



FÉDÉRATION
INTERNATIONALE
DE NATATION



ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

MESSAGE TO THE AQUATICS FAMILY FROM FINA PRESIDENT *Husain Al-Musallam*



Dear Friends,

As you know, I became your president in elections held at the FINA Congress in Doha in June.

I said at the time: "Today is the start of a new journey for the aquatics family together."

From this annual review, you will see that that journey is already well under way.

But there is much still to do.

My manifesto was built on several pillars:

- **Transparency:** As President, I am determined to lead an International Federation that is totally transparent. We must be trusted by all our stakeholders;
- **Equality:** All athletes, coaches and administrators must be treated equally, whatever their gender, nationality, race, religion or ability;
- **Opportunity:** We must deliver a global structure that provides opportunity for all, whether it is the young child learning to swim or dive, the Olympic athlete, or the grandparent using the water for health benefits;
- **Unity:** We must find new ways to work together. We are one Aquatics family. By helping each other we will all benefit.

Water is one of the world's greatest assets. I want to make it safe and accessible for as many people as possible.

We all know that swimming is great for the mind and the body, helping all-round good health. FINA will get more people into the water, both young and old.

These are my pledges to you. With your help, we'll continue to make them a reality.



Captain Husain Al-Musallam
FINA President

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect all global sport, not just aquatics, in 2021. In 2020, many of FINA's international events had been cancelled or postponed. However, the easing of restrictions in 2021 enabled a return to a more normal calendar of events which included a memorable Olympic Games and FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

Away from the water, 2021 will be remembered as the year in which a far-reaching reform process was begun by FINA's new president, Captain Husain Al-Musallam. Upon his election on 5 June 2021, President Al-Musallam announced the formation of a Reform Committee to identify potential changes to FINA and provide strategic recommendations on a number of areas including governance, communication, marketing, gender equity, events, athlete safeguarding, sports medicine and sport development.

KEY EVENTS

The year 2021 was marked for FINA by two major aquatics competitions, both postponed from 2020: the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (23 July to 8 August) and the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m), held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The previous year, 2020, had been badly affected by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which also led to a series of cancellations of international aquatics events in 2021. However, other events that did go ahead as planned in 2021 (albeit some individual legs were cancelled because of the pandemic) included:

- The FINA Men's and Women's Water Polo Olympic Games Qualification Tournaments 2020
- The FINA Artistic Swimming World Series 2021
- The FINA/CNSG Marathon Swim World Series 2021
- The FINA Diving World Cup 2021
- The FINA Diving Grand Prix 2021
- The FINA Olympic Games Artistic Swimming Qualification Tournament 2021
- The FINA Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifier 2021
- The FINA UltraMarathon Swim Series 2021
- The FINA World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships 2021
- The FINA Swimming World Cup 2021
- The FINA World Women's Junior Water Polo Championships 2021
- The FINA World Junior Diving Championships 2021

FINA extends its warmest thanks to the organisers of all of these events, who showed great determination and dedication to hold their events successfully in the face of the difficulties imposed by the continuing pandemic.

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

Thirty-five aquatics finals were contested at Tokyo 2020, the highest number in Olympic history. The dominance of the US team at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics was challenged in Tokyo by Australia, which won nine gold medals compared with USA's 11.

Great Britain and China were also on the rise, while Caeleb Dressel (USA) and Emma McKeon (AUS) were the top individual medal winners over the nine days, in which a total of six world and 33 Olympic records were broken.

Dressel followed in Michael Phelps' footsteps by becoming only the fifth swimmer ever to win five titles in a single edition of the Olympic Games. However, this record was surpassed in terms of medals won by McKeon who became only the second athlete ever in any sport to win seven medals in a single edition of the Games.

Altogether 10 nations could celebrate champions in the pool, compared with 13 in Rio and in Beijing 2008, but only eight in London. The number of countries appearing on the medal table was 21, the same as in Beijing, but exceeding the numbers in London (17) and Rio (18).



ANTI-DOPING

Meanwhile, in the run-up to Tokyo 2020, FINA held a successful Pre-Games Anti-Doping Testing Programme, starting on 1 January, 2021. **This comprised the collection of 2,708 samples from 839 athletes in 69 countries. Moreover, during the period of the Games, an additional 763 samples were collected, from a total of 472 competitors.**

Commenting on these statistics, President Al-Musallam said: *"These numbers show the serious commitment from FINA in ensuring a fair competition to all our amazing athletes competing in the Games. In this endless but fundamental fight to eradicate doping from our Sport, we have counted on the support of the International Testing Agency, our partner in the out-of competition testing programme. On behalf of the athletes and their entourage, we are grateful for this positive co-operation"*.

