

2024 **ANNUAL REPORT**

Development Programmes,
Medical Initiatives
and Athlete Services

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024—a year of remarkable achievements—World Aquatics continues to thrive globally, nationally, and locally.

Our commitment to development ensures that aquatic sports remain accessible and provides athletes, coaches, and officials the opportunity to succeed. This year has been one of immense progress, which included watching our athletes perform in three major global events: the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Budapest.

Outside the arena, our focus on development has been unwavering.

We launched new scholarships and coaching pathways, championed sustainability, introduced the Discover Water programme at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and created opportunities to empower athletes and inspire communities worldwide.

Numbers illustrate this impact. Our scholarship programmes supported 117 athletes from 70 countries, helping them train and compete at an elite level. In a landmark moment for direct athlete support, World Aquatics awarded a record \$11.1 million prize money at events in 2024—the most in our organisation's 116-year history.

The World Aquatics Support Programme played a vital role in strengthening our Member Federations. This year, 169 Member Federations received funding, enabling 621 projects that benefited 395,503 athletes.

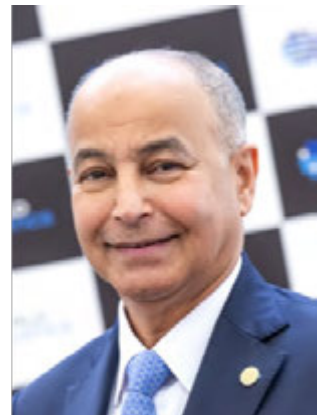
Coach education remained a priority, with 1,800 coaches attending our programmes. Sixteen certification courses led to 322 new certified coaches, enhancing professionalism in aquatic coaching.

Our Pools for All initiative also achieved a historic milestone, as World Aquatics opened Bhutan's first-ever swimming pool—the highest-altitude pool in the world. Already a focal point for aspiring swimmers and recreational athletes, the Bhutan pool marks a significant step in expanding access to aquatics.

These successes are a testament to the dedication of our global aquatics family. Together, we have strengthened the foundations of our sport and paved the way for future growth.

I sincerely thank our athletes, coaches, Member Federations, Continental Organisations, partners, and staff for their unwavering commitment. Our progress reflects our shared passion, and I am immensely grateful.

Let us celebrate 2024's achievements and embrace the opportunities ahead in 2025 as we continue to elevate aquatics and inspire future generations.



Captain Husain Al-Musallam
World Aquatics President

This year, World Aquatics Development and Athlete Services made an unforgettable impact, achieving:



400,000
ATHLETES

Supported through AQUA competitions, Athlete Experiences at the Artistic Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Swimming and Diving World Cup, Scholarships Programme, World Aquatics Support programme, Stipendium Hungaricum, prize money, Refugee Team initiatives, Pools for All and exclusive training like workshops, webinars, and seminars at major events.



26,000
COACHES

Empowered with education through the World Aquatics Certification Programme, Olympic Solidarity Scholarships, technical courses, World Aquatics Support Programme and Discover Water clinics.



19,000
OFFICIALS

Upskilled in all disciplines, ensuring fair play and top-quality competitions worldwide with World Aquatics Certification and the World Aquatics Support Programme.



210
MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Strengthened through development projects such as the World Aquatics Support Programme, the World Aquatics Continental support programme, Mentorship programme, workshops for Member Federations, Project management courses, medical initiatives and Pools for All programme, expanding aquatics to every continent.

INTRODUCTION

BIGGEST MILESTONES



Signed the UN Sport
4 Climate Action
Framework



Opened the First
"Pools for All" in
Bhutan



Launched Discover
Water Programme
on World Drowning
Prevention Day

MEET THE DREAM TEAM MAKING WAVES!

Behind all this success is a powerhouse squad, making sure aquatics keeps growing, thriving, and breaking new ground! Leading the charge is **Morgane Gaultier**, our captain of Development & Athlete Services, steering the ship towards bigger and better opportunities for everyone in the water.

Vita Balsyte – The mastermind behind all things development, making sure our programmes reach athletes, Member Federations coaches, and officials worldwide.

Melissa Caballero – The scholarships guru, ensuring that athletes get the funding and opportunities they need to succeed—because talent should never go to waste!

Marie Gex Fabry – The queen of officiating, training and certifying the referees and judges who keep competitions fair and world-class.

Saloni Gupta – Championing the coaches' corner, making sure they have the best tools and education to train future champions.

Liam McLin – Our tech-savvy learning architect, building the next-gen World Aquatics learning platform to make knowledge more accessible than ever.

William Salvi – The bridge between World Aquatics and its 210 Member Federations, ensuring every country gets the support it needs to grow.

Nikolaus Schönfeldt – A passionate force behind aquatics education within the DOSB, inspiring communities and expanding access to the life-saving and life-changing power of water for all.

Jessica Kees – The ultimate athlete advocate, making sure athletes have the resources, guidance, and support they need to thrive in and out of the pool.

Johan Lefebvre – Our medical maestro, working on health and safety in aquatics so that athletes can perform at their peak.

Maha Gouda – Our athlete-intern, diving into new career pathways through the World Aquatics career transition programme.

James Gibson – The coaching architect behind our Development Centres, leading swimming clinics around the world and ensuring consistent, high-quality coaching.

Felipe Perrone – Water polo legend in the pool and driving force behind the game outside of it. This year, he's been a cornerstone in building scholarship opportunities for water polo athletes—connecting talented players from developing countries with top clubs to give them a real shot at reaching the elite level.

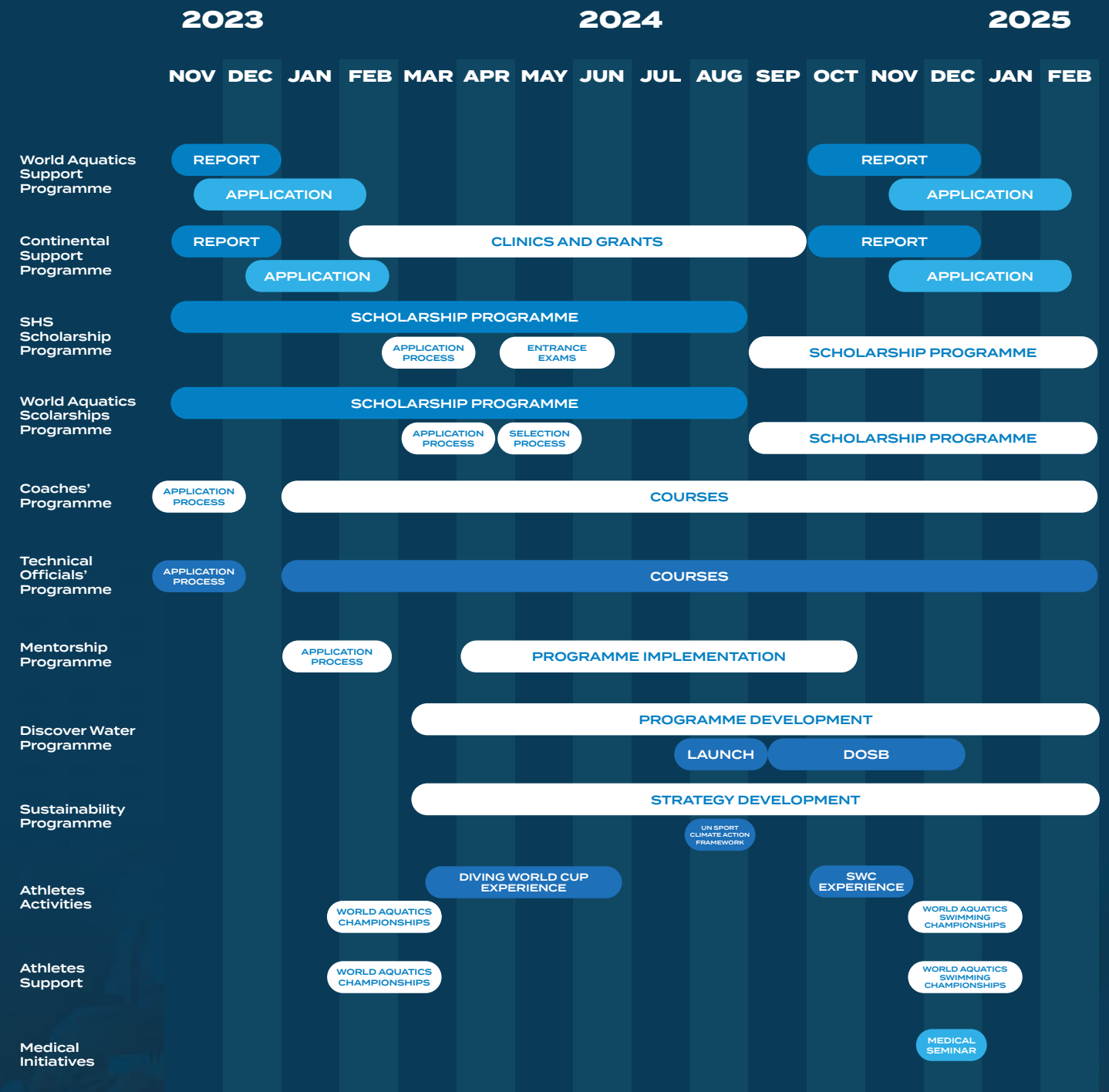
Together, this team is forging ahead, breaking barriers, and develop the future of aquatics worldwide for everybody!



ORGANISATION OF THE PROJECTS



MAIN TIMELINES



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

ATHLETES

WORLD AQUATICS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

The World Aquatics Scholarships Programme was launched in 2014 with the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance to athletes with internationally recognised sporting achievements, but without favourable or sufficient local training conditions.

THE PROGRAMME TARGETS

100
SWIMMERS

20
OPEN WATER
SWIMMERS

20
DIVERS

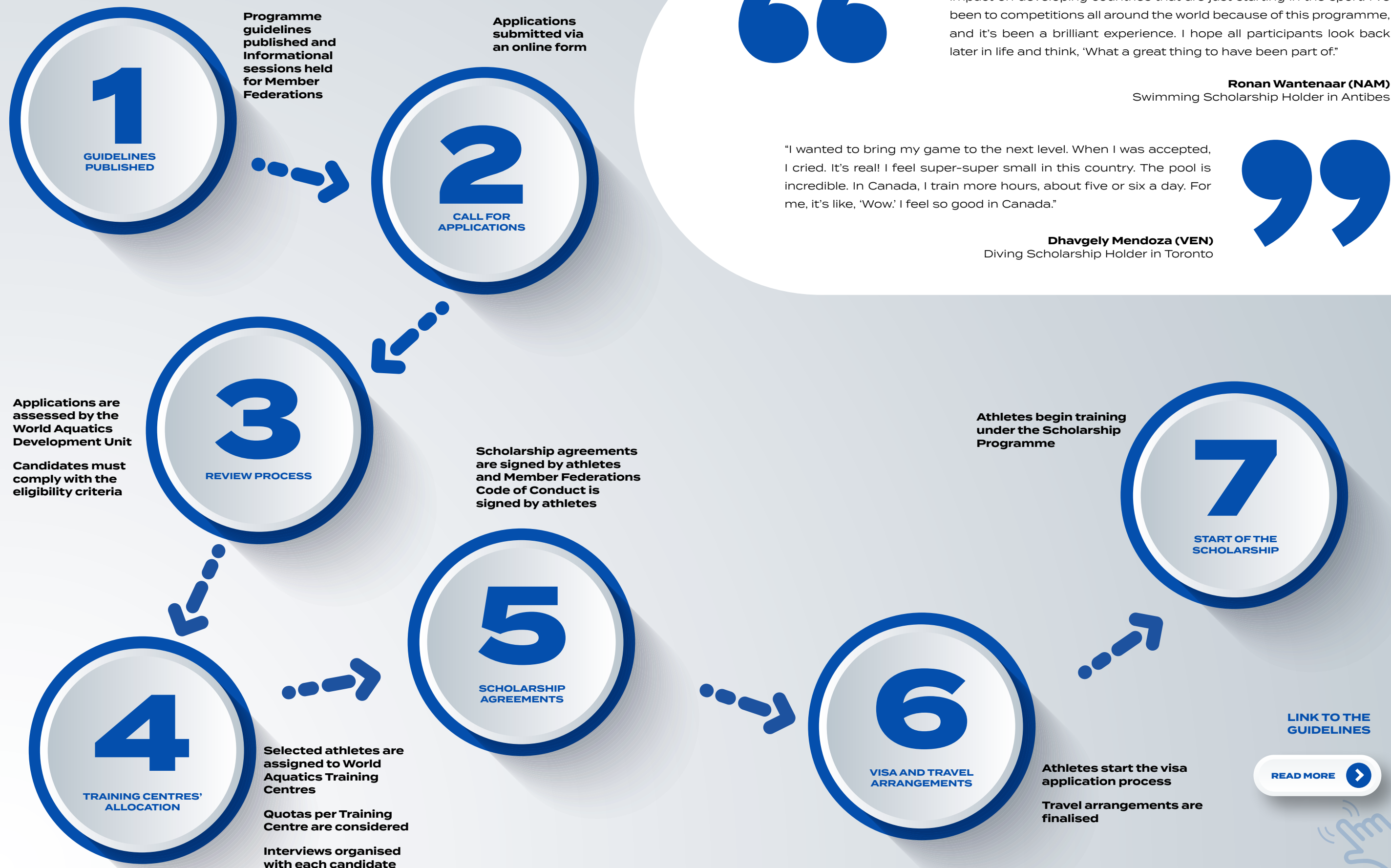
10
ARTISTIC SWIMMING
DUETS

10
WATER POLO
PLAYERS IN
2024

Scholarships are awarded for a one-year duration, beginning each September. In the 2023-24 edition, 121 athletes benefited from the programme. Currently, 93 athletes are part of the 2024-2025 World Aquatics Scholarships Programme. The majority of the selected athletes train at the World Aquatics Training Centres.

Training Centre based athletes receive full board accommodation (or accommodation and meal allowance), access to the training facilities and coaching services, accident, health and travel insurance, personal development and non-formal educational opportunities.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE



2023-24



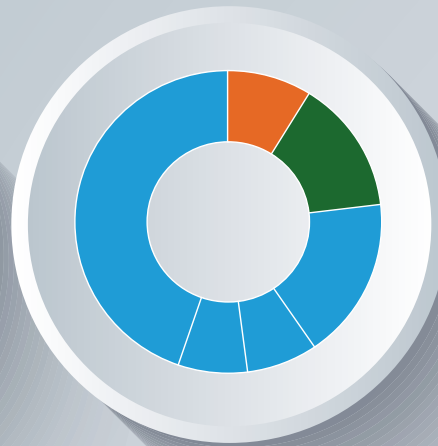
By sport

Artistic Swimming
10 Duets

Diving
11 Athletes

Open Water Swimming
18 Athletes

Swimming
72 Athletes



By Training Centre

Toronto
9%

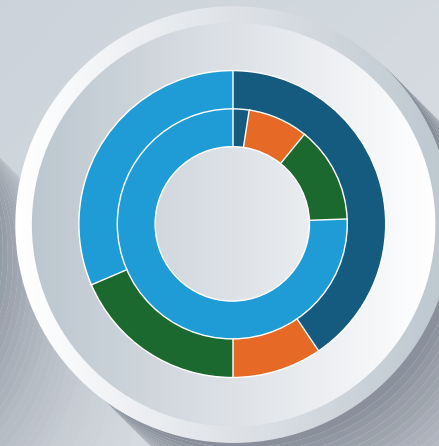
Azura
15%

Antibes
17%

Bond University
7%

Budapest
7%

Thanyapura
45%



By gender

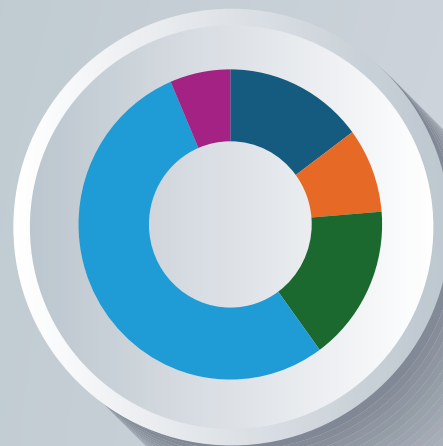
Artistic Swimming
2 Male 18 Female

Diving
7 Male 4 Female

Open Water Swimming
10 Male 8 Female

Swimming
58 Male 14 Female

2024-25



By sport

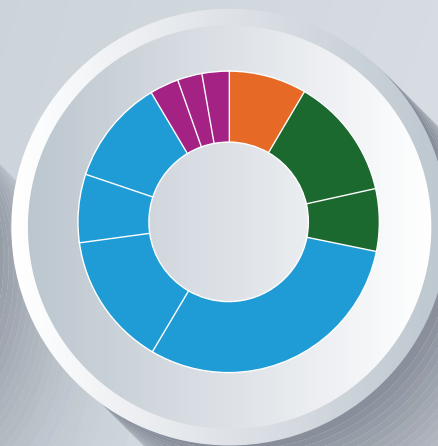
Artistic Swimming
7 Duets

Diving
8 Athletes

Open Water Swimming
15 Athletes

Swimming
50 Athletes

Water Polo
6 Athletes



By Training Centre

Toronto
9%

Azura
13%

Antibes
30%

Bond University
14%

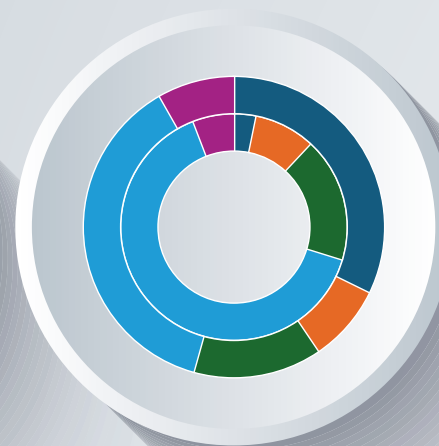
Budapest
7%

Thanyapura
11%

ANC
3%

CN Catalunya
3%

CN Rubi
3%



By gender

Artistic Swimming
2 Male 12 Female

Diving
5 Male 3 Female

Open Water Swimming
10 Male 5 Female

Swimming
36 Male 14 Female

Water Polo
3 Male 3 Female

2024 KEY NUMBERS

\$77,390
AIRFARES

\$56,315
QUALIFYING EVENTS SUPPORT

\$2,047,330
SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDS

\$19,020
OTHER EXPENSES

\$2,200,055
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR EVENTS

World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024

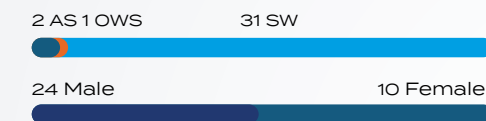
92 Athletes from
71 Member Federations
3 Finals



