most densely populated cities in the region, it is not just the powerhouse of the Hungarian economy, but also an important cultural centre and the focus of the country’s political life.

The history of the city began with Aquincum, originally a Celtic settlement that became the Roman capital of Lower Pannonia. Hungarians arrived to the territory in the 9th century. Budapest became a single city occupying both banks of the Danube River with the unification of Pest, Buda and Óbuda in 1873.

Today Budapest is a popular tourist destination in Europe. Even if only for a short stay, there are many things worth seeing in Budapest. It has the largest thermal water system in the world, the first underground of European was built in Budapest more than a 120 years ago, and the Hungarian capital has the third largest Parliament building in the world, as well as the biggest and one of the most spectacular synagogues in Europe.
The Buda Castle Hill, with the 700-year-old Matthias Church, the Royal Palace and the Fishermen’s Bastion, is among the most fascinating World Heritage Sites, with spectacular views to the downtown and the Danube River, with her many bridges, amongst them the beautiful Chain Bridge – the first one to permanently connect Buda and Pest.

The Opera House, was opened in 1884 during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, attracts not only the music lovers, but also those who want to admire its architectural beauty. The Opera is located on Andrassy Avenue, often called Budapest's Champs-Elysées, leading on to Heroes' Square, built in 1896 to mark the thousandth anniversary of the Hungarian state.

The City Park is just a couple of steps away – with Vajdahunyad Castle, a replica of a Transylvanian castle of that name, the Budapest Zoo and many museums.

The city’s cultural life is vibrant and diverse, where museums, galleries, theatres and concert halls are completed with year-round festivals, concerts, exhibitions and other cultural events.

Budapest is packed with museums and galleries, 223 altogether, and there are plenty of temporary exhibitions in the most unlikely of settings, particularly in the summer. Giving home to not only Hungary’s historical, artistic and scientific past but also that of European culture and science. Some of the greatest examples are the Hungarian National Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Hungarian National Gallery.

Speaking of water, the city's number one reference is the Danube River, which parts the city into the hilly Buda and the flat Pest sides. Budapest is a city of spas, with a unique composition and temperature of the waters, where visitors can relax and recharge in one the 19 different thermal baths, including Turkish hammams.

Budapest and its surrounding is also a real paradise for sport events, for instance marathon runs offer splendid views along the two banks of the river Danube. And let’s keep in mind that the city has already hosted many aquatic events. For instance, the 17th FINA World Championships, as well as the very first edition of the European Swimming Championships back in 1926.

3. Organising Committee

The Hungarian Swimming Association has established the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the 2019 FINA Champions Swim Series – Budapest (2019 FINA Champions Swim Series), which shall be in charge of the preparation and organisation of the competitions under the control and supervision of FINA. The participants and the guests of the FINA Champions Swim Series – Budapest 2019 required to communicate with LOC, should address their queries according to the details below:

2019 FINA Champions Swim Series

c/o Hungarian Swimming Association
Attention: David Szanto, Head of International Events
Address: 2 Hajos Alfred setany, 1007 Margitsziget, Budapest, Hungary
Tel: +36 1 265 5299
Email: international@musz.hu

Key contacts:

Mr. David SZANTO    Head of OC    david.szanto@musz.hu
Mrs. Eniko TOROK    Head of Sports    eniko.torok@musz.hu
4. Competition Venue

Completed in a record-breaking two years’ time, Budapest’s new wonder, the Duna Arena served as the main venue of the 17th FINA World Championships in July 2017, and has hosted several other FINA Aquatics events since. The complex features two Olympic-size pools – the competition pool is 3m deep, while the depth of the warm-up pool can be set according to the needs. During the 2017 FINA World Championships the venue could accommodate 12,000 spectators by using temporary indoor stands, as well as catering to all demands of any large-scale event. Applying the latest development in all areas, this magnificent building has become a great home of each aquatic discipline and has already hosted a series of international events. Even though it offers approximately 5,000 seats in legacy mode – as of today, it can be re-enlarged within months if another major showcase event visits the city.