VAR

For the first time, FINA introduced Video Assisted Review (VAR) to assist decision-making at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics water polo competition.

In total, 27 decisions were made with the assistance of the eight-camera technology and skilled operators.

Mark Koganov, Vice-Chair of the Technical Water Polo Committee, said that the technology was introduced “for obvious reasons: better governance for the sport, better transparency and goal/no goal.”

FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25m)

More than 900 athletes from 183 National Federations across all five continents competed at the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in Abu Dhabi. By the end of six arduous days of competition, 28 countries were represented on the medals table, the highest number of countries ever to receive medals at a single edition of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

An overall prize pool of US\$2.8million was on offer, the largest prize pool ever in a FINA swimming event. Over 800 volunteers ensured the smooth running of the event throughout the week of competition.

Alongside four world records, five world junior records and 11 championship records were set in Abu Dhabi.



FINA AQUATICS FESTIVAL

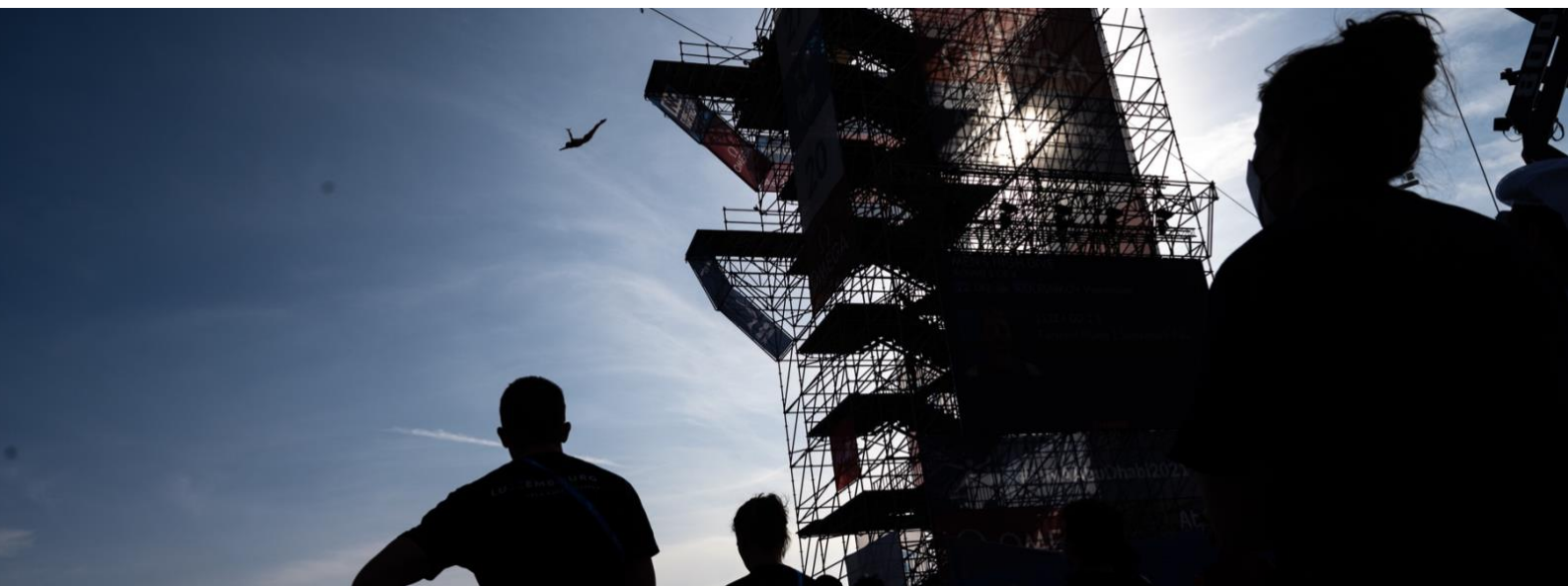
FINA’s commitment to innovation under President Al-Musallam was evidenced by the first-ever FINA Aquatics Festival, bringing together athletes from diving, high diving, swimming and open water swimming for the first time ever.

An additional 200 athletes competed in diving, high diving and open water swimming events as part of the FINA Aquatics Festival.

For the first time ever, international high diving competitors dived off a tower structure into the open ocean instead of a traditional swimming pool. Many had never experienced diving into salt water before, but this newly introduced element to the competition was widely welcomed by competitors.

Welcoming the successful Championships and Festival, President Al-Musallam said: “I want to thank everyone in the aquatics family, in particular the incredible athletes, for ending this challenging year with so many incredible performances during this historic FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi. The world-class Etihad Arena and the beautiful shores of Yas Island have provided the ultimate environment for athletes to set world and national records and provide family-friendly entertainment for thousands of passionate swimming fans.