76%
Participation rate
(2023-24 edition)

Paris Olympic Games

34 Athletes from
33 Member Federations



28%
Participation rate
(2023-24 edition)

World Aquatics Swimming Championships - Budapest 2024

36 Athletes from
36 Member Federations
2 Semifinals



72%
Participation rate
(2024-25 edition)

READ MORE ABOUT IT



World Aquatics Scholarship Athletes training in Antibes set 100th National Record at World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)

[READ MORE](#)



World Aquatics Scholarship athletes shine on the global stage in Budapest

[READ MORE](#)



Coaches and athletes engage in informative and empowering activities ahead of the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)

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Athlete scholarship holders set to shine at World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) - Budapest 2024

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Swimming in Mongolia on the rise

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Sangay Tenzin: A new peak for swimming in Bhutan

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From Thanyapura to Nevada: Scholarship journey continues for Mongolia's Enkhkhushlen Batbayar

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Pacific Island nations on the rise at Paris 2024

[READ MORE](#)



The Adrian Robinson Journey: From Botswana to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

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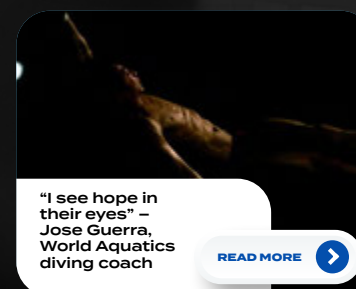
Go behind the scenes with Micronesian swimmer Tasi Limtiaco on his journey to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

[READ MORE](#)



World Aquatics Scholarship diver makes Olympic debut

[READ MORE](#)



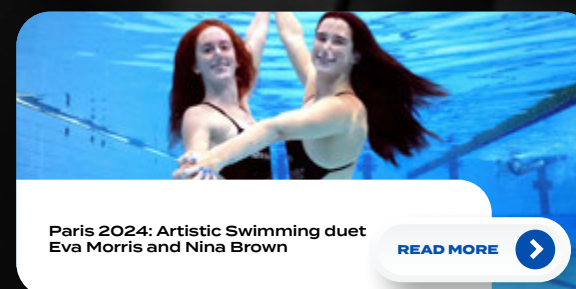
“I see hope in their eyes” – Jose Guerra, World Aquatics diving coach

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World Aquatics strengthens its commitment to aquatics development by extending the Training Centre partnership in Thanyapura, Thailand with a Memorandum of Understanding

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Paris 2024: Artistic Swimming duet Eva Morris and Nina Brown

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Scholarship success for Colombian women's duet

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WORLD AQUATICS TRAINING CENTRES



READ MORE ABOUT IT

World Aquatics strengthens its commitment to aquatics development by extending the Training Centre partnership in Thanyapura, Thailand with a Memorandum of Understanding

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World Aquatics Scholarship Athletes training in Antibes set 100th National Record at World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)

[READ MORE](#)

"I see hope in their eyes" – Jose Guerra, World Aquatics diving coach

[READ MORE](#)



2023-24 KEY FIGURES

Swimming

Antibes	12
Bond Univ.	5
Budapest	5+10 SHS
Thanyapura	31

Open Water Swimming

Azura	10
-------	----

Diving

Toronto	6
---------	---

2024-25 KEY FIGURES

Swimming

Antibes	21
Bond Univ.	10
Budapest	5+16 SHS
Thanyapura	8

Open Water Swimming

Antibes	5
Azura	9

Diving

Toronto	6
---------	---

Water Polo

ANC Glyfada	2
CN Catalunya	2
CN Rubi	2

AQUA Scholarships

Training Centre	Total athletes	WCH participation	PB	NR
Antibes	21	17	33	15
Bond University	10	8	9	2
Budapest	5	4	6	1
Thanyapura	8	4	6	3
Total	44	33	54	21

SHS

Training Centre	Total athletes	WCH participation	PB	NR
Debrecen	3	3	5	1
Budapest	16	8	8	2
Pécs	2	1	2	2
Eger	1	0	0	0
Total	22	12	15	5

STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Stipendium Hungaricum Sports Scholarship Programme (SHS), launched in 2021 by the Hungarian Government, is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and coordinated by the Tempus Public Foundation. It supports athletes with acknowledged sporting accomplishments in pursuing higher education in Hungary while continuing competitive training through opportunities provided by the Hungarian Swimming Association.

The programme targets up to 20 athletes from every state in the World, excluding applicants from the European Union and the European Economic Area. Applicants must have represented their country in international competitions and commit to competing in the upcoming Continental Championships, World Aquatics Championships and Olympic Games. They must hold proof of English proficiency and outstanding academic records.

The scholarship covers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programmes, with durations ranging from 1 to 4 years. Recipients benefit from tuition-free education, a monthly stipend, accommodation support, medical insurance, tailored training programs and professional sports services.

READ MORE ABOUT IT



APPLICATION PROCEDURE



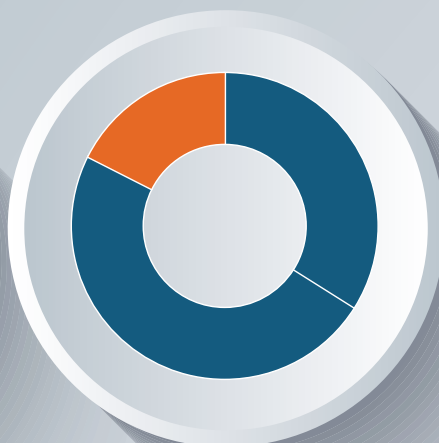
2023-24



By location

Budapest
10 Athletes

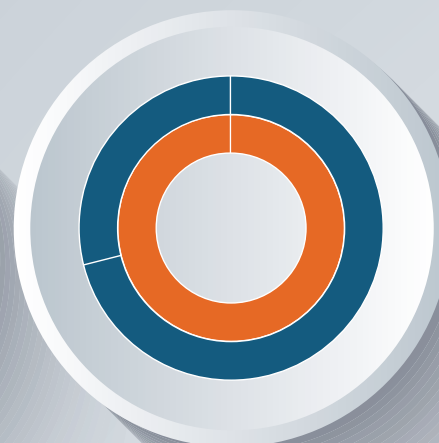
Debrecen
2 Athletes



By study programme

Budapest
4 Master 8 Bachelor

Debrecen
2 Bachelor



By gender

Budapest
5 Male 5 Female

Debrecen
0 Male 2 Female

2024-25



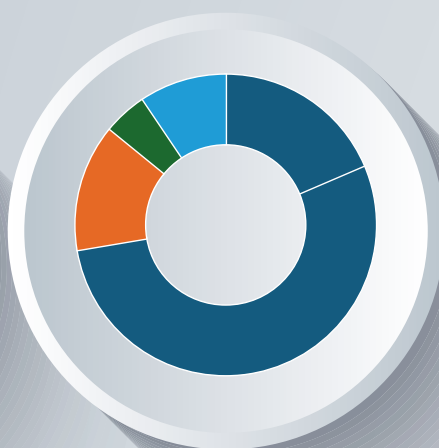
By location

Budapest
16 Athletes

Debrecen
3 Athletes

Eger
1 Athlete

Pécs
2 Athlete



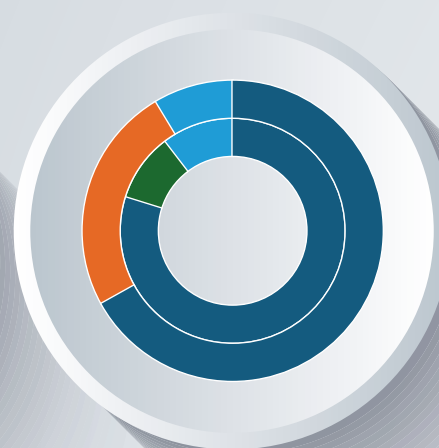
By study programme

Budapest
4 Master 12 Bachelor

Debrecen
3 Bachelor

Eger
1 Bachelor

Pécs
2 Bachelor



By gender

Budapest
8 Male 8 Female

Debrecen
0 Male 3 Female

Eger
1 Male 0 Female

Pécs
1 Male 1 Female

2024 KEY NUMBERS

\$31,860
AIRFARES

\$84,500
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

\$116,360
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

SHS SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS PARTICIPATION AT MAJOR EVENTS

World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024

5 Athletes from
5 Member Federations

2 Male 3 Female

38%
Participation rate

Paris Olympic Games

2 Athletes from
2 Member Federations

1 Male 1 Female

15%
Participation rate

World Aquatics Swimming Championships - Budapest 2024

12 Athletes from
8 Member Federations

7 Male 5 Female

55%
Participation rate

REFUGEE TEAM

World Aquatics Refugee Team (ART) was first created in 2021. Since then, the team was represented at all major World Aquatics Championships in Abu Dhabi 2021, Budapest 2022, Fukuoka 2023. In 2024, World Aquatics demonstrated its unwavering commitment to supporting refugee athletes by facilitating their participation in key international events.

At the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, Qatar, in February, two athletes, Alaa Maso and Eyad Masoud, represented the Refugee Team. World Aquatics provided comprehensive support, including flight tickets, accommodation, competition kits, and collaborated with Arena to supply swimsuits and additional equipment.

In December, three athletes—Alaa Maso, Eyad Masoud, and Matin Balsini—competed at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships in Budapest, Hungary. World Aquatics covered their flights, accommodation, and competition kits, partnering with Speedo to provide high-quality swimsuits, including those used at the Olympic Games.

Additionally, World Aquatics partnered with the UNHCR regional office in Budapest to organize a swimming clinic, bringing together Refugee Team athletes and refugee children for an inspiring and meaningful event. These initiatives underscore World Aquatics' dedication to empowering refugee athletes, promoting their visibility on the international stage, and fostering inclusivity within the aquatic sports community.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1

IOC Refugee
Scholarship Holders

2

Selection for the World
Aquatics Championships

3

Participation at World
Aquatics Championships

World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024

- 2 Athletes: Alaa Maso and Eyad Masoud
- 2 Personal best results achieved

World Aquatics Swimming Championships Budapest

- 3 Athletes: Eyad Masoud, Matin Balsini, Alaa Maso
- 3 Personal best results achieved

Evaluation:

- 2 of 3 IOC Refugee Scholarship Holders took part at the Summer Olympic Games in Paris 2024
- 5 personal best results achieved over the year 2024
- Enhanced cooperation with partners (Arena, Speedo) to support the Refugee Team athletes

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$3,052.22

DOHA

\$3,883.18

BUDAPEST

Value in kind:
Swimsuits, caps goggles, other
training equipment.

“

“It’s an honour to compete on the world stage and to send a message to refugees everywhere: if you have a dream, keep working towards it. It’s also not just about refugees, but about anyone facing challenges. The support from World Aquatics has been invaluable—always there to listen without judgement, whether it’s about performance or personal challenges. They have helped us grow not just as swimmers, but as human beings.”

Eyad Masoud

“Every stroke connects me to my family, even when we’re far apart. Since 2018, I’ve grown both physically and mentally in the sport. Representing refugees on the world stage means showing others what’s possible, even when life feels like it starts at –1,”

Alaa Maso

“Swimming is one of the most important things to me, and being here in Budapest, competing with the best in the world, is an incredible opportunity.”

Matin Balsini

”

READ MORE ABOUT IT



World Aquatics sits down with
its Refugee Team competing in
Budapest

[READ MORE](#)



Sheikh Joaan meets World Aquatics
Refugee Team athletes in Doha

[READ MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) COLLABORATION

Collaboration with the IOC established in terms of the IOC contribution that is provided by the IOC for the development purposes and the Olympic Solidarity Programmes.

In 2024 Athletes, Coaches, Officials and Member Federations benefited from the Olympic Solidarity (OS) Programmes. 130 athletes received the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for the preparation for Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1

Member Federations apply via the National Olympic Committee

2

National Olympic Committee uploads the application on the OS Relay platform

3

OS consults with AQUA after initial review

4

Final confirmation by the Olympic Solidarity

“

“Commuting back and forth to meets, paying team fees, buying new gear – it’s not cheap. Racing suits are probably the biggest expense we have as swimmers, and the funding has helped me out with that. It’s also allowed me to travel to some meets that I wouldn’t have been able to attend previously. I know some athletes who have had to pick up multiple jobs just to support themselves, but the Olympic Solidarity funding has helped me focus on my training.”

Tasi Limtiaco

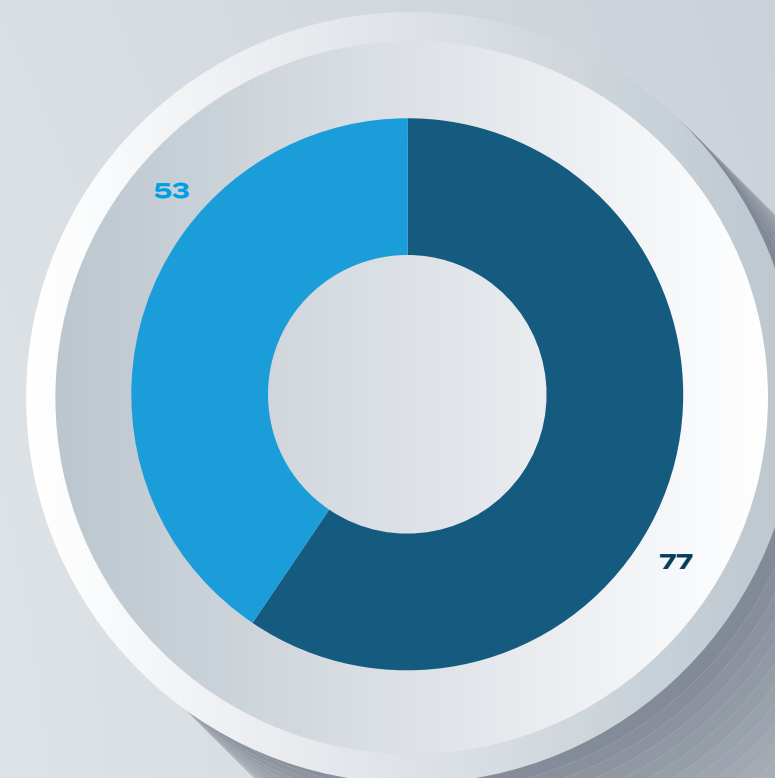
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Paris 2024 Scholarship Programme was offered to 130 athletes

Paris 2024 Scholarship Holders who attended the Olympic Games

44 Female athletes
33 Male athletes

33 Male 44 Female



77 Scholarship Holders who qualified for Paris 2024 Olympic Games

53 Scholarship Holders who did not qualify for Paris 2024 Olympic Games



ENTOURAGE

COACHES CERTIFICATION

Education for Coaches is an integral part of the World Aquatics Development Programme. As part of the Coaches Certification Programme in 2024, it offered three certification levels for swimming coaches (Level 1- Assistant Coach, Level 2- Coach, and Level 3- Senior Coach) and one level for artistic swimming coaches (Level 1- Beginner Coach).

KEY OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

1

Promote sports' growth by offering continuous learning pathways for coaches

2

Identify and develop necessary competencies for aquatics coaches

3

Develop and educate aquatics coaches for the advancement of the sport

The programme collaborates with Member Federations to organise courses. These courses are offered in a blended learning format, combining e-learning with face-to-face sessions delivered at locations chosen by the host national federation. Course duration varies from 30 to 75 hours, incorporating assessments that lead to certification upon successful completion.

Eligibility criteria include being at least 18 years old and having relevant coaching experience based on the certification level applied for. Courses are delivered in multiple languages, ensuring accessibility. For more information on the Coaches Certification Programme, please refer to the guidelines: PowerPoint Presentation

APPLICATION PROCEDURE



16 coaches certification courses took place in 2024 across Swimming (12 courses) and Artistic Swimming (4 courses). As per the continental split for Swimming, 2 courses took place in Africa, 3 in Americas, 3 in Asia, 1 in Europe and 3 in Oceania. Similarly for Artistic Swimming, 1 course took place in Americas, 1 in Asia, 1 in Europe and 1 in Oceania.

SPORT	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Total
Swimming	2	3	3	1	3	12
Artistic Swimming		1	1	1	1	4
Total	2	4	4	2	4	16

Number of coaches who participated in the certification courses for coaches: 346

Swimming
275
participants

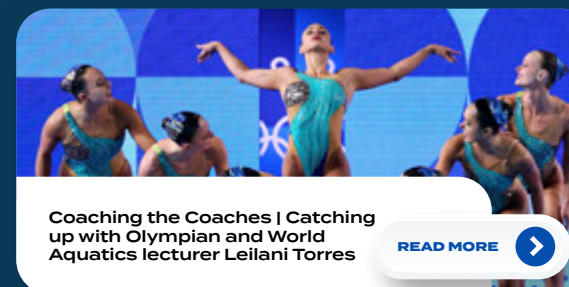
Artistic Swimming
71
participants

NUMBER OF MEMBER
FEDERATIONS THAT
PARTICIPATED

36

**2024
KEY NUMBERS**

\$161,922
TOTAL EXPENDITURE



“

World Aquatics Coaches Certification Course – Coach Level (L2) – Cochabamba, Bolivia (BOL) 18/07/2024 – 22/07/2024

“The course was well-organised, with the lecturer effectively managing the group, ensuring smooth interactions and engagement throughout the sessions. The explanations provided were clear and comprehensive, making the material accessible and easy to understand for all participants.”