In August 2019 the Hungarian Swimming Association will welcome the best swimmers of the future generations at the 7th FINA World Junior Swimming Championship. After the highly successful World Championships and the reconstruction of the building into legacy mode, the Duna Arena already staged a handful of major events in almost all disciplines, most recently the 4th leg of the 2018 FINA Swimming World Cup which brought back the fantastic atmosphere to the venue with 5,000 fans cheering on the stands.
In 2019 more major FINA Events are to be staged here – including Swimming World Cup in October, Women’s Water Polo World League Super Final and Artistic Swimming World Series in June, as well as the newly-established Champions Swim Series already in May –, the highlight definitely being the 7th FINA World Junior Swimming Championships.

Address: 1135 Budapest, Népfürdő utca 36.

How to get there by public transportation:

Metro:
Line M3, ‘Forgach utca’ station (8-10 minutes’ walk to the main entrance)

Bus:
Lines No. 15 and 115 (bus stop is at the main entrance)

Tram:
Line No. 1, ‘Nepfurdo utca’ stop (8-10 minutes’ walk to the main entrance)

5. General Programme

The competitions will be staged over 2 days with direct final sessions only.

Thursday, 09 May 2019: Arrival
Friday, 10 May 2019: Technical Meeting (start at 17:00, GMT +1)
Saturday, 11 May 2019: Competition – Day 1 (start at 20:00, GMT +1)
Sunday, 12 May 2019: Competition – Day 2 (start at 20:30, GMT +1)
Monday, 13 May June 2019: Departure

Prior and during the days of competition, the LOC will organise promotional, social and media activities. The athletes and team representatives might be invited to attend and participate in such activities. All further details and respective schedule for events will communicated directly to invited guests on individual basis.

The competitions will be staged over 2 days with direct final sessions only.
Day 1 - Saturday, 11 May (start at 20:00, GMT +1)

1. 400m Freestyle, Women
2. 100m Freestyle, Men
3. 100m Backstroke, Women
4. 200m Backstroke, Men
5. 200m Butterfly, Women
6. 50m Butterfly, Men
7. 200m Freestyle, Women
8. 50m Breaststroke, Men
9. 100m Breaststroke, Women
10. 200m IM, Men
11. 100m Butterfly, Women
12. 100m Backstroke, Men
13. 50m Backstroke, Women
14. 200m Butterfly, Men
15. 4x100m Freestyle, Mixed*

Day 2 - Sunday, 12 May (start at 20:00, GMT +1)

1. 400m Freestyle, Men
2. 50m Freestyle, Women
3. 100m Butterfly, Men
4. 50m Butterfly, Women
5. 200m Breaststroke, Men
6. 200m Backstroke, Women
7. 50m Breaststroke, Women
8. 100m Breaststroke, Men
9. 50m Backstroke, Men
10. 100m Freestyle, Women
11. 200m Freestyle, Men
12. 50m Breaststroke, Women
13. 100m Breaststroke, Men
14. 200m IM, Women
15. 4x 100m Medley, Mixed*

* Relays are subject to confirmation, and dependent on participation.

Further details on competition running order including the events, entertainment programme and the awards ceremonies, will be available at the Technical Meeting. The format of the competitions consider interviews with race winners/stars after each race.
II. TEAM INFORMATION

1. Registration Procedure

All Registrations and Entries shall take place through the FINA General Management System (FINA GMS) which can be accessed by https://data.fina.org. National Federations must use their usual login details to access the system. For registration help and assistance please contact: aquaticsdb@fina.org

Please note that the registration for the FINA Champions Swim Series – Budapest 2019 – is open until **30 April 2019** (23:59 GMT). All participants must be registered at this date.

We highly advise federations who need visa to register their athletes as soon as possible in the FINA GMS in order to receive the visa assistance from the Organising Committee.