“The participation from athletes, media, volunteers and fans has been fantastic. My sincere thanks to the Abu Dhabi Sports Council and the Organising Committee for their excellent support in helping us deliver an amazing FINA World Swimming Championships and inaugural FINA Aquatics Festival.”



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

On 15 December, seven accredited participants at the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) tested positive for COVID-19.

Following the FINA COVID-19 event protocols and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Department of Health (DOH) rules, the accredited participants with positive COVID-19 results were removed from the event and placed in strict quarantine.

All persons entering the UAE had to have a negative PCR test taken no more than 48 hours prior to arrival. Those entering the country had to subsequently produce a second negative PCR test result upon arrival.

The competition and training venues used in the FINA competitions implemented strict health and safety rules, including vaccination and PCR test requirements, health screenings, mandatory face mask use and rigorous sanitation measures. Safety was FINA's priority, and the swift action taken proved the robustness of its protocols.

GOVERNANCE

EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

On the sidelines of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m), FINA hosted a historic Extraordinary Congress that sent a message to the global sports community that FINA had entered into a new era for the benefit of its athletes.

FINA also honoured aquatics stars during an evening ceremony at the FINA World Aquatics Gala.

The Congress voted to approve recommendations put forward by the FINA Reform Committee at the FINA Bureau meeting in October 2021, including the establishment of an independent Aquatics Integrity Unit.



President Al-Musallam said: *“The introduction of an Aquatics Integrity Unit is at the heart of all our reforms. It is this Unit, entirely independent of FINA, that will protect our aquatics community from ethical and discriminatory violations, match-fixing and all forms of harassment.”*

The Congress also approved changes to the FINA Constitution, FINA Rules on the Protection of Harassment and Abuse and FINA Code of Ethics. The adopted changes to the FINA Rules on the Protection from Harassment and Abuse entered into force immediately, while the amendments to the FINA Code of Ethics will come into force on 1 June 2022, following the FINA Congress in Fukuoka.

President Al-Musallam said: *“I am incredibly proud of the progress that has been made since my election. I promised you that in six months I would deliver a programme of essential reforms that would bring aquatic sports into the 21st Century. Today is the day that we deliver that promise, together. Today is the day that we confirm those reforms. We have demonstrated that our athletes and their welfare are at the heart of everything we do and everything that we stand for. I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to prepare us for today.”*

ELECTION AND REFORM COMMITTEE

Announced by President Al-Musallam on 5 June 2021, the day of his election, the Reform Committee was formed to identify potential changes to FINA and provide strategic recommendations on a number of areas including governance, communication, marketing, gender equity, events, athlete safeguarding, sports medicine and sport development.

Immediately after his election, President Al-Musallam led a short meeting of the new FINA Bureau where he nominated the new FINA Executive Director, Brent Nowicki (USA).

Nowicki replaced Cornel Marculescu, FINA Executive Director for 35 years, who had resigned earlier in the year.

The FINA Bureau members recognised the outstanding devotion and role of Mr Marculescu in the development of Aquatics in the five continents, contributing to make the sport a pillar of the Olympic Movement.

The Reform Committee, chaired by Me. Francois Carrard, presented the work of the sub-Committees during a two-day meeting at the FINA Headquarters in Lausanne on 4-5 October 2021. The recommendations voted on at the Congress were the outcome of the extensive assessment.

DR LOTHAN KIPKE

In November, the FINA Bureau had already unanimously voted to remove Dr. Lothar Kipke from the FINA honours list, effective immediately. Kipke was convicted for the leading role he played in doping East German swimmers in the 1970s and 1980s.

Kipke had received a FINA award in the 1980s as a former member of the FINA Medical Commission, long before his extensive wrongdoing came to light.

President Al-Musallam said: *"There is no place for doping in aquatics and certainly no place for individuals who have been found guilty of causing great damage to our sport, and cheating clean athletes of a fair chance. For a doctor to harm athletes in the search for medals is unacceptable and I am proud that FINA has decided to send a clear message."*

"FINA will continue to listen carefully to the swimming community as we address FINA's actions of the past while delivering reforms for the future. I am fully confident that the measures we are implementing mean that aquatics athletes can be sure of FINA's determination to protect clean athletes and promote clean sport."

FINANCIAL RESULTS 2020

The FINA financial statements for 2020 are published on the FINA website alongside a Financial Report to the Action FINA 2017-21 Update presented to Congress in 2021. As has been widely reported elsewhere, FINA's activities in 2020 were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the financial statements reflect the impact on FINA's events and activities.