Bolivian National Federation

World Aquatics Swimming Coaches Certification Course – Assistant Coach Level (L1) Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) 01/08/2024 – 03/08/2024

“This was a great course and the instructor was exceptional. All the participants learned so much from the expert and about swimming. Each newly trained coach is ready to revamp their swimming programmes in their states and municipalities. The participants learned so much regarding the different stages of an athlete’s development process and understanding what the body needs with regards to training sessions.”

Federated States of Micronesia Swimming Association

World Aquatics Coaches Certification Course – Artistic Swimming Beginner Coach Level (L1) Cali, Colombia (COL) 09/08/2024 – 12/08/2024

“This course was beneficial and allowed us to train our grassroots coaches on the processes and fundamentals of Artistic Swimming Coaching.”

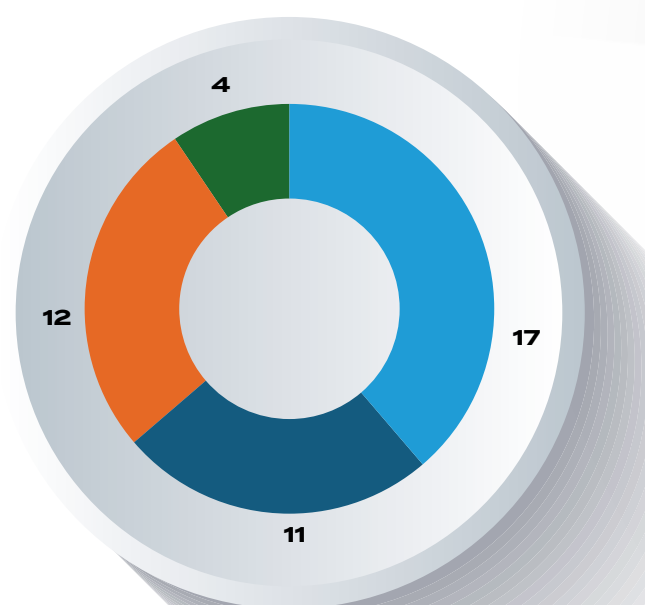
Federacion Colombiana de Natacion

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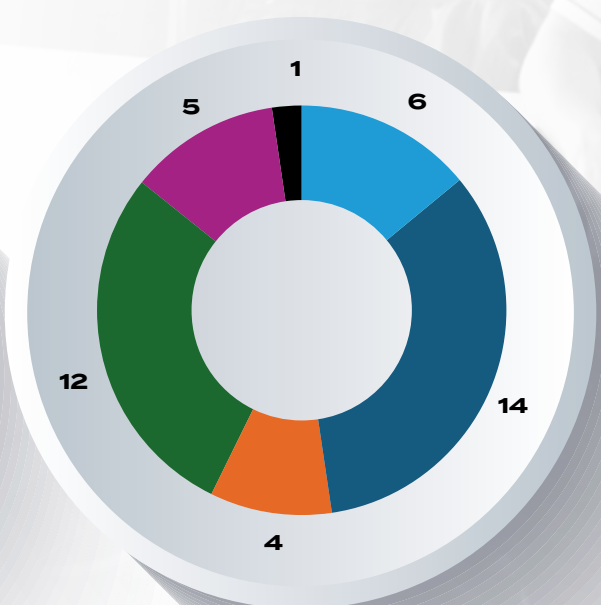
COACHES CLINICS

The Clinics for Coaches programme is a cornerstone of the longstanding World Aquatics Development Programme, designed to elevate the competencies, knowledge, and expertise of coaches worldwide. This initiative reflects the commitment of World Aquatics to fostering coaching excellence across all six aquatic sports. In collaboration with Continental Organisations, each clinic is tailored to meet the specific needs of coaches within each continent, ensuring relevance and alignment with local contexts. These clinics provide vital platforms for knowledge exchange and skill enhancement, empowering coaches to refine their practices and advance athlete training methodologies. By offering targeted technical training and fostering a culture of continuous learning, the programme underscores the shared vision of advancing coaching standards and excellence across the global aquatics community.

Clinics organised by Continent



Clinics organised by sport



Continent	Number of Clinics	Number of participants
Americas	17	1'746
Africa	11	265
Oceania	4	376
Europe	12	452
Asia	-	-
TOTAL	44 Clinics	2'839 participants

Sport	Number of Clinics
Swimming	6
Open Water Swimming	14
Artistic Swimming	12
Water Polo	4
Diving	5
High Diving	-
General (Panam Convention)	1

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$34,202
AMERICAS

\$32,681
AFRICA

\$15,000
OCEANIA

\$50,000
EUROPE

\$131,883
TOTAL



OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY – SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COACHES

In 2024, 20 Coaches benefited from Scholarships to study at coaches' development programmes organised by Olympic Solidarity and educational institutions in Hungary, USA, Switzerland and Canada.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1

Member Federations
apply via the National
Olympic Committee

2

National Olympic Committee
uploads the application on the
OS Relay platform

3

OS consults with AQUA
after initial review

4

Final confirmation by the
Olympic Solidarity

20 coaches (ANG, RWA, JOR, HON, GUA, CAM, IRI, ESA, KAZ, DEN, GEO, BRA, MOZ, TTO, VEN, MLI, OMA, MDV, MAW, SWZ) completed the courses.

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY – TECHNICAL COURSES FOR COACHES

Olympic Solidarity offers short-term training opportunities at different levels for active coaches officially recognised by their Member Federation (MF) and working in their own country. The programme is open to all National Olympic Committees (NOCs), especially those with the greatest need.

The courses are meant to enable NOCs to educate coaches so that they can not only coach their athletes, but also teach their fellow coaches. Olympic Solidarity also actively supports the participation of women in the training courses.

These courses must follow the rules established by World Aquatics with regard to the expert's appointment, course duration, content, format, etc.

In terms of the costs, Olympic Solidarity covers the organisational costs – in line with the detailed budget breakdown submitted by the NOC. NOCs must send their application through RELAY no later than three months before the intended period of the course. Olympic Solidarity will assess the application and will forward it World Aquatics for technical assessment, with a view to enabling them to start the organisation of the course. World Aquatics will appoint or endorse the expert to run the type of course requested.

For further information on the courses, please visit the

GUIDELINES PAGE

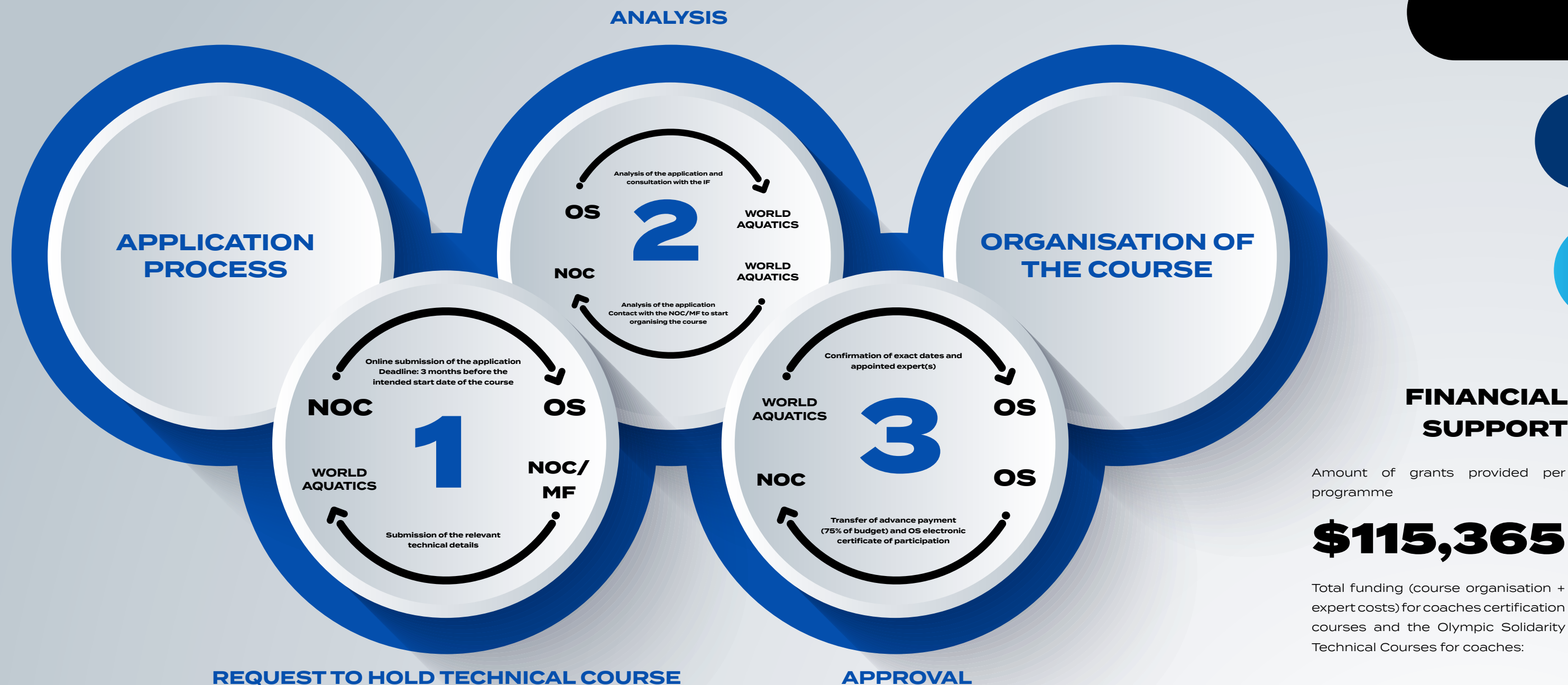
READ MORE



**OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY
PROGRAMMES**

READ MORE





“

Solidarity Course for Coaches - Istanbul, Turkiye (TUR) 02/12/2024 - 08/12/2024

“The lecturer’s extensive experience and impressive achievements made him an outstanding choice, and hence, we had an incredibly successful seminar which will leave a lasting impact on our coaches. The program was a resounding success”

Turkish Water Polo Federation

Olympic Solidarity Course for Coaches- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (MGL) 23/06/2024 - 30/06/2024

“The National Clinic for coaches was organised successfully and we are so happy to have Can Onsoy as lecturer. All participants were fully satisfied his work and we will be always wish to have him again here. “

Mongolian National Federation

”

14 technical courses for coaches were organised in 2024. As per the continental split per sport, for Swimming, 6 courses took place in Africa and 4 in Asia making it a total of 10 courses overall. For Artistic Swimming, 2 courses took place in Europe. Lastly, for Water Polo, 2 technical courses for coaches took place in Europe.

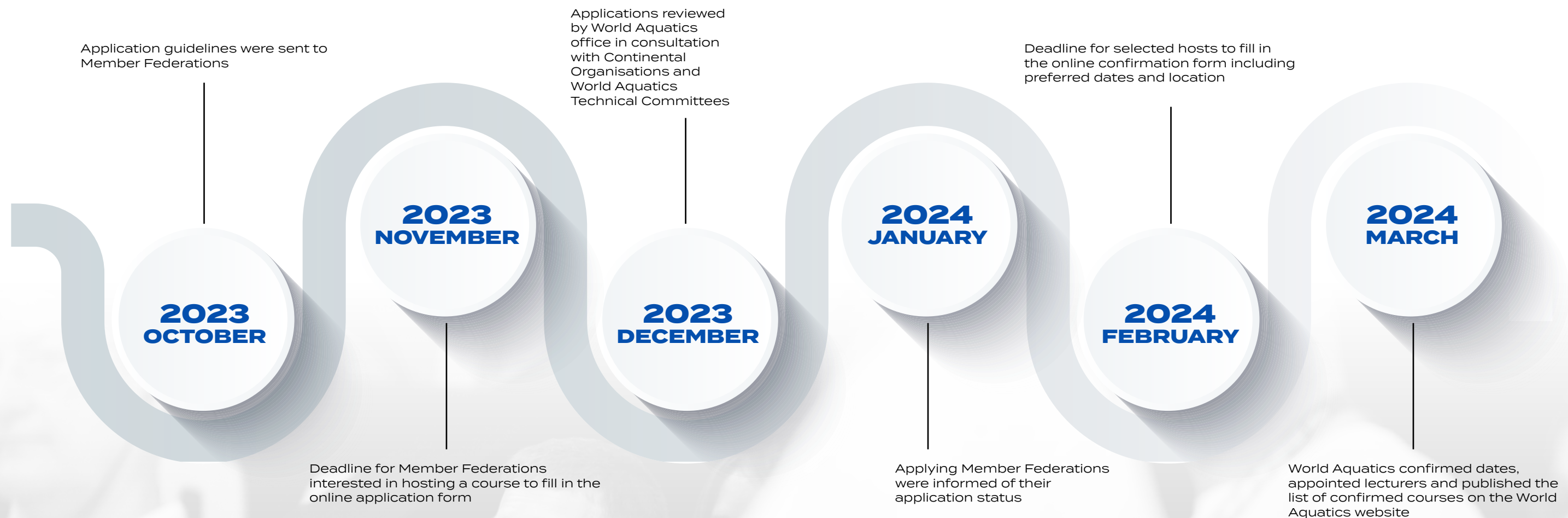
Sport	Africa	Asia	Europe	Total
Swimming	6	4		10
Artistic Swimming			2	2
Water Polo			2	2
TOTAL	6	4	4	14

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

World Aquatics Courses for Technical Officials are designed to support the growth of aquatics sports through standardised training and certification across all six sports. By delivering consistent instruction, the programme ensures a uniform interpretation and application of rules, improving the quality and fairness of officiating and equipping officials with the skills needed to officiate at World Aquatics events. Tailored to each sport's specific needs, development courses were open to individuals with foundational knowledge and experience in officiating while certification courses targeted experienced officials seeking World Aquatics certification, granting them eligibility to be nominated on the World Aquatics Lists and officiate at major events.

Member Federations were invited to apply to host a World Aquatics course for Technical Officials across the six sports. World Aquatics was responsible for selecting the hosts, providing logistical guidelines, arranging World Aquatics lecturers and approving participants eligibility. Courses were regional and open to participants from Member Federations of the continent. After the course, successful candidates received a certificate and World Aquatics reimbursed hosts for logistical expenses up to USD 2,000.-, along with the lecturer's costs. Detailed guidelines published on the World Aquatics website outline the courses' formats, host's application process, courses' organisation requirements, and participants' eligibility criteria.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE



40 courses organised
873 officials from 77 countries
took part in the courses



Number of courses per sport:

Swimming	12
Artistic Swimming	5
Diving	5
High Diving	2
Open Water Swimming	9
Water Polo	7

Number of courses per continent:

Europe	7
Africa	7
America	13
Asia	11
Oceania	2

“

“I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to have participated in this course. It has been an enriching experience. The knowledge acquired during this process has not only broadened my perspective, but has also provided me with practical tools that will be essential in my professional growth. My goal is to continue participating in high-level events representing my country as well as a neutral referee.”

Mr Agustin Pinski

Water Polo Referee, who attended the World Aquatics Water Polo Certification Course in Buenos Aires

“Participating in this course was an invaluable opportunity to deepen my knowledge of high diving and enhance my judging experience while observing the world’s top high divers. Given the limited opportunities for high diving events, gaining experience at these competitions is especially important. The course is well-structured, with expert lecturers. I am eager to continue judging, ready to contribute wherever Canada needs me.”

Mr Eric Sehn

High Diving Judge, who attended the World Aquatics High Diving Certification Course during the World Cup event in Bahrain

“My experience was very positive. The information shared was pertinent to the sport and directly applicable to Open Water competitions. Our instructor was incredibly knowledgeable and shared real-life experiences that helped connect the material to Open Water competitions. I appreciated the videos and the discussions that followed as learning tools. I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend the training. It has expanded my knowledge as an official. I feel more confident officiating Open Water competitions and understand the process of organising the events, safety, and the officials’ rules. “

Mrs Ximena Pagiamtzis

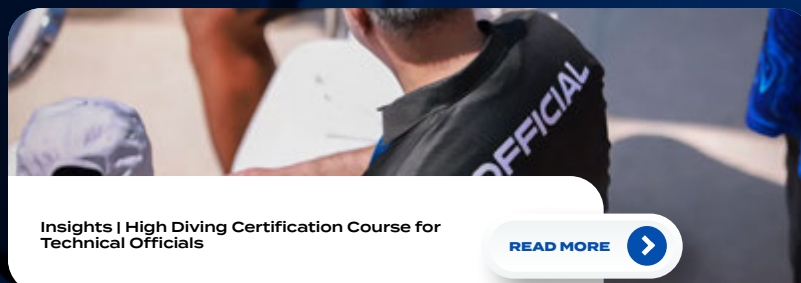
Open Water Swimming Official, who attended the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming Certification Course in Montreal

”

**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

\$166,000

**WAS SPENT FOR THE
ORGANISATION OF COURSES IN
2024**



Insights | High Diving Certification Course for Technical Officials

[READ MORE](#) ➔

WORLD AQUATICS E-LEARNING PLATFORM

The World Aquatics E-Learning Platform marks an important milestone in our commitment to enhancing our education initiatives. Designed to empower coaches, officials, and community stakeholders, the platform provides accessible, high-quality learning resources tailored to the unique needs of the global aquatics community. This initiative underscores the importance of an online learning community within an international sports organization. By fostering connections and enabling participants to share diverse experiences, the platform promotes collaboration and growth on a global scale.