2. Training Facilities

Training will be provided from Thursday 9th May at the competition venue. Training will follow the “Open Training System”, therefore, each team may train at any time within the specified training time for an unlimited duration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>May 9</th>
<th>May 10</th>
<th>May 11</th>
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<td>8:00-11:00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>17:00-20:00</td>
<td>17:00-20:00</td>
<td>14:00-20:00</td>
<td>14:00-20:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will be held Friday, 10th May at 17:00 hrs at the competition venue (TBC).

The Technical Meeting will provide updated sport specific information for all coaches and Team Leaders. All swimmers must be represented at the meeting because there will be a review regarding the competition procedures, athletes’ flows, warm-up procedures, etc. The Technical Meeting will cover all aspects about the execution of the FINA Champions Swim Series and include the following issues:

- Pre-Competition procedures
- Competition procedures
- Post-competition procedures

*The Technical Meeting will provide updated sport specific information for all coaches and Team Leaders. All swimmers must be represented at the meeting because there will be a review regarding the competition procedures, athletes’ flows, warm-up procedures, etc.*

At the meeting Team Leaders must check the start lists, as well as all information related to their athletes including spelling of the athlete’s name (first name, last name, date of birth, etc.). No corrections or changes will be allowed after the Technical Meeting. Withdrawals after conclusion of the Technical Meeting will be fined according to FINA Rules.
4. **Doping Control**

The conduct of the doping control will be the responsibility of the Hungarian Anti-Doping Agency (MACS) and one or more persons appointed by the FINA Bureau. A selection of competitors to be tested during the FINA competition shall be decided by the Doping Control Commission at the competition. All participating competitors shall be considered for doping control selection.

5. **Traveling to Hungary / Visa**

**General information for entering Hungary**

Hungary joined the Schengen Area on December 21, 2007. From that time visas and residence permits issued by one of the Member States are valid also for Hungary, and visas/residence permits issued by Hungarian authorities are as a general rule also valid for the entire Schengen Area.

Holders of passports issued by the countries, entities or territories listed on the following website are granted, under bilateral agreements, **visa-free travel** to Hungary: [http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-waiver-agreements](http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-waiver-agreements).

*Participants who need a visa to enter Hungary are advised to submit their application to the competent Hungarian mission at least 4 weeks before travelling. Applications should include a proof of registration.*

**Where to submit a visa application?**

Uniform visa applications have to be submitted at the representation of Hungary or at the Consulate/Embassy representing Hungary on visa issuance in your country.

Which of the Hungarian consulates are responsible for issuing visa?

a) where the applicants resides legally and has a habitual residence (the applicant is a citizen of the esteemed country or holds a permit that makes a stay longer than 3 months possible – e.g. residence permit)

b) the applicant does not have a habitual residence or right for long term stay but at the moment stays legally there and gave reasons for applying at that consulate. This is not a personal right, it depends on the consulate’s consideration and can only happen for an extremely good cause.

The stay is legal if, according to the third-countries law, the applicant is entitled to stay within the consulate’s authorized area for short stay (e.g. with a visa) or for longer stay (e.g. with residence permit).

If there is no Hungarian mission in the country where the applicant has his/her habitual residence, a Schengen Member State may represent Hungary regarding visa issuance, in the framework of an existing visa representation agreement.

**Visas are issued on behalf of Hungary by other Schengen Member States** in accordance with visa representation agreements in countries listed on the website at: [http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-issuance-on-behalf-of-hungary](http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-issuance-on-behalf-of-hungary)

**Who can submit a visa application?**

The application should be submitted personally by the applicant (fingerprints will be collected /exemptions exist for specific categories of applicants).
Important information

1. Application shall be lodged no more than three months before the start of the intended visit.
2. The decision about the admissible applications as a main rule must be made within 15 calendar days counted from the submission. Therefore it is advised to submit the application earlier than 15 calendar days before the planned departure. The consulate does not take any responsibility for delayed submission and for therefore failed travels.
3. The period of examining a visa application may be extended up to a maximum of 30 calendar days, and exceptionally up to a maximum of 60 calendar days in special cases.