The FINA Bureau, Executive and management met regularly in order to put in place mitigation plans to minimise the financial impact on FINA. Thanks to those plans and the work of the CIO, to date FINA World Championships and FINA Swimming World Championships, like the Tokyo Olympics, have been postponed but not cancelled.

Nonetheless, the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and FINA events had a major impact on FINA's financial situation.

Revenues were reduced to 9.0 million Swiss Francs with operating expenses of 28.1 million Swiss Francs. FINA took the decision to maintain its Development programmes where possible, often remotely, to the benefit of National Federations and athletes, and 6.6 million Swiss Francs were invested in such activities. FINA implemented cost saving measures where possible and benefited from the Swiss furlough scheme, but operating costs were again impacted by the ongoing ISL litigation in the United States.

The operating deficit of 19.1 million Swiss Francs was accompanied by a financial loss of 2.4 million Swiss Francs, resulting in a net deficit of 21.5 million Swiss Francs.

In spite of the deficit, FINA was able to maintain its strong cash reserves, thanks to advance payments for future World Championships, a loan from the International Olympic Committee and liquidating close to 10 million Swiss Francs of its financial assets.

KEY NUMBERS:

+50M_{CHF}

Revenues postponed into 2021



36M_{CHF}

Liquid cash reserves



31M_{CHF}
In 2019

+100M_{CHF}

Financial assets maintained



6.5M_{CHF}

Development
expenditure maintained

20M_{CHF}

Invested in development
2018-2020

COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS



MYRTHA POOLS

On 21 December, FINA and Myrtha Pools announced the renewal of their long term partnership through which Myrtha will proudly continue as one of FINA's Official Partners for the next four years, through 2025.

Following the extension of the partnership, Myrtha Pools will continue to supply state-of-the-art competition pools for the FINA World Championships and FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

President Al-Musallam said: "We would like to thank our friends at Myrtha Pools for their continued trust and commitment to FINA, aquatics athletes, officials and our volunteers. FINA and Myrtha Pools share the same values, we are both deeply committed to the development and growth of aquatics worldwide. Our relationship with Myrtha ensures that we can continue to provide the best possible conditions for elite athletes, but also create more opportunities around the world for young people to start their aquatics journey."

As part of the partnership extension, an internship programme will be introduced, creating opportunities for selected athletes to work at the Myrtha Pools headquarters in Italy and its various offices around the world.

As of April 2021, the list of Official FINA Partners and Suppliers was as follows:

Partners

- **NIKON (optical instruments), contract period:** 2018-2021, **competitions:** World Championships, World Masters Championships (2021) and World Swimming Championships (25m)
- **YAKULT (dairy products and non-alcohol beverages, excl. water), contract period:** 2019-2028, **competitions:** World Championships, World Masters Championships (2021) and World Swimming Championships (25m)
- **MYRTHA POOLS (swimming pool), contract period:** 2016- 2021, 2022-2025, **competitions:** World Championships, World Masters Championships and World Swimming Championships (25m)
- **OMEGA (timing and data services), contract period:** 2014- 2021; 2022-2025, **competitions:** World Championships, World Swimming Championships (25m), World Junior Swimming Championships, Swimming World Cup, Diving World Series, High Diving World Cup, Champions Swim Series
- **HISAMITSU (external pain relief products), contract period:** 2019-2021, **competitions:** World Championships and World Swimming Championships (25m), Swimming World Cup (-2022)
- **NONGFU SPRING (drinking water), contract period:** 2019-2022, **competitions:** World Championships, World Swimming Championships (25m), Swimming World Cup, Diving World Series



Suppliers

- **DURAFLEX (diving boards), contract period:** 2017-2024,
competitions: World Championships, World Masters Championships, Diving World Cup, Diving World Series, Diving Grand Prix, World Junior Diving Championships
- **MALMSTEN (SW/OWS racing lanes, WP field of play markings, goals & nets, WP referee catwalks and WP ball release systems), contract period:** 2021-2024,
competitions: World Championships, World Swimming Championships (25m), World Masters Championships, Swimming World Cup, World Junior Swimming Championships, World Junior Water Polo Championships, Water Polo World League, Water Polo Development Trophy, World Junior Open Water Swimming Championships, Water Polo World Cup, Youth Water Polo Championships, Olympic Games Water Polo Qualifications Tournament
- **MIKASA (water polo balls), contract period:** 2021-2024,
competitions: World Championships, Water Polo World Cups, Water Polo World Leagues, World Water Polo Junior Championships, World Water Polo Youth Championships, World Development Trophy, World Masters Championships, Olympic Games Water Polo Qualifications Tournament

Sponsors

- **CNSG (sports venue construction), contract period:** 2018- 2021,
competitions: Diving World Series (title sponsor and series sponsor); Marathon Swim World Series (title sponsor).