CONTENT CURATION



SOCIAL LEARNING



GAMIFICATION

Central to its mission are three pillars: content curation, social learning, and gamification. These elements form the foundation of an engaging and interactive environment where users can learn, connect, and grow. The platform will offer interactive certifications and webinars while also providing a robust file repository featuring curated papers, articles, videos, and other resources to enrich the learning experience. Initially, the launch will focus on Coaches and Officials, with plans to gradually expand to additional stakeholder groups over time. With its pilot launch planned for March 2025 and a public launch soon after, it aims to become an essential resource for aquatic sports education.

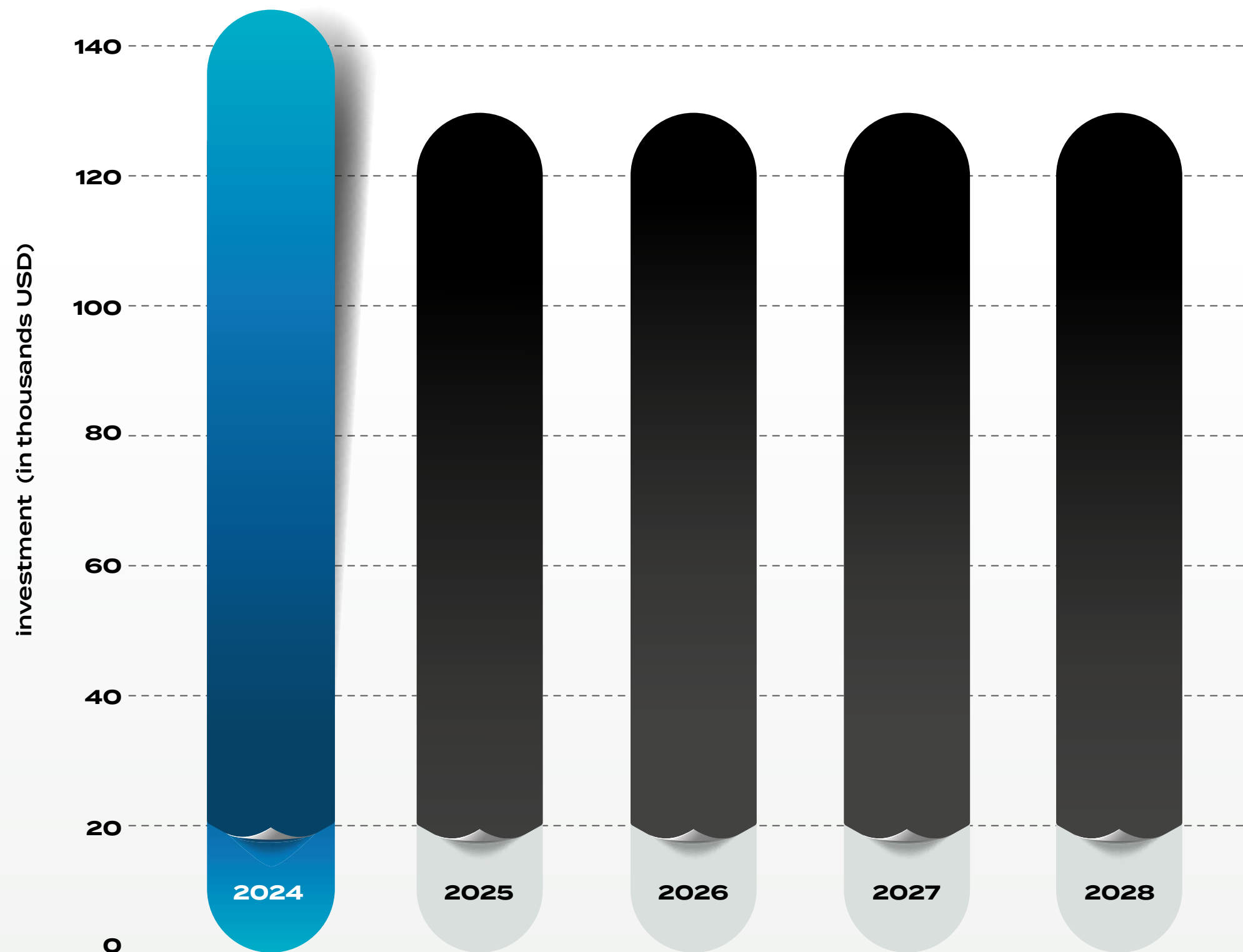
In preparation for the launch, World Aquatics has worked tirelessly with leading software providers, ensuring the best tools and configuration to deliver an exceptional user experience. This effort was supported by a significant investment of USD 145,000 in 2024, demonstrating a strong commitment to the platform's success. The emphasis on social learning is particularly groundbreaking, allowing participants to learn from one another and build a shared repository of knowledge drawn from individual and diverse experiences.

Moreover, the platform aligns with World Aquatics' broader vision of fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional growth. It bridges the gap between geographical boundaries and unites the aquatics community through shared knowledge and resources. As aquatic sports evolve, the platform is designed to adapt and grow, incorporating feedback from users to ensure it remains relevant and impactful.

The use of gamification elements further enhances user motivation, making learning both effective and enjoyable. By encouraging active participation, the platform not only delivers knowledge but also fosters a sense of shared purpose within the community.

This platform is more than a tool; it's a commitment to the future of aquatic sports. By prioritizing inclusivity, innovation, and excellence, we aim to build a learning community that will inspire and empower generations to come. World Aquatics looks forward to the platform becoming a cornerstone of education in the aquatics world, setting the stage for new opportunities and achievements.

ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN E-LEARNING



MEMBERS

CONTINENTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CSP)

Dedicated to advancing aquatics movement, the Continental Support Programme (CSP) aims to elevate the standards of the aquatics' community within continents. Through targeted support, it empowers Continental Organisations to initiate projects specific to the needs of the continent, that enhance administration, governance, training and education, competition organisation, communication and other areas of aquatic sports' development.

In addition to the projects-based support, the Continental Support Programme provides financial assistance to the organisation of selected number of continental competitions. This strategic initiative further strengthens the competitive landscape of aquatics sports by offering targeted assistance for events that showcase the talents and skills of athletes on a continental stage.

CONTINENTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME PROCESS

We have two key expectations for funding. The eligible Continental Organisations will:



have successfully completed the previous CSP editions.



have completed the yearly governance survey by the set deadline.



“

“The Continental Support Programme helped PAQ, with its mission to provide the membership with opportunities to develop, grow, and educate themselves.

It also enabled us to hire dedicated staff, develop impactful initiatives, and grow community through social media and professional events. With clear communication and timely support from the World Aquatics Development team, dealing with situations and collaborating is easy.

The impact of the Programme helped PAQ evolve from a practically unknown organisation to an active one offering clinics, certification programmes, and championship experiences that inspire athletes. This support has fostered long-term growth, empowering PAQ to expand partnerships and opportunities for athletes across its community.

We consistently recommend utilising the Programme (also AQUASP for the Federations) to prioritise long-term growth projects that strengthen the Organisation, rather than focusing solely on short-term needs such as travel.”

Panam Aquatics

”

CSP: KEY FACTS 2024

In 2024, the Continental Support Programme covered 24 projects over 5 continents with \$755,000 invested in the Continental Organisations' projects.



24
PROJECTS



5
CONTINENTS



81
COMPETITIONS (15) &
CLINICS FOR COACHES (66)
SUBSIDIZED



755,000
USD INVESTED

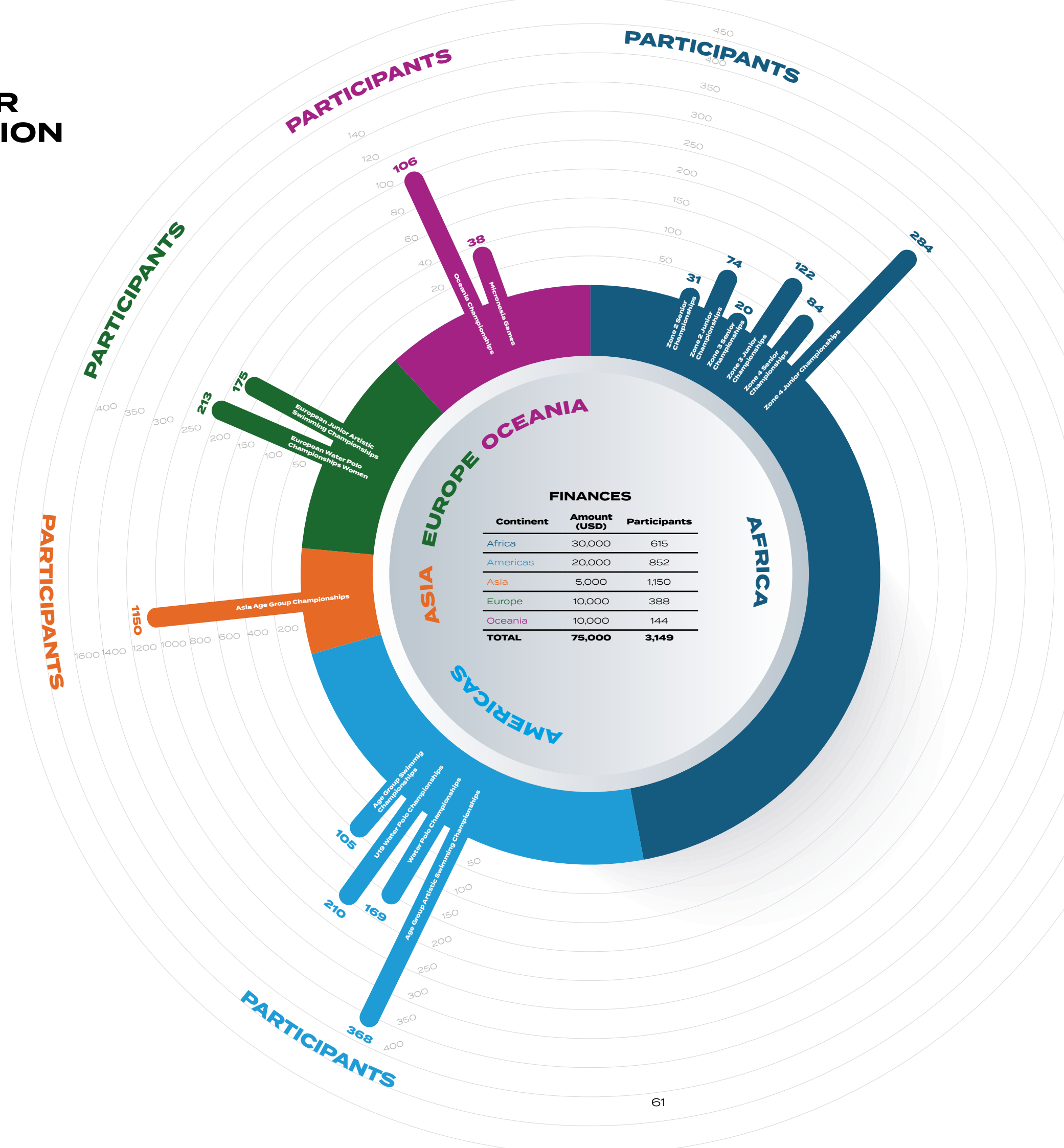
The full guidelines for next year's Continental Support Programme: CSP guidelines 2025

COMPETITION GRANTS FOR CONTINENTAL ORGANISATION

World Aquatics provides competition grants to support continental and regional aquatic competitions, ensuring the continued development of the sport across all regions. In 2024, financial assistance was allocated to Continental Organisations, with funding directed toward both senior and youth competitions. Support was extended to European Aquatics, Asia Aquatics, Oceania Aquatics, PanAm Aquatics Inc., and Africa Aquatics, ensuring that competitions at various levels could be successfully organised across all continents.

To ensure accountability and effective utilisation of funds, each Continental Organisation benefiting from these subsidies is responsible for monitoring individual competitions. **After the completion of events, the respective Continental Organisation is required to submit a report form explaining the use of the funds to World Aquatics, following which the allocated funds for organising continental and regional competitions will be transferred.** These grants reinforce World Aquatics' commitment to fostering high-level competition opportunities globally, supporting athlete development, and promoting aquatic sports across diverse regions.

Continent	Event	Funding (USD)	Member Federations	Participants
Africa	Zone 2 Senior Championships	5,000	15	31
Africa	Zone 2 Junior Championships	5,000	16	74
Africa	Zone 3 Senior Championships	5,000	5	20
Africa	Zone 3 Junior Championships	5,000	5	122
Africa	Zone 4 Senior Championships	5,000	13	84
Africa	Zone 4 Junior Championships	5,000	13	284
Americas	Age Group Artistic Swimming Championships	5,000	13	386
Americas	Water Polo Championships	5,000	8	169
Americas	U19 Water Polo Championships	5,000	9	210
Americas	Age Group Swimming Championships	5,000	15	105
Asia	Asia Age Group Championships	5,000	32	1150
Europe	European Water Polo Championships Women	5,000	16	213
Europe	European Junior Artistic Swimming Championships	5,000	24	175
Oceania	Oceania Championships	5,000	14	106
Oceania	Micronesia Games	5,000	5	38



There are three main eligibility criteria to receive funding:



have participated in one of the two latest major World Aquatics championships.



have successfully completed the previous AQUASP editions.



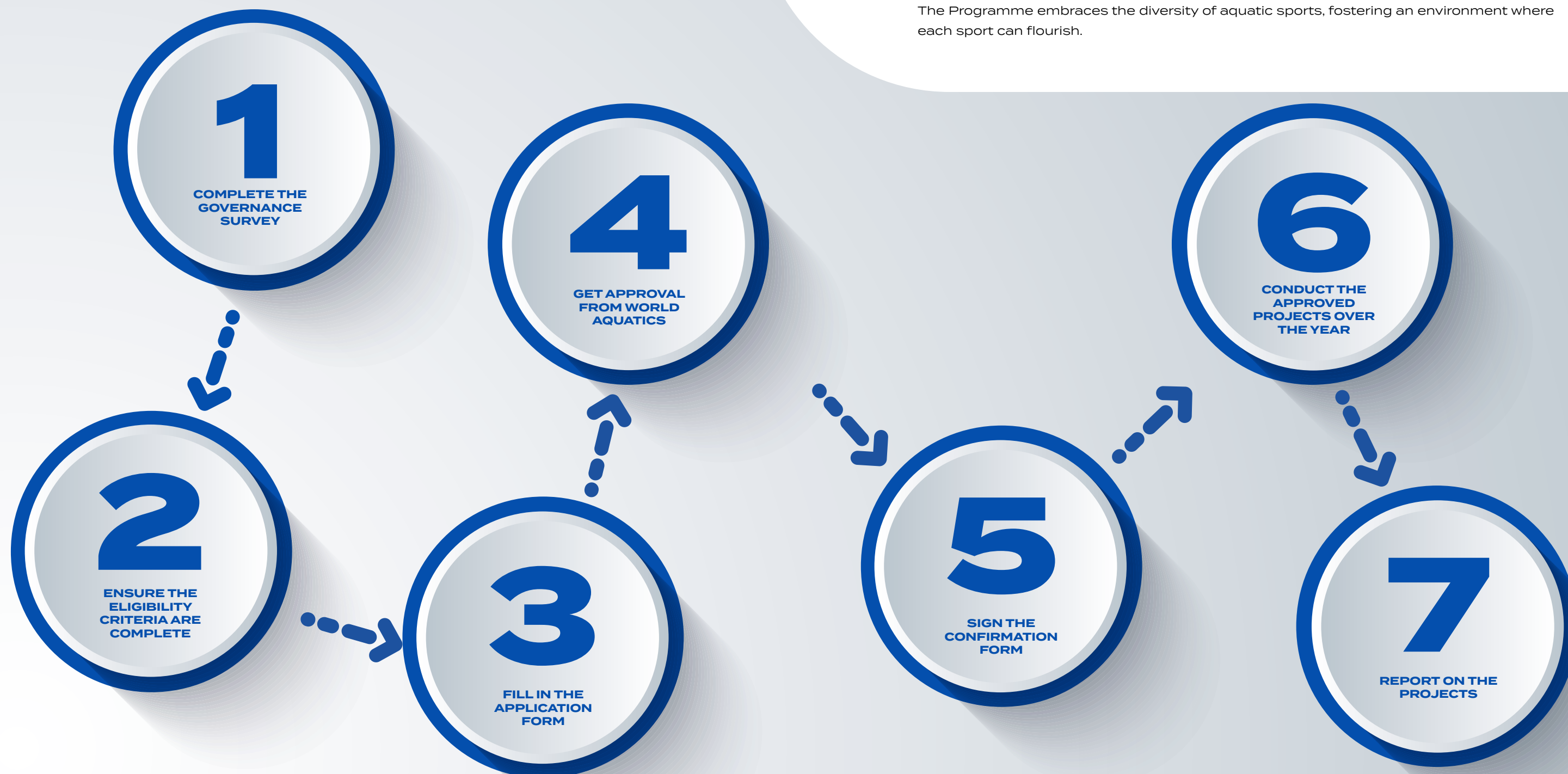
have completed the yearly governance survey by the set deadline.

WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Dedicated to advancing aquatics globally, the World Aquatics Support Programme (AQUASP) is a cornerstone for development of World Aquatics Members.

Through targeted financial support, the Programme aims to elevate the development of aquatics at the National Federation level. It empowers World Aquatics Members to initiate projects that enhance competition management, support athletes' training, develop administration and governance practices, enable the purchase of equipment, and fund participation at competitions and training.