Documents needed upon visa applications:

1. Completed visa application form;
2. Travel document with at least two empty pages. The passport should have been issued within the last 10 years. The passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date on which you intend to leave the Schengen territory.
3. Travel medical insurance (covering emergency medical, hospitalization and repatriation. The minimum cover should be of 30,000 EUR. This insurance must be valid for the entire Schengen area and throughout the duration of the stay)
4. Travel itinerary and hotel reservation
5. Invitation letter
6. Visa fee (60 EUR)

Please note:

- All submitted documents must be in English or in the language of the representing Member State
- An interview may be required at the Embassy or by phone
- You may be asked to provide further information or documentary evidence in addition to the above guideline

Prior consultation:

Under Article 22 of the Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), a Member State may require the central authorities of other Member States to consult its central authorities during the examination of visa applications lodged by nationals of specific third countries or specific categories of such nationals. The consultation may take up to 10 calendar days which shall be taken into consideration when applying for a visa.

*Last date to accept request for the Visa Assistance is 30th of April 2019 at 23:59 (GMT)*

Please note that traveler who is transiting into or through any third country might need the relevant visa to enter that country, thus he/she should be solely responsible for obtaining such visa and any other required documents.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

For your travel to Hungary you should have a valid passport or other appropriate identification document with an expiry date not less than three months beyond the date on which you intend to leave the Schengen territory.
All invited persons applying for a visa to attend the FINA Champions Swim Series are required to pay appropriate official fees at the time of their application. The visa application fee will be reimbursed only against original receipt, proof of payment. For avoidance of doubt no additional expenses related to the visa application, such as tourist agency fee, will be covered.

6. **Travel to Budapest**

The LOC will be providing transportation for those arriving at Budapest International Airport.

The Liszt Ferenc Budapest International Airport (BUD) is located 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) southeast of the center of Budapest. It offers international connections primarily within Europe, but also to Africa, to the Middle East, to North America and to the Far East. The airport is the headquarters and primary hub for Wizz Air and base for Ryanair.

National federations shall ensure the flight arrangements of its swimmers and any officials are registered in the FINA GMS: https://data.fina.org

7. **Accommodation**

Accommodation for all invited swimmers and national federation officials will be arranged at either one of the two official Team hotels.

The costs of full-board accommodation (including breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be provided at the hotel for a maximum of 4 nights, with check-in on Thursday 9th May, and check-out on Monday 13th May.

The confirmation of accommodation has to be sent to the following contact:

Mr. Laszlo SZOGI, Accommodation manager       laszlo.szogi@musz.hu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Park Inn by Radisson</strong>****</th>
<th>16-18 Szekszárdi utca,1138 Budapest</th>
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<tr>
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8. Local Transportation

The LOC will provide pickup and sendoff service for the participants and officials of the FINA Champions Swim Series who arrive to and leave from Liszt Ferenc Budapest International Airport (BUD).

The service will be provided based on travel details submitted through the FINA GMS.

During the days of the competitions the special-purpose vehicle and shuttle bus services will be provided between official hotel and competition venue. Further details regarding local transportation service will be available upon arrival in Budapest.

9. Travel & Accommodation Assistance to Invited Athletes

Information has been communicated directly to each National Federation Member of FINA and can be consulted further by contacting the FINA Office:

Attention: Mr. Cornel Marculescu, Executive Director
Address: FINA Office / Ch. De Bellevue 24a/b / 1006 Lausanne / Switzerland
Phone: +41 21 310 47 10
Fax: +41 21 312 66 10
Email: sportsdep@fina.org

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Danubius Hotel Helia****</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Website: [Danubius Hotel Helia](https://www.danubiushotels.com/en/our-hotels-budapest/danubius-hotel-helia)
Distance from venue: 24 km
Distance from airport: 3 km
Wifi: Available for free