

Who are we?

World Aquatics – formerly FINA (Fédération Internationale de Natation) – is the global governing body for aquatic sports. Founded in 1908 and currently formed by 209 National Federations across five continents, World Aquatics is based in the Olympic-capital city of Lausanne. Our vision is to create “A world united by water, for health, life and sport,” and our mission is to ensure that everyone has the ability to participate, compete and benefit from aquatic sports. World Aquatics includes six sports: Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Artistic Swimming and High Diving, as well as Masters event within these disciplines.

Why Work for Us?

If you are looking to be part of a purpose-driven organisation within the sports industry and want to make a difference, then look no further. We seek talented, high-performing individuals who are willing to demonstrate their values and passion in a dynamic and challenging environment.

To join our team, we are searching for a:

Competition and Events Director

The Competition and Events Director is responsible for planning, organising, and executing all aspects of sports competitions and events. This position involves overseeing the development, implementation and management of our aquatics' sports events and competitions, ensuring they run smoothly, efficiently, and safely. The Director will work collaboratively with various stakeholders, both internally and externally, to deliver successful events and enhance the organisation's reputation. The Director reports to the Senior Sports, Competition and Events Director, and works in close collaboration with the Sports Technical Director.

This is a key senior leadership role responsible for the strategic planning, coordination and execution of international competitions and events hosted or sanctioned by the federation. This position entails managing complex logistical, operational and administrative aspects to ensure the highest standards of competition and event delivery, in alignment with the federation's mission and values.

The role serves as a vital bridge between our international sports federation, athletes and the global sports community. The role requires a visionary leader who can uphold the federation's commitment to excellence, integrity, and global promotion of aquatic sports through world-class competitions and events.

The position is based in Lausanne, Switzerland. However, World Aquatics has announced plans to move to a purpose-built state of the art Aquatics Centre in Budapest, Hungary. This move is likely to take place progressively in 2026 and completing in 2027.

Main Responsibilities:

Your main responsibilities will be as follows but not limited to:

Strategic Planning:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for international sports competitions and events, aligning with the federation's goals and objectives.
- Work collaboratively to execute the long-term event calendar, prioritizing major competitions and championships.
- Set and execute strategic goals for the department, setting clear objectives and priorities for the team's day-to-day activities.

Event Management:

- Plan, coordinate, and execute all phases of sports competitions and events, including collaboration on scheduling of events, venue selection, technical requirements and logistics.
- Oversee all on-site aspects of sports competitions and events, while working in collaboration with marketing, broadcasting, and athlete servicing departments.

Competition Innovation:

- Explore and recommend innovative technologies to enhance the sport's competitiveness, fairness and entertainment value.

Team Leadership:

- Recruit, lead and mentor a team of managers, coordinators and support staff.
- Work transversally with sport technical department and collaboratively with other directors and departments.
- Provide clear guidance, establish performance metrics and foster a collaborative and innovative work environment.

Budget Oversight:

- Develop and manage event budgets, monitoring expenses and revenue streams.

Marketing and Promotion:

- Collaborate with the marketing and media teams to executive strategic event promotion and marketing plans.

International Relations:

- Foster relationship with national federations and host cities/countries.
- Engage in the bidding process with host cities/countries.
- Coordinate and negotiate event agreements and contracts.

Post-Event Evaluation:

- Lead post-event evaluations to assess the success of competitions and events.
- Provide comprehensive reports and recommendations to senior management and relevant stakeholders.

Education and Experience:

- A minimum bachelor's degree in Sports Management, Event Management or a related field. A master's degree may be preferred.
- Extensive experience in international sports event management, event hosting and event bidding.
- Strong leadership, team management and delegation skills.
- Proven track record of successful budget management.
- Deep understanding of international sports federation regulations, governance structures and industry trends.
- Willingness to travel internationally and work irregular hours during events.
- Exceptional problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Excellent command of English and preferably at least one other language.

Start Date: Q1 2024

Closing Date for applications: 31st January 2024

Location: Lausanne / Budapest

What we offer?

World Aquatics is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.

If you are interested in this position and you meet the requirements in the profile, please submit your application with a CV and Covering letter in English to:

hr@worldaquatics.com