The Programme embraces the diversity of aquatic sports, fostering an environment where each sport can flourish.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2024

In 2024, the World Aquatics Support Programme covered 621 projects over 169 countries with \$4,493,106 invested in the Member Federations' projects. 395,503 athletes were involved or impacted by the projects conducted last year.



621
PROJECTS



169
COUNTRIES



395,503
ATHLETES INVOLVED

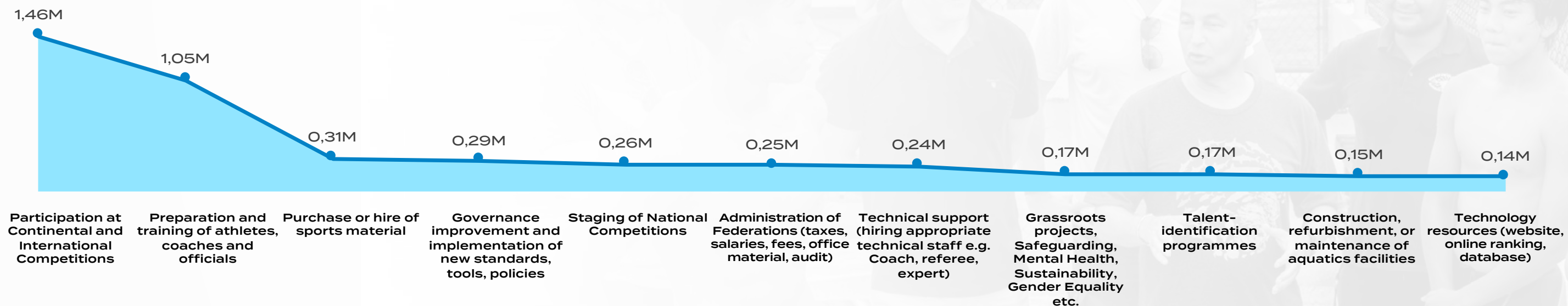


4,493,106
USD INVESTED

The full guidelines for next year's World Aquatics Support Programme: Guidelines AQUASP 2025

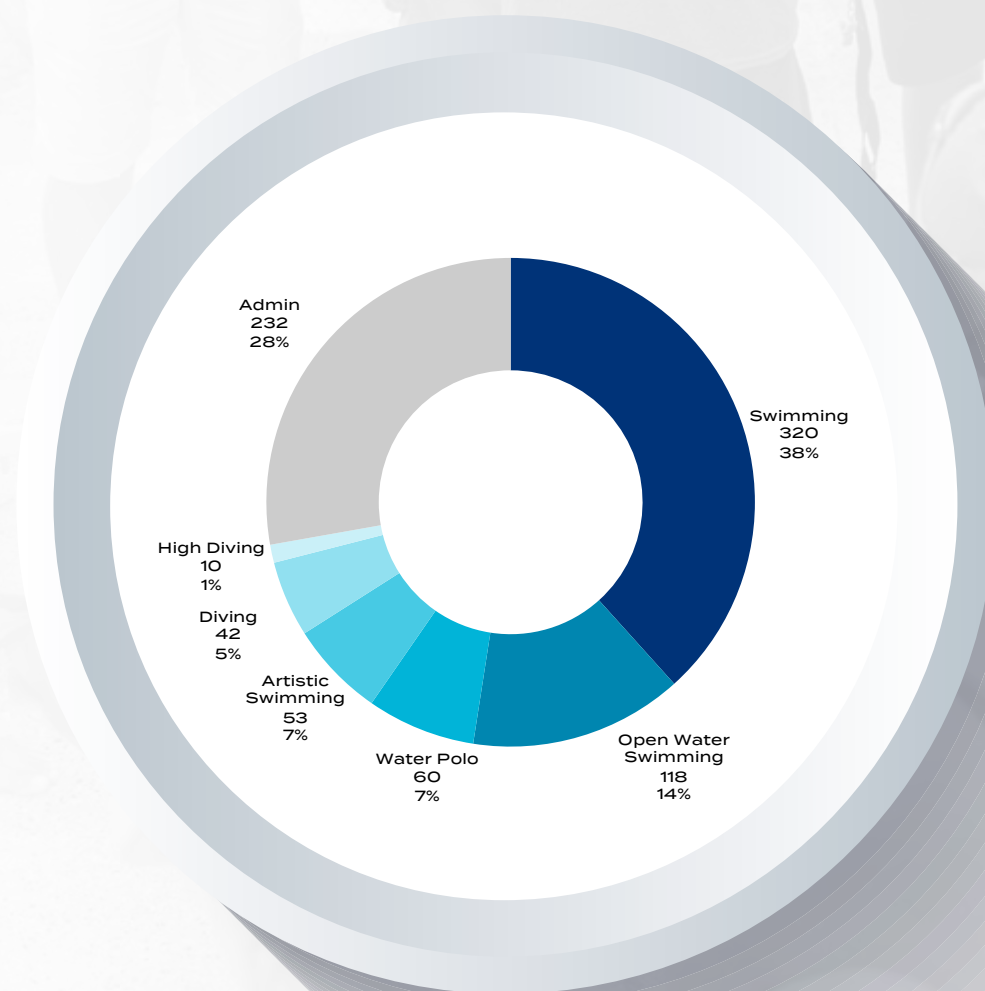
WORLD AQUATICS FUNDS SPENT BY CATEGORY

The funding was mainly spread in the participation at competition category (1,46M) and in the preparation and training of athletes, coaches and officials (1,05M).



DIVISION OF PROJECTS BY SPORT

In terms of projects, they were split by sports, where swimming had 320 projects (38%) and Open Water Swimming 118 (14%). Administration and governance represented 28%, considering that having a governance project was a mandatory requirement.



“

“With the World Aquatics Support Programme, we’ve been able to send more athletes to competitions, and it’s clear they are thriving. The Coaches Certification Level 3 course that our coaches attended has also equipped us to better support our athletes, ensuring their continued success.”

Sint Maarten

“When we started making changes in 2023, the Development team guided us through key processes, including completing our financial reports, which allowed us to rejoin the programme. Their support also helped us improve governance and transparency, giving our federation the tools to thrive.”

Mongolia

”

OTHER IMPACTING FACTORS:

Category	Number
Coaches involved	22,912
Events attended	1,674
Officials involved	18,806
World Aquatics Members passed audit (2023)	19
World Aquatics Members audited (2024)	20



World Aquatics to boost global growth and athlete development through launch of 2025 Support Programme

READ MORE



2024 World Aquatics Support Programme Report highlights assistance provided to athletes and Member Federations

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Making a Splash: World Aquatics Support Programme provides essential funding for the strategic development of Member Federations

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MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

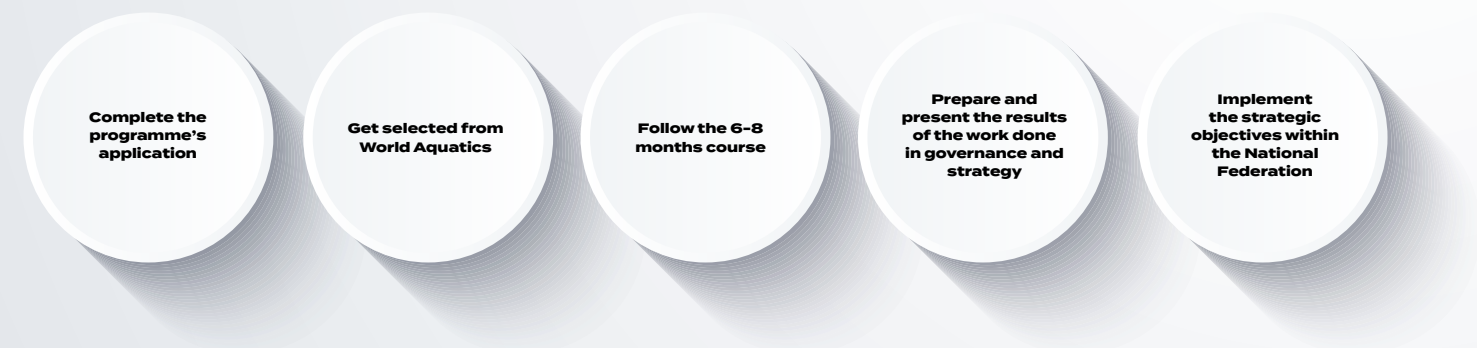
The World Aquatics Mentorship programme is designed to serve the development of World Aquatics Members seeking to advance their good governance, efficient administration and effective leadership.

10 Member Federations representing all five continents come together for six months to advance their governance and create long term strategies for the development of Aquatics in their countries.

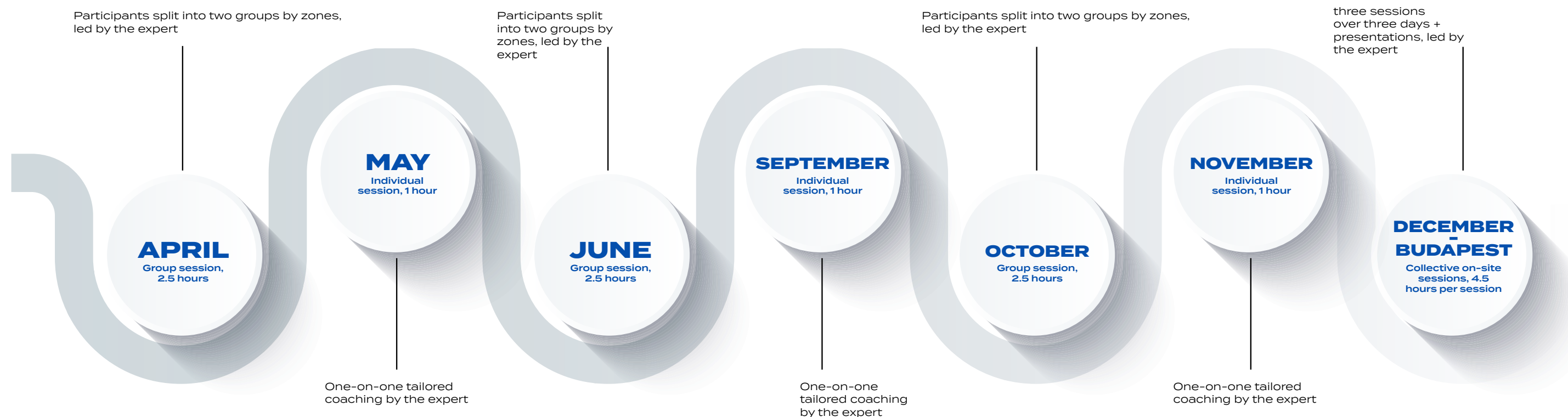
The six-month programme is founded on a framework of cooperative learning among participants, supplemented by personalized expert guidance and structured group sessions aimed at introducing a diverse range of topics and concepts.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME PROCESS

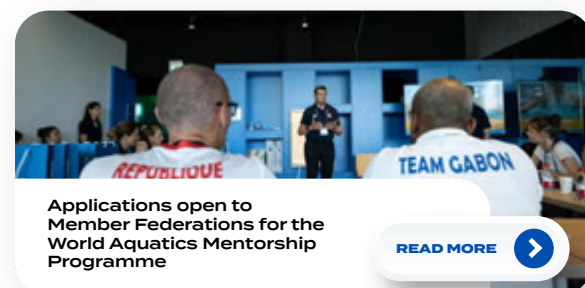
The World Aquatics Members benefited from the expertise of a professional whose services were fully funded by World Aquatics.



TIMELINE OF SESSIONS



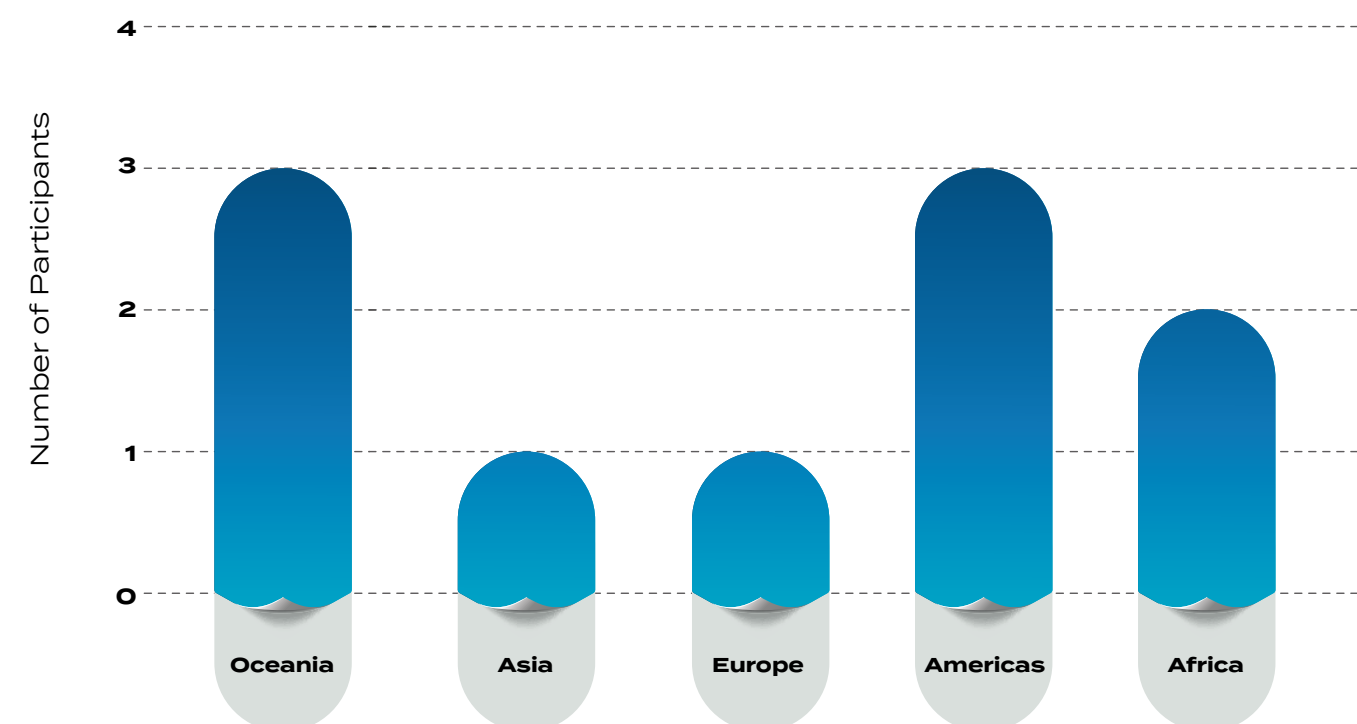
General overview: Participants rated their satisfaction at 4.7 out of 5, highlighting key benefits like shared experiences, strategic planning insights, and reflection on the establishment of structure and efficiency. Moving forward, Member Federations aim for transparency, realistic goals, and stronger relationships. The Programme received a recommendation rating of 4.8 out of 5, valued especially by smaller Member Federations seeking to advance the management and governance of their organisations.



Region	Number of Participants
Oceania	3
Asia	1
Europe	1
Americas	3
Africa	2



PARTICIPATION BY REGION



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

For the first time, World Aquatics organised an online Project Management Workshop to elevate the fundamental skills and knowledge of Member Federations in project management. Held in October 2024, the initiative aimed to empower Federations with practical tools and strategies to learn the basics in their project planning, execution, budgeting and management. The workshop, offered in multiple languages and time zones, received excellent feedback, and has the goal to foster stronger project outcomes within the aquatic community.

The World Aquatics Members benefited from the expertise of a professional whose services were fully funded by World Aquatics.

“

“The Project management Worskhop should be mandatory for all Member Federations and I would encourage all member federations to participate in this course. It is very informative, and the course facilitator made me want to go start a project.”

course participant

“From my Technical background I did PMP trainings many times, but this was different while applying concepts of PMP in Sport”

“It was a useful course, where we had a chance to meet and know some colleagues from other federations”

course participant

”

SATISFACTION RATINGS

83% rated the workshop 5/5, and 17% rated it 4/5.

87% would strongly recommend the workshop, while 13% would recommend it.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP PROCESS



Aspect	Details
Dates	10-11 and 14 October 2024
Invested time	1.5 hours per day
Total Participants	63
Breakdown	40 in English-speaking sessions
	13 in Spanish sessions
	10 in French sessions
Sessions	English (morning & afternoon)
	French (midday)
	Spanish (afternoon)

MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS:

1

Never stop communicating when running projects.

2

Importance of planning, timing, and budgeting.

3

Setting realistic and measurable Key Performance Indicators.

THIMPHU AQUATIC CENTRE



POOLS FOR ALL

World Aquatics is committed to fostering the global development of aquatics, striving to ensure that individuals worldwide have secure and safe access to environments where they can not only learn how to swim but also engage in various aquatic activities.

Drowning is the third leading cause of death worldwide, underscoring the critical importance of our mission.

Our focus extends to countries lacking the necessary technical and logistical infrastructure for aquatics development, aiming to bridge these gaps and empower communities worldwide.

Under the World Aquatics initiative, the "Pools for All" programme has been established and saw a pool in the Kingdom of Bhutan being inaugurated this year in Thimphu.

“

“We are delighted to witness the opening of this facility,” remarked **Sonam Karma Tshering, President of the Bhutan Aquatics Federation**. “The Pools For All facility not only opens doors for competitive swimming but also serves as a fantastic facility for our youth to develop their love for and talent in aquatics sports. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to World Aquatics for their unwavering support and partnership.”

”



GRASSROOTS

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2024, World Aquatics set key sustainability goals: joining the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework, developing a comprehensive sustainability strategy, and calculating its baseline carbon footprint. To achieve these objectives, the organisation conducted an analysis and engaged stakeholders through interviews with staff and the formation of a Sustainability Advisory Group comprising Athletes, National Federation representatives, and key partners. A materiality assessment was carried out to identify and prioritise sustainability focus areas, including internal governance improvements, sustainable event practices, and fostering social and environmental impact at the community level. Targeted Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) actions were then developed to address these priorities.

To incorporate stakeholder perspectives, World Aquatics conducted surveys with athletes and coaches during the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Budapest and organised a Focus Group with Member Federations to discuss expectations and existing sustainability initiatives. In open water swimming events, the organisation introduced vegan bottles to reduce plastic waste and promote environmentally friendly alternatives.

Additionally, World Aquatics collaborated with the IOC and, with guidance from Deloitte, performed its first carbon footprint assessment, receiving expert recommendations for emissions reduction. These initiatives establish a strong foundation for a long-term sustainability framework, ensuring alignment with global sustainability standards. The World Aquatics Sustainability Strategy will be officially adopted at the World Aquatics Congress in July 2025, marking a pivotal step in the organization's commitment to sustainability.



“OUR ATHLETES COMPETE IN WATER.

PRESERVING

OUR SEAS, RIVERS AND LAKES IS CENTRAL
TO THE SURVIVAL OF OUR

PLANET

AND OUR SPORT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT
WE ALL WORK TOGETHER ACROSS THE
GLOBAL SPORTING COMMUNITY - AND
BEYOND - FOR THIS CRITICAL ISSUE.”

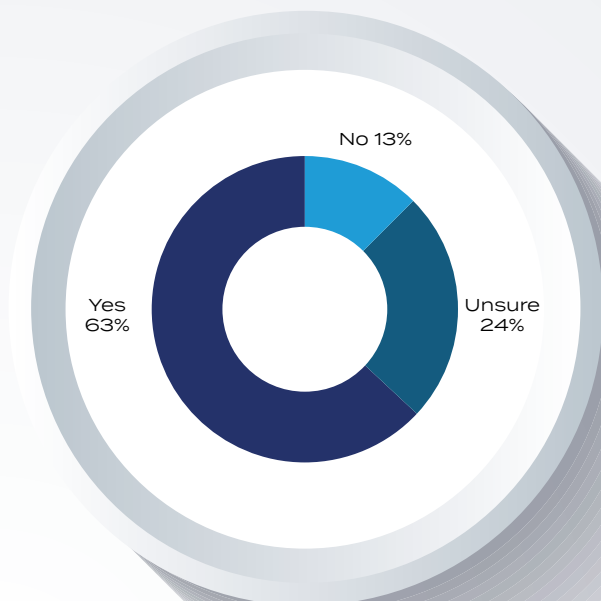
Husain Al-Musallam
World Aquatics President

In 2024, World Aquatics did the Carbon Footprint calculation for 2023

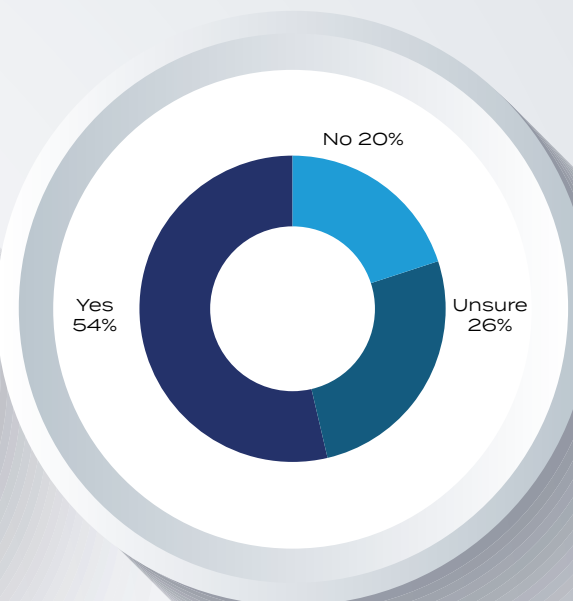
Boundary	Emissions Source	tCO2e	% of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Stationery and Transport Fuel	1.27	0.03%
Scope 2	Electricity Consumption	0	0.00%
Scope 3	Purchased Goods and Services	1526.29	35.87%
	Capital Goods	79.67	1.87%
	Fuel and energy- related activities	2.12	0.05%
	Upstream transportation and distribution	37.68	0.89%
	Waste	1.81	0.04%
	Business Travel	2520.89	59.25%
	Employee Commute	85.05	2.00%

Athletes' opinion

Do you think World Aquatics should focus more on environmental and social sustainability?

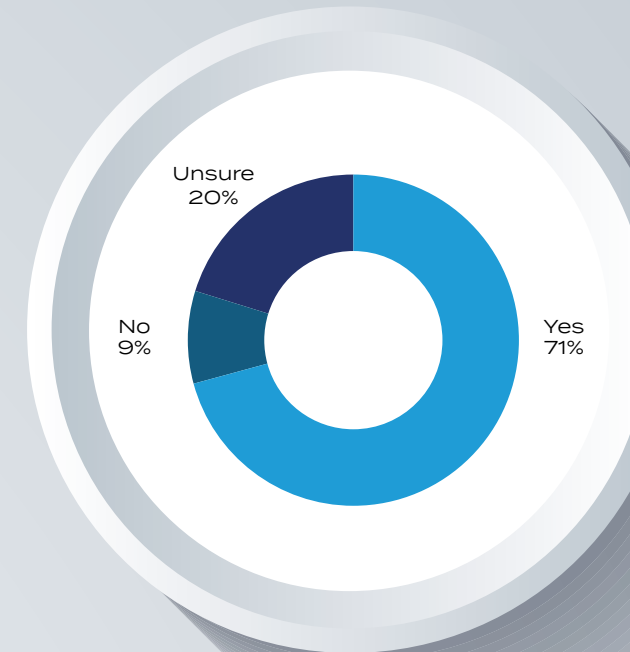


Would you like to participate in sustainability initiatives at future World Aquatics events?



Coaches' opinion

Do you think World Aquatics should focus more on environmental and social sustainability?



READ MORE ABOUT IT



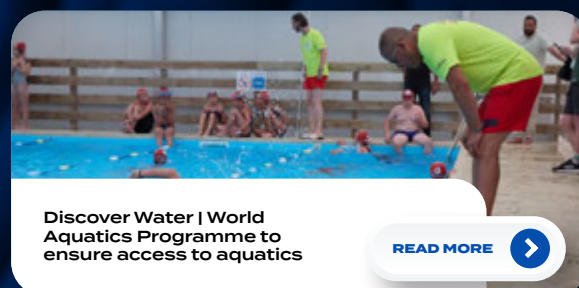
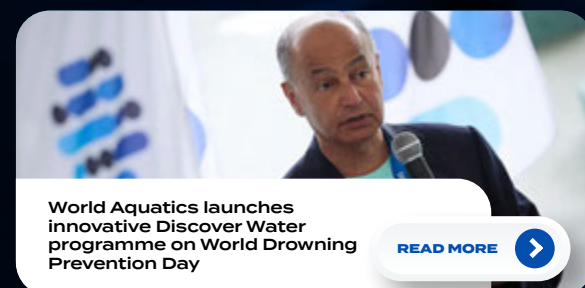
DISCOVER WATER

World Aquatics has established a comprehensive framework for the development, implementation, and evaluation of Discover Water—an innovative aquatic participation and water safety programme. This framework integrates essential principles of water safety with the development of physical literacy, fostering a culture of lifelong engagement in aquatic activities. By prioritising both foundational skills and broader educational objectives, Discover Water aims to create a lasting impact on global water safety and participation.

Considering that “Discover Water” programme will be available to be adapted in different environments, countries and continents, World Aquatics gathered an expert group where all five continents were represented. The analysis and expert group discussion led to the identification of the Discover Water concept. It is based on physical literacy and encompasses physical, mental, cognitive, and psychological domains and has a strong emphasis on aquatic participation and water safety. To ensure the effective dissemination and accessibility of the programme, World Aquatics, in partnership with Professor Dean Dudley, Youth Sport Trust International, Life Saving Victoria and other partners has developed a robust educational toolkit comprising a detailed guidebook and playbook. These resources are designed to equip educators, coaches, and programme facilitators with the necessary knowledge and methodologies to implement Discover Water successfully, promoting a holistic approach to aquatic education.

A landmark moment for the initiative was its official launch on July 25, 2024, in Paris, coinciding with the Olympic Games and World Drowning Prevention Day. This occasion served as a global platform to introduce the Discover Water programme and its guiding philosophy. Additionally, World Aquatics, in collaboration with the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), continued the successful Learn to Swim project for the second consecutive year trained 75 educators in India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam. This initiative provided an opportunity to pilot and refine the core principles of Discover Water in diverse real-world settings, marking a critical step in its broader global implementation.

COACHES TRAINED IN 2024: 75



“

President Husain Al-Musallam underlined World Aquatics’ role in promoting water safety around the world.

“World Aquatics and our 210 Member Federations remain committed to working with the entire aquatics family to promote water safety and reduce the risk of drowning, and this initiative is just one of the many steps we are taking,” he said.

”

WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS – DOHA 2024

The World Aquatics Championships Doha 2024 placed a strong emphasis on mental health and well-being, offering a comprehensive development programme aimed at supporting athletes, coaches, and Member Federations. Across 16 workshops, held between February 4-17, participants engaged in discussions on stress management, performance anxiety, overcoming injuries, nutrition, anti-doping, and career development.

A dedicated series of coaching workshops focused on mental health and well-being, equipping coaches with essential skills to support both themselves and their athletes. The workshops, led by experts such as Dr. Alan Currie, Sofiane Souissi, David Gerrard, James Gibson and Kristin Wingfield Williams, covered key topics including recognising signs of mental distress in athletes, helping athletes overcome injuries, managing change and transitions, stress management, and ensuring athlete well-being. Additionally, a special session on coaches' own mental health and well-being emphasized the importance of self-care for those guiding athletes at the highest level. These sessions provided coaches with practical strategies to foster resilience, confidence, and psychological well-being in both their athletes and themselves, reinforcing World Aquatics' commitment to holistic athlete development.

Five continental meetings were held with Member Federations to present World Aquatics Development programmes and the various opportunities available to them. Additionally, the Development Team actively engaged with multiple Member Federations, using these meetings as a platform to discuss their specific challenges, identify key areas for growth, and explore tailored support systems that can be implemented to enhance their development efforts.

16

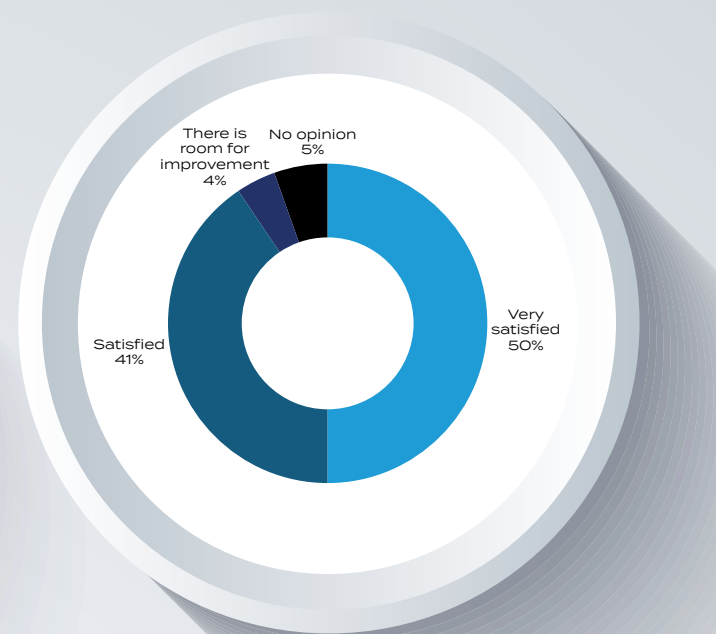
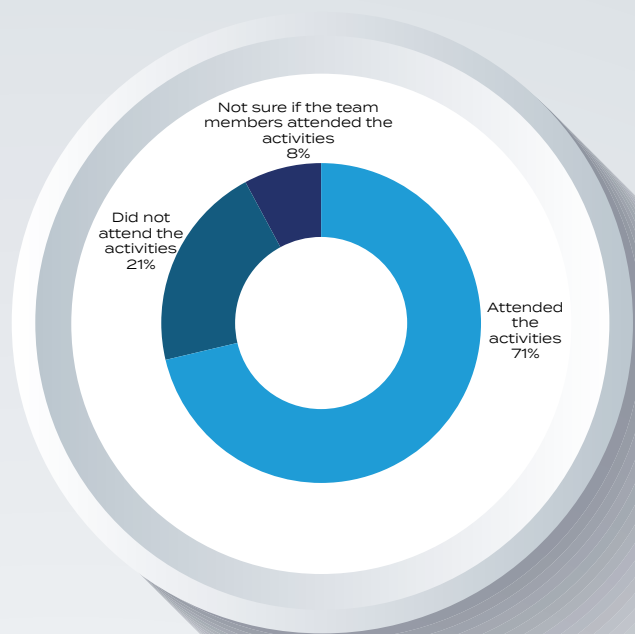
**WORKSHOPS
HELD BETWEEN
FEBRUARY 4-17**



**WORLD AQUATICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
DOHA 2024**
 بطولة العالم للألعاب المائية

National Federation participation at development activities for athletes, coaches and MF representatives at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha

Member Federations' rating of the activities at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha

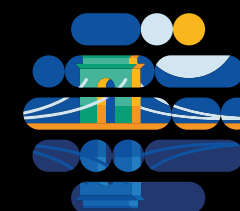




WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS – BUDAPEST 2024

At the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Budapest, development activities centered around the theme of women's health, reflecting a commitment to athlete well-being and education. Workshops were organized for both athletes and coaches, providing valuable insights into health-related topics.

One of the innovations at the event was the introduction of "Chats with Coaches," where discussions covered essential topics such as start techniques, the new coaches' education pathway, and the career trajectory of elite coaches. Particular attention was given to the challenges faced by female elite coaches, fostering dialogue on gender equity in coaching.



WORLD AQUATICS
SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS (25m)

BUDAPEST 2024



The Coaches Lounge provided a space for coaches to reunite, share experiences, and take part in engaging activities and fun challenges. As part of its ongoing engagement efforts, Additionally, the 2024 Mentorship Programme concluded in Budapest with a three-day leadership and strategic development session, culminating in 10 Member Federations presenting their strategies and future development plans. World Aquatics continued the tradition of holding meetings with Member Federations, as well as five dedicated continental meetings with Federations. These development activities not only enriched the championship experience but also reinforced World Aquatics' commitment to athlete and coach development, fostering education, inclusivity, and long-term career growth within the aquatic sports community.

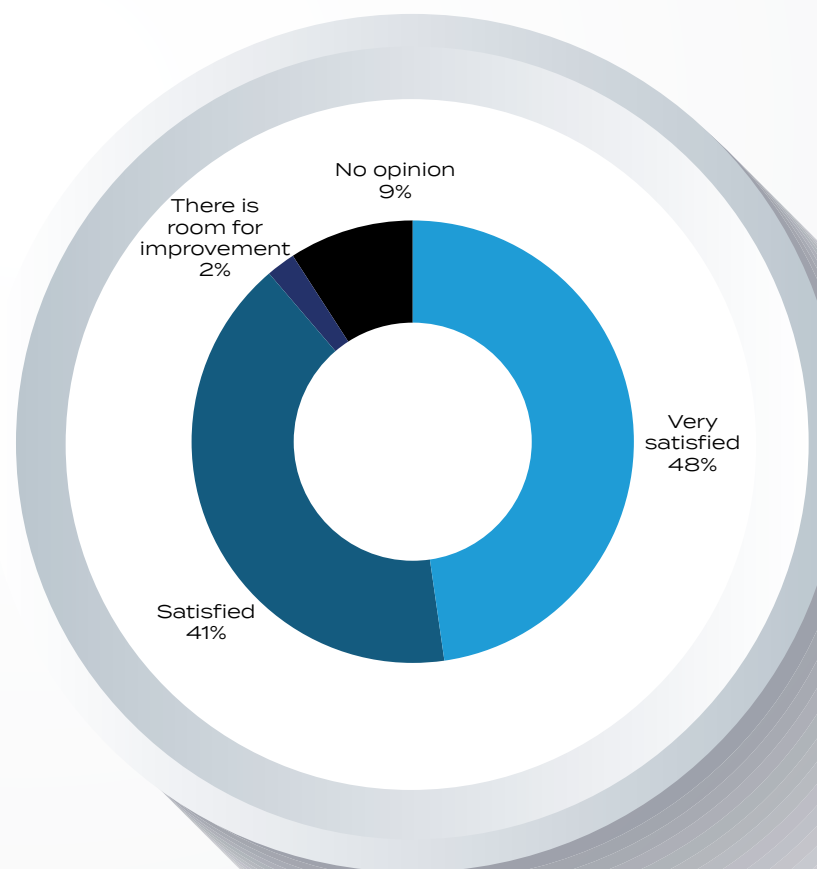
“

Speaking about the various workshops, **James Gibson** commented “These workshops play a pivotal role in empowering the global aquatics community. By encouraging collaboration and sharing knowledge and best practice, we are equipping athletes, coaches and stakeholders with

the tools they need to feel confident in their respective sports. The benefits ripple far beyond individual growth: they raise the standards of competition, strengthen international networks, and enrich the global aquatics ecosystem for years to come.”



Member Federations' rating of the activities at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships in Budapest



Attendance of development sessions

Number of attendees

Chats with Coaches: Starts with Russell Mark and James Gibson	17
Chats with Coaches: Coaches Pathway	40
Europe Meeting	20
Asia Meeting	17
Americas Meeting	37
Oceania Meeting	17
Africa Meeting	38
Coaches' Workshop: Breaking Taboo	45
Coaches' Workshop : Impact on Training & Performance	52
Chats with Coaches: Elite coaches pathway	40

COACHES

Chats with coaches

3 chats | **97** participants

Workshop on women's health

2 workshops | **96** participants

Lounge

113 replies to the questionnaire | **39** participate in the trivia

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

47

individual meetings with the MF

5

continental meetings with a total of 129 participants

Final session of the mentorship programme with

10

MF awarded with a diploma

2

focus meetings about sustainability and World Aquatics Support programme

First medical seminar organised with

43

participants

CONTINENTAL ORGANISATION

First workshop organised on site for the CO

Activities that Member Federations took part in during the World Aquatics Swimming Championships in Budapest

Member Federations meeting

Video
programme

Chats with
coaches

Workshops for
coaches

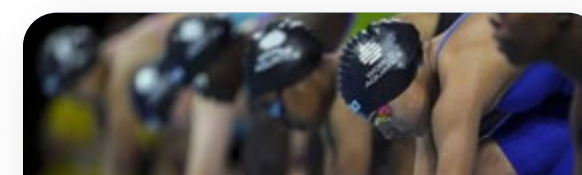
Workshops for
athletes

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80



World Aquatics Scholarship Athletes training in Antibes set 100th National Record at World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)

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World Aquatics Scholarship athletes shine on the global stage in Budapest

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Coaches and athletes engage in informative and empowering activities ahead of the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)

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Athlete scholarship holders set to shine at World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) - Budapest 2024

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World Aquatics sits down with its Refugee Team competing in Budapest

READ MORE



Breaking barriers and records: Day one of the World Aquatics Championships (25m) Budapest 2024

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MEDICAL INITIATIVES

MEDICAL SEMINAR

As part of World Aquatics Swimming Championships, World Aquatics successfully organized its first Medical Seminar in cooperation with Semmelweis University of Budapest aimed at providing valuable information and sharing expertise with doctors, physiotherapists, other medical personnel and coaches involved in athlete care.

The seminar featured interactive workshops on critical topics, including:

- Shoulder Rehabilitation and Prevention - Dr. Attila Pavlik (HUN)
- Injury-Related Biomechanics in Swimming - Russel Mark (USA)

Our keynote sessions brought together experts to discuss Medical Care of Athletes over the year through insights and experiences from four teams doctors: Dr. Robert Brunelle (CAN), Dr. Nóra Sydó (HUN), Dr. Takuro Uchida (JPN) and, Dr. Ankit Shah (USA).

The focus of the seminar revolved around shoulder recovery, a crucial subject for athletes, particularly swimmers. The discussion was enriched by perspectives from an Athlete, who shared firsthand experiences and challenges in recovery; a Team Physician, who outlined the medical approach to shoulder injuries; and a Coach, who provided insight into training adaptations during recovery.

This seminar fostered a collaborative exchange of ideas, advancing knowledge in sports medicine and athlete health care.



Evaluation:

The seminar was highly appreciated, and participants expressed their enthusiasm for attending another one in 2025.



“

“The medical seminar during the World Aquatics Swimming Championships provided a valuable platform for medical professionals to participate in both didactic and interactive sessions. The course content covered a broad spectrum of topics ranging from injury prevention and rehabilitation techniques to advanced sports medicine tailored for aquatic athletes, all supported by the latest research and best practices.

One of the standout aspects of the conference was the opportunity to engage directly with team physicians, physiologists, and rehabilitation specialists from the international community enabling a network for future collaboration. It was an invaluable experience for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of sports medicine in the aquatic disciplines while connecting with experts from around the world.”

Dr Robert Brunelle
(Team Canada)

“Great opportunity to learn and share some perspectives on how different Medical Departments work around the different nations. It was a moment full of opportunities to develop some specific knowledge regarding how to assess swimmers, how to look at a swimmer’s shoulder and share with colleague different methods of approach”

Daniel Moedas
(Physiotherapist, National
Federation of Portugal)

“I appreciate attending the seminar. It was informative and a good moment to exchange with colleagues”

Dr. Uchida
(Team Physician of Japan)

”

43

participants registered for
seminar



**Medical Seminar | World
Aquatics Swimming
Championships Budapest 2024**

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ATHLETE SERVICES

ATHLETE ACTIVITIES

WORLD CUP ATHLETES' EXPERIENCE - SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Athletes' Experience initiative provides athletes with a unique opportunity to connect deeply with their sport and its community at each World Cup stop. Throughout the series, athletes will engage in local and cultural recreational activities, inspire younger generations of swimmers and divers through clinics, and create memorable moments with fans during meet-and-greet events.

For the Local Organising Committee (LOC), the Experience guarantees the participation of top athletes in their events while enhancing the event's appeal to spectators and potential sponsors. It also provides the LOC with a platform to showcase their city, making a compelling case for government funding and support.

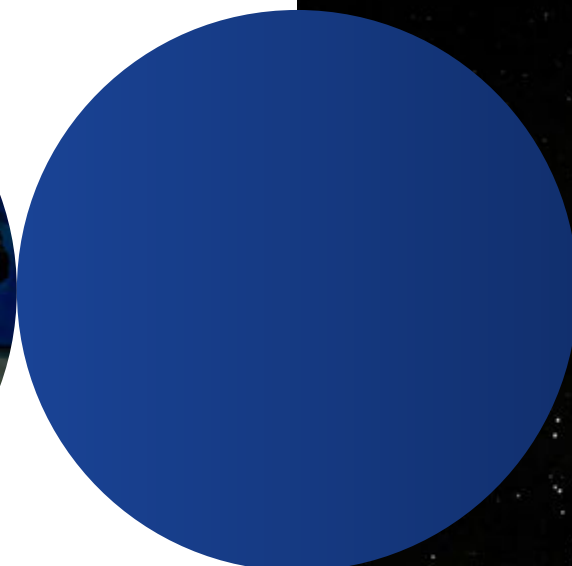
For World Aquatics, this initiative not only enhances the appeal of our events to potential Local Organising Committees but also creates meaningful connections with aquatic athletes.

As part of the World Cup Experience, the programme consists of four key components: the Recreational Activity, the Clinic, the Meet & Greet, and the Athletes' Lounge.

The Recreational Activity can highlight the host city's unique culture, history, art, or music, or it may be tied to another sport, such as a local sports event, including a meet-and-greet with local or national athletes. All World Cup Experience athletes will participate in this activity at each stop. World Aquatics requests the LOC to ensure that the activity does not exceed three hours and that the schedule respects the athletes' commitments, including competition, training, gym sessions, meals, and rest.

The Clinic for young swimmers will take place at the competition venue, specifically in the competition pool, between official training sessions. This session should not exceed one hour and will include an introduction, training session, photo opportunity, and autograph session. Between two and four World Cup Experience athletes, as designated by World Aquatics, will participate in this activity. Each athlete is expected to conduct one Clinic over the course of the three stops.

The Meet & Greet provides fans with an opportunity to connect with their favourite athletes and must take place on one of the competition days, excluding weekends. This session should last no more than 30 minutes and will include a photo opportunity and autograph session. Between two and four World Cup Experience athletes, as determined by World Aquatics, will participate in this activity. Each athlete is expected to take part in one Meet & Greet over the course of the World Cup.



The Athletes' Lounge is a dedicated space within the venue designed for all athletes and teams to relax and engage in activities organised by the LOC. This area should include event branding, such as backdrops or roll-ups, and offer ample seating, such as couches or bean bags. Recreational games, such as ping pong or foosball tables, should also be provided, along with light snacks, fruits, and a variety of hot and cold beverages.

SELECTION PROCESS

Athletes participating in the Swimming and Diving Experience are selected based on their sporting achievements from the previous year and social media presence. Additionally, they may be invited to participate by the World Aquatics President.

For Swimming, on top of the athletes selected for the experience, there is also the addition of an ambassador, who's role is to help lead the Athlete's Experience onsite, to attend all the Athlete's Experience activities, to interact with all athletes and coaches attending the event, amongst other tasks.

ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

For both sports, athletes are required to register and compete in all World Cup stops. They must also participate in all designated recreational activities, lead one clinic, and attend one meet-and-greet event throughout the series. In 2024, Diving athletes only had one recreational activity. Additionally, athletes are expected to share a specified number of posts on their social media accounts.

For Swimming only, the invited athletes were entitled to one guest each, for which World Aquatics would cover the accommodation and airfare throughout the whole World Cup.



DATA

SWIMMING

DIVING



3
STOPS

SHANGHAI

2024
OCTOBER
18-20



INCHEON

2024
OCTOBER
24-26



SINGAPORE

2024
OCTOBER
18-20



MONTREAL

2024
29 FEBRUARY
TO 3 MARCH



BERLIN

2024
MARCH
21-24



XI'AN

2024
APRIL
19-21



3
STOPS

10
ATHLETES

5

female

Kate Douglass (USA)
Siobhan Haughey (HKG)
Kaylee McKeown (AUS)
Regan Smith (USA)
Zhang Yufei (CHN) and
Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)
as ambassador

5

male

Thomas Ceccon (ITA)
Arno Kamminga (NED)
Chad Le Clos (RSA)
Léon Marchand (FRA)
Pan Zhanle (CHN)

6
ATHLETES

3

female

Kassidy Cook (USA)
Quan Hongchan (CHN)
Caeli McKay (CAN)

3

male

Cassiel Rousseau (AUS)
Moritz Wesemann (GER)
Zang Zongyuan (CHN)

ATHLETES REPRESENTING THE
FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Americas



Asia



Africa



Europe



Oceania

ATHLETES REPRESENTING THE
FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Americas



Asia



Europe



Oceania

EVALUATION

The World Aquatics Swimming World Cup marked the first international swimming competition following the Paris 2024 Olympics. While most athletes participating in the Experience were contacted and signed agreements prior to the Olympic Games, a few made their decisions later, resulting in delayed athlete announcements. As an additional incentive to join the 2024 Athletes' experience, athletes were entitled to bring one guest (coach, friend, family or other) and World Aquatics would cover the airfare and accommodation costs for all 3 stops of the World Cup. Out of the 10 invited athletes, six decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

The proximity of the World Cup to the Olympics led many athletes to opt out of participating, which meant for World Aquatics that some of the top athletes didn't accept the proposal to participate in the Experience.. However, the additional benefits that were exceptionally proposed this year such as the early sign on bonus, the Olympic bonus and the double Crown bonus, helped encourage some of the top athletes to take part in the 2024 SWC Athletes Experience.

The Clinics and meet-and-greet events were expertly organised by each Local Organising Committee, ensuring a seamless experience for participants. Athletes took great pleasure in engaging with young aspiring athletes and fans, fostering meaningful connections and leaving a lasting impression. Similarly, the recreational activities were a resounding success, providing athletes with a unique opportunity to bond and interact with peers they might not typically encounter at competitive events. These activities not only promoted camaraderie but also enriched the overall experience for everyone involved.

For the first time, AQUA organised the Athlete Experience for Diving athletes. While the process of confirming participants was time-intensive, and one athlete declined the proposal at the last minute, resulting in a delayed announcement, the final invitee responded promptly and accepted the terms.

The recreational activity, a basketball game, was well-organised by the Berlin Organising Committee and thoroughly enjoyed by all athletes. In Montreal, the Clinic was a talk with young Canadian divers and was well-received. Both activities in Berlin and Xi'an were well-organised and successful. In Berlin, there was a group of 12 children from the Berlin Diving club and in Xi'An about 20 young divers that joined.



"Looking back, I quite liked the experience in Shanghai the most because it felt like we did the most. Sadly, the golfing had to be cancelled, which I totally understand and the experience in Singapore was nice and chill but did feel less as an experience and more as a nice get together dinner"

Arno Kamminga

"The "experiences" were great this year, I think having a small party after each meet also makes it special so I wouldn't add anything"

Chad Le Clos




"Thank you so much for hosting great events! I really enjoyed them!"

Kassidy Cook

"Really enjoyed being a part of the athletes experience and the activities that came with them. And enjoyed the world cups too despite performance. Thanks again. "

Cassiel Rousseau

"Just in general I would say it was really well organised and a lot of fun. Just some minor things to improve."

Moritz Wesemann



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

DIVING WORLD CUP

\$35,550.00

TOTAL

SWIMMING WORLD CUP

\$195,756.32

TOTAL



Champions inspire young local swimmers ahead of World Cup finale in Singapore

[READ MORE](#)



World Aquatics inspires local community in Shanghai with Nongfu Champions Clinic

[READ MORE](#)



WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2024: ACTIVITIES, AMBASSADORS

WORKSHOPS

For each World Aquatics Championship, a specific theme is chosen, and all activities and workshops revolve around this topic. At the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, the theme was Mental Health.

World Aquatics secured two experts in the field: a psychiatrist and member of the IOC Mental Health working group, as well as an active Open Water athlete who advocates for mental health and founded a nonprofit to support athletes' mental well-being. These two experts were joined by members of the World Aquatics Medical Committee and two local experts from the Aspire Academy. There were over 15 workshops for athletes and coaches, these were a great success, with over 400 attendees engaging in meaningful conversations and helping to break the stigma surrounding mental health. It's important to add that it was the first time that some of the workshops were taking place in other venues such as the Open Water and High Diving venue and the Diving venue.

In 2024, as the theme was mental health, athletes were able to download the Calm app, World Aquatics purchased 200 premium subscriptions, which gave athletes unlimited content such as meditation exercises or audio files to help with sleep. Athletes were able to access the free subscription using a QR code that was posted around the venue.

Traditionally, workshops have been organized for World Aquatics Scholarship holders, providing valuable opportunities for personal and career development. At the World Aquatics Championships Doha 2024, athletes from swimming, open water swimming, diving, and artistic swimming participated in dedicated sessions designed to equip them with skills beyond their sporting careers. These sessions reinforced World Aquatics' commitment to supporting athletes holistically, ensuring they are well-prepared for success both in and out of the water.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In addition, biomechanics services by Russell Mark were offered for free to the developing nations. 108 total athletes from 73 received biomechanics services in the form of race video, race analysis, and/or biomechanics evaluation. 79 heats were captured on video, 139 races were analysed, and 60 athletes received biomechanics evaluations including high quality underwater video of their stroke.

ATHLETES' FORUM

Additionally, the first-ever Athlete's Forum was held on the topic: "Who is responsible for athletes' mental health? How can coaches, athletes, and MFs help?" The session concluded with a Q&A from the audience. The panel, led by a moderator, included athletes, coaches, and medical professionals. The Forum was a tremendous success, drawing over 100 attendees

“

“The Mental Health Forum at the World Aquatics Championships was a pivotal moment, showing our commitment as we prioritise the wellbeing of our aquatics community. The World Aquatics slogan is A world united by water for health, life and sport, and the Forum represented

exactly that. Together, we can work to ensure that all members of our community have the resources and support they need to perform at their best.” -

World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam.

”

5

meetings with Member Federations by continent organised

16

workshops for athletes, coaches and MF representatives organised

2

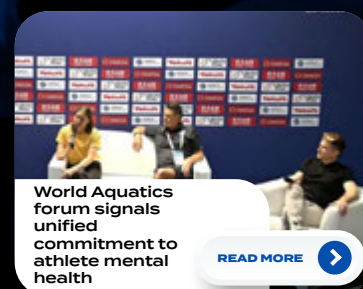
workshops for World Aquatics Scholarship holders organised

34

meetings with Member Federations organised

108

athletes from 73 countries received biomechanics services



AMBASSADORS

Athlete Ambassadors, primarily retired athletes, are invited to World Aquatics events to inspire future generations, support the events, and promote tourism in the host city and Organising Committee. In Doha, ambassadors were present for almost every discipline, except Diving and Open Water, as no ambassadors were available during the required dates. World Aquatics covers the ambassadors' flights, full-board accommodation, and an appearance fee, which varies depending on the number of days they participate in onsite activities.

Some of the activities that the ambassadors participated in were:

- School visits to give talks about their career to students
- Visit of the Souq
- Visit of the Sport Museum
- Desert Safari trip
- Meet & greet with fans

Ambassadors were also asked to participate and contribute to some of the workshops to share their experience as athletes.

8

RETIRED
ATHLETES

5

female

Nada Mohamed Wafa Arakji (QAT)
Ona Carbonell Ballester (ESP)
Pernille Blume (DEN)
Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)
Yusra Mardini (SYR)

3

male

Anthony Ervin (USA)
Filip Filipovic (SRB)
Alain Kohl (LUX)

ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

Athlete Committee members are always invited to attend events to connect with athletes and serve as a resource for any questions or concerns related to their Federation.

In Doha, seven retired Athlete Committee members were present on-site. They contributed to some workshops but primarily spent time in the Athlete's Lounge and at booths, engaging with competing athletes and coaches. Their role included answering questions, offering assistance, gathering concerns to be reported, and actively encouraging athletes to complete the survey available in the Athlete's Lounge. They also motivated athletes to participate in workshops. Three of the AC members were also present onsite as ambassadors for the event.

While a few active AC athletes attended as well, their focus remained on their competition and performance.

7

ATHLETES

4

female

Alia Atkinson (JAM)
Virginie Dedieu (FRA)
Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)
Jamila Lunkuke (UGA)

3

male

Anthony Ervin (USA)
Chad Ho (RSA)
Alain Kohl (LUX)

5

ATHLETES
REPRESENTING SWIMMING

Respectively, 1 athlete representing each of the following disciplines:



Artistic Swimming



Water Polo



High Diving

4

ATHLETES
REPRESENTING SWIMMING

Respectively, 1 athlete representing each of the following disciplines:



Artistic Swimming



Open Water



High Diving

ATHLETES' LOUNGES

World Aquatics has requested that each Local Organising Committee establish an Athletes' Lounge—a dedicated space for athletes to unwind, enjoy themselves between training sessions and competitions, and momentarily escape the pressures of competition. The lounges are also a space to provide athletes and coaches with light snacks, fruits, and a variety of hot and cold beverages.