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

In addition to the various educational activities, grassroots programmes, support to the National Member Federations and other initiatives aimed at promoting aquatic sports across the globe, FINA offered an ambitious and robust Scholarships Programme to prepare and qualify a limited number of athletes for the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships 2021 in Abu Dhabi (UAE) and the 19th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka (JPN).

With a total of 140 Scholarships available for three of FINA's aquatics disciplines - swimming, diving and open water - this edition will record the highest number of Scholarships since the programme's creation in 2015.

The successful FINA Scholarships Programme has largely increased the chances for athletes from smaller National Federations to qualify for major international events over the years, as was seen at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games when 62 Scholarship athletes became Olympians (57 swimmers and five divers).

VOLUNTEERS

In August, the Organising Committee of the 19th FINA World Championships 2022, to be held in Fukuoka (JPN) from May 13- 29, launched the volunteer recruitment programme for both FINA's signature events, the World Championships and the FINA World Masters Championships 2022 (in Kyushu).

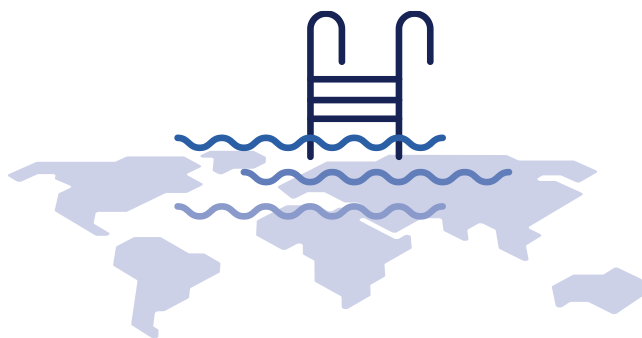
Between 5,000 and 6,000 volunteers (aged at least 15 years old) will be selected and will be assigned to various tasks such as information desk, media services support, ceremony management support and guide and transportation services.

NATIONAL FEDERATION AGREEMENTS

BHUTAN

In June, just two weeks into his new mandate, President Al-Musallam signed an agreement with the Bhutan Aquatics Federation (BAF) to build the first ever swimming pool in Bhutan, located on the edge of the Himalayas mountain range.

As part as the Pools for All Programme, an initiative launched in 2019 and intended to ensure that all FINA National Member Federations have access to the best possible aquatic facilities to promote aquatic sports, FINA will finance and supervise the construction of the pool in the country's capital, Thimphu.



SOUTH AFRICA

In a second agreement, FINA teamed up with Swimming South Africa to create a new FINA Development Centre in Franschhoek, South Africa.

The centre will form a hub for the development and growth of aquatics in Africa, hosting FINA Scholarship Programmes, as well as coaches and officials education and certification programmes.

These two latest initiatives underline President Al-Musallam's vision to strengthen all development activities and provide assistance to all FINA National Member Federations in need, without discrimination.

DIGITAL PLATFORMS

After a bidding process launched at the end of 2019, a new FINA website was launched on 22 February 2021. To run this brand-new project, FINA partnered and is working closely with Pulselive, a specialist in sport and digital technology.

At the request of another external supplier, Deltatre, the existing FINAtv - OTT platform agreement ended a year early in April 2021. FINA took this opportunity to run a new streaming model without the support of an external supplier or a third-party platform. The new hybrid model enabled FINA to make more competitions available for a larger number of fans on its own channels and, at the same time, to be in a stronger position in negotiations with broadcasters and/or OTT players.

With the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, FINA was handed another great opportunity in the short term to further increase its digital presence and figures across all digital touchpoints.

In the first semester of 2021, FINA had already created some new social media records, including:

The most commented video in FINA history:

**3,600 comments;
4.3M views;**

<https://fb.watch/4eYyjcZR9k/>



The most liked video in FINA history:

**146,000 likes;
3.2M views;**

<https://fb.watch/4eYIkEk5Ho/>



Especially among the younger generations, traditional media are rapidly losing ground against digital and social media platforms. FINA needs to anticipate this trend to preserve future interest in its competitions, turning this challenge into an opportunity to create more value and attraction of its digital touchpoints.

In the mid-term, FINA aims to:

- open new social media channels to better engage with young audiences (Tik Tok, Twitch)
- automate and personalise the production of content depending on channels and territories
- increase collaborations and partnerships with athletes, coaches and National Federations.



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DE NATATION

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