The lounge should prominently feature World Aquatics/the Championships' branding and offer a variety of activities designed for relaxation, learning, and enjoyment. These activities should also reflect the culture of the host nation, providing athletes with a taste of local traditions and heritage, especially since they may not have the opportunity to explore or sightsee during their stay. In Doha, the main lounge featured activities such as:

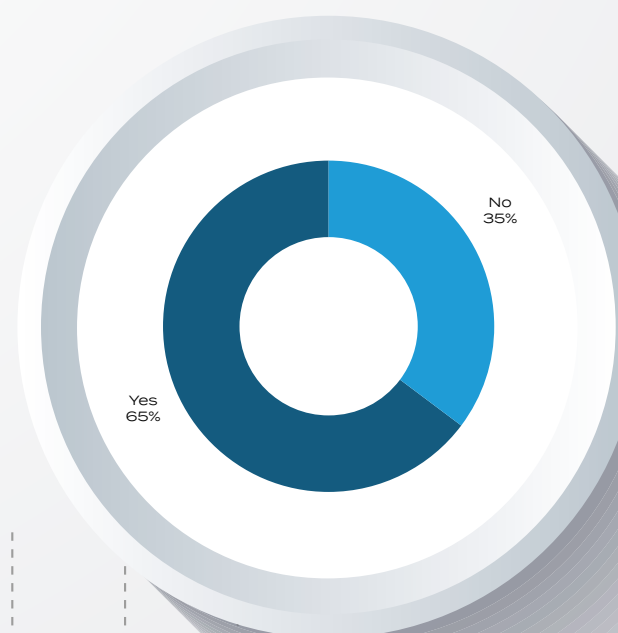
- Henna tattoo
- Traditional Arabic tea
- Computer games
- Foosball table

On top of this, if there are multiple venues for other sports, World Aquatics asked to create a smaller athlete's lounge for each of the other venues. In Doha, there were additional lounges at the Diving venue, the Water Polo venue, as well as the Open Water and High Diving venue (same venue).

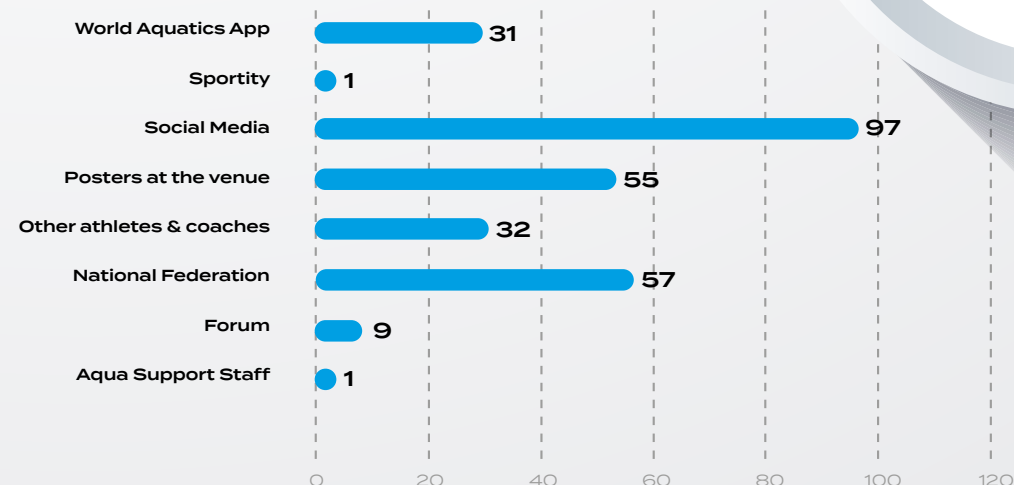
SURVEY

At each World Aquatics Championships event, World Aquatics runs a survey on the event itself with questions on the competition, training, workshops, etc. to help us improve our events. The athletes are asked to answer the survey and if they complete it, they get a small gift. In Doha, over 1640 athletes completed the survey.

Are you aware of the different workshops proposed to athletes by World Aquatics?



If yes, how did you hear about the workshops?





EVALUATION

The workshops at the World Aquatics Championships were a resounding success, drawing significant participation from both athletes and coaches. These sessions served as a safe and inclusive platform to foster meaningful conversations around mental health, helping to dismantle stigma associated with the topic. Athletes were encouraged to share their experiences openly, while coaches gained practical insights into recognising and addressing the mental health challenges faced by their athletes.

A standout feature was the Forum, which attracted over 100 participants, including athletes, coaches, and representatives from Member Federations. This event broadened the conversation by examining the collective responsibility of sporting organisations in addressing mental health. Moreover, it provided stakeholders with actionable strategies to create a supportive and proactive environment within their respective roles.

The workshops and Forum together showcased a commitment to driving cultural change in sports and advancing mental health awareness at every level of the aquatics community.

Ambassador Quotes

“

“I loved the desert experience, it was fun”

“It’s a great initiative to have and I am so happy that I was a part of it. It was a lovely experience and can’t wait to witness the next edition of the programme.”

“Loved all the activities. Loved the workshops and the theme. Was nice seeing professionals being brought in and then hearing from people with experience, that mix was great.”

”

The ambassador programme at the World Aquatics Championships brought together a diverse group of eight ambassadors who contributed significantly to the event’s success. These ambassadors represented a large array of athletes from various disciplines, ensuring a broad spectrum of expertise and experiences.

This programme not only highlighted the rich diversity within aquatic sports but also fostered connections between athletes, creating an environment of learning and mutual support. The ambassadors’ efforts contributed to an inclusive and vibrant championship, enhancing the overall experience for all participants.

The Athletes’ Committee played a vital role at the World Aquatics Championships, serving as a bridge between competing athletes and their Federation. In Doha, the retired committee members were actively engaged on-site, contributing to the overall athlete experience through meaningful interactions and support.

Their presence in the Athletes’ Lounge and at dedicated booths fostered an open and approachable environment. They answered questions, addressed concerns, and ensured these were documented and relayed to World Aquatics for follow-up. Additionally, they encouraged athletes to complete the event survey and motivated participation in workshops, further amplifying athlete engagement and feedback.

reflected the rich heritage of the host nation. The activities allowed athletes to experience a touch of local traditions, even if their schedules didn’t allow for sightseeing.

Additionally, World Aquatics’ initiative to establish smaller lounges at sport-specific venues ensured accessibility and convenience for athletes across disciplines.

The Athletes’ Lounges successfully combined relaxation, cultural engagement, and practical amenities, further enhancing the overall experience for participants at the Championships.

The athletes’ survey conducted at the World Aquatics Championships serves as a valuable tool for continuous improvement, capturing direct feedback on key aspects. This initiative highlights World Aquatics’ commitment to enhancing the athlete experience by actively listening to their insights and suggestions.

In Doha, the survey achieved impressive participation, with over 1,640 athletes completing it—a testament to the strong engagement from the aquatic’s community. The inclusion of a small gift for completing the survey added a thoughtful incentive, encouraging widespread involvement.

By leveraging this feedback, World Aquatics is well-positioned to identify areas for refinement and build on successes, ensuring future Championships meet the evolving needs and expectations of athletes.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$228,050

TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT

WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS – BUDAPEST 2024

In Budapest, similar initiatives were organised, reflecting those in Doha; however, the programme was more streamlined due to the event focusing on a single sport and lasting only one week.

WORKSHOPS

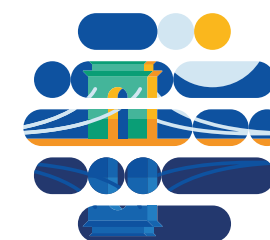
The chosen topic for the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) – Budapest 2024 was Women's Health, a subject proposed by both active and retired athletes who felt it was a crucial and relevant area for discussion.

To address this, World Aquatics collaborated with experts in the field, including a sports scientist whose primary research focuses on the impact of the menstrual cycle on elite athletes. World Aquatics also invited an Open Water athlete who actively participated in this research. Additionally, two retired female athletes and an international coach participated in the workshop to share their experiences, reflecting on what they might have done differently throughout their careers.

Four workshops on this topic were organised, aimed at educating athletes and coaches while breaking the taboo surrounding the menstrual cycle. These workshops were highly successful, drawing approximately 130 participants in total.

In alignment with this initiative, World Aquatics installed two dispensers offering free sanitary products in the female changing rooms at the venue.

Additionally, World Aquatics scholarship holders participated in sessions focused on athlete identity and career transition, equipping them with tools for life beyond competitive swimming. World Champion Cameron van der Burgh led one of the sessions for the Scholarship holders. A special evaluation session was also conducted for Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship holders to assess the effectiveness and benefits of the programme.



WORLD AQUATICS
SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS (25m)

BUDAPEST 2024

AMBASSADORS

Three Athlete Ambassadors were invited to Budapest: Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED), Pernille Blume (DEN), and László Cseh (HUN) – two female retired European swimmers, as well as a male Hungarian retired swimmer. Some of the activities that the ambassadors took part in, including a Swimming Clinic for young local swimmers, helping a charity that collected food and essential items for families at Christmas, visiting the local Christmas market, as well as some autograph sessions for fans.

ATHLETES' LOUNGE

As at the World Aquatics Championships it has requested that they establish an Athletes' Lounge—a dedicated space for athletes to unwind, enjoy themselves between training sessions and competitions, and momentarily escape the pressures of competition.

At the World Aquatics Swimming Championships, the Athletes' Lounge featured a range of engaging and festive activities. A "Word of the Day" activity with a Christmas theme brought a touch of seasonal cheer, while a Christmas card-making session allowed athletes to get creative and connect with the holiday spirit. A survey, accompanied by a competition with a prize for one lucky winner, encouraged athletes to share their feedback in an interactive way. For those looking to relax and have some fun, a high-tech foosball table provided an exciting and modern way to foster camaraderie and friendly competition.

The carefully curated activities and inviting atmosphere of the Athletes' Lounge ensured it was not only a place for rest but also an enriching and enjoyable space for athletes throughout the Championships.



Scholarships

3 workshops
79 attendees
48 scholarship holders in the competition (1 reach semi final for the first time)
3 meetings with TC and their MF

Athletes workshop on women health

1 workshop
30 attendees

Athletes lounge

800 bottles distributed
800 answered to the survey
1000 pictures taken with the selfie box
200 pictures with Sony booth
3 days of education on anti-doping with the local NADO

Biomechanics analysis

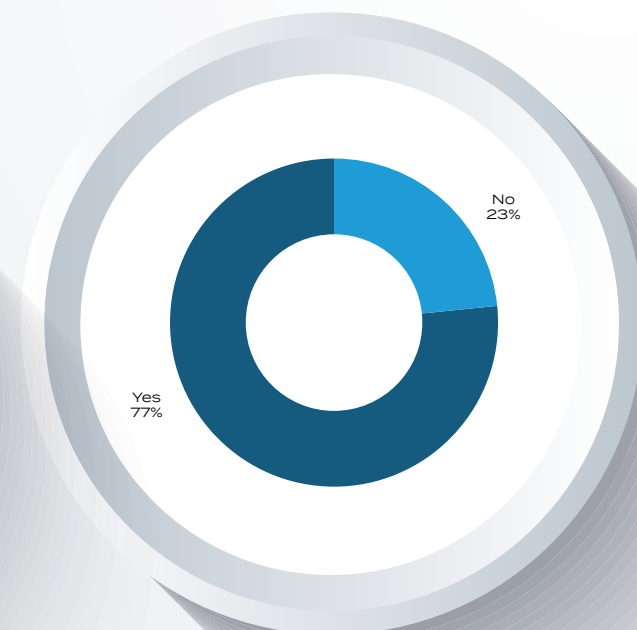
more than
50 analyses done during the event
22 different MF



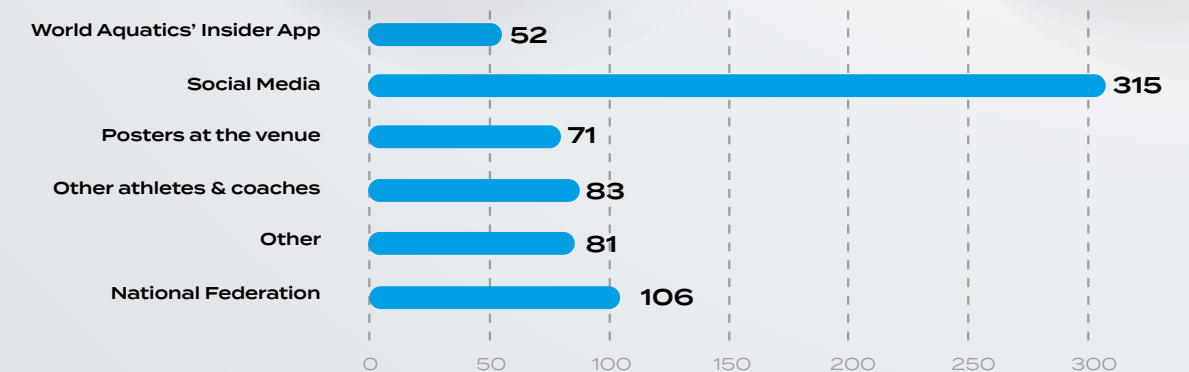
On a scale from 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the organisation of the World Aquatics Championships?
(5 = very satisfied)



Are you aware of the different workshops proposed to athletes by World Aquatics?



If yes, how did you hear about the workshops?



SURVEY

At each World Aquatics Championships event, World Aquatics runs a survey on the event itself with questions on the competition, training, workshops, etc. to help us improve our events. The athletes are asked to answer the survey and if they completed it, they received a small gift.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$42,150.91
TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT

EVALUATION

The workshops at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships focused on the critical and often overlooked topic of Women's Health.

These sessions resonated strongly with participants, enabling open dialogue on this important topic.

The two dispensers installed offering free sanitary products at the venue, ensured accessibility and underlined the commitment to the well-being of female athletes.

Overall, the workshops were a meaningful step toward addressing a historically under-discussed topic, empowering athletes, and encouraging a more inclusive and supportive environment in aquatics sports.

The ambassadors played a significant role in enriching the event, engaging with both the local community and fans in meaningful ways.

The community outreach through the different activities highlighted the ambassadors' commitment to giving back to the local community and spreading goodwill during the festive period. They also connected with the local culture and showcasing the spirit of the event and further enhanced the fan experience and creating lasting memories for attendees.

The involvement of the Athlete Ambassadors significantly contributed to the Championships' atmosphere, promoting the values of sport, community engagement, and charity. Their presence helped strengthen the connection between athletes, fans, and the broader public, leaving a positive and lasting impact on the event.

In Budapest, the Athletes' Lounge offered a variety of engaging and festive activities. The athletes were also encouraged to participate in a survey.

The lounge's carefully selected activities and warm, inviting atmosphere ensured it was much more than a place for rest. It became an enriching and enjoyable space that enhanced the overall athlete experience, offering moments of relaxation, creativity, and connection throughout the Championships.

The athletes' survey conducted at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships, as previously done in Doha, played a crucial role in driving continuous improvement. It gathers direct input on essential aspects of the event.

By utilising this feedback, World Aquatics can pinpoint areas for enhancement and build on existing strengths, ensuring that future Championships align with the evolving needs and expectations of athletes.

WORLD AQUATICS ATHLETES' COMMITTEE TOOLKIT

WEBINAR

In 2023, World Aquatics' Athlete Unit developed an Athletes' Committee toolkit. This toolkit is a comprehensive guide created to assist athletes and Member Federations in establishing or developing their own Athletes Committee (AC). It offers a step-by-step framework, detailing everything from the purpose and responsibilities of an AC to recommendations for daily operations. Additionally, it includes a variety of templates to further support Member Federations (MFs) throughout the setup process. All these documents are made readily available on the

World Aquatics website. 

In May 2024, World Aquatics organised an engaging and informative webinar that emphasised the critical role of Athletes' Committees within Member Federations. This webinar served as an opportunity to explore how these committees can effectively represent athletes' voices, influence decision-making, and foster better communication between athletes and their federations.

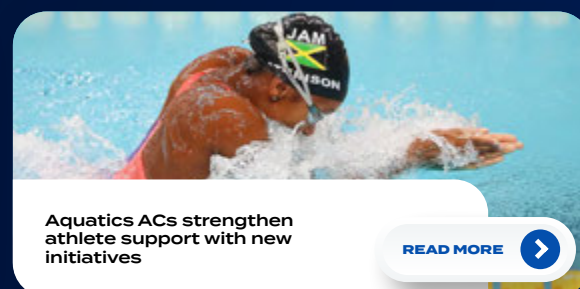
A key focus of the session was the Athletes' Committee Toolkit. The webinar highlighted the toolkit's practical resources, including templates, best practices, and strategies for day-to-day operations. By equipping participants with these tools, World Aquatics aimed to empower Member Federations to create robust and impactful Athletes' Committees, ensuring athletes' needs and perspectives are consistently prioritised in the future.

The virtual event, hosted by an esteemed sports broadcaster, brought together 157 participants from around the world, including athletes and representatives of Member Federations. The dynamic discussion featured high-profile speakers such as the World Aquatics President and Executive Director, both of whom underscored the crucial role athletes play in shaping the future of aquatic sports.

Throughout the webinar, attendees explored the intricacies of establishing and managing an Athletes' Committee while learning from the experiences of notable World Aquatics Athletes' Committee members including the Chair of the AC. They shared their expertise and personal experiences, illustrating the significance of athlete representation within aquatic sports organisations.

The session reinforced World Aquatics' dedication to fostering transparency, inclusivity, and an athlete-centred approach to governance. By equipping athletes and Member Federations with practical tools and insights, World Aquatics strives to amplify athletes' voices and enhance their impact on the future of aquatic sports.

In summary, the Athletes' Committee Toolkit webinar was a successful initiative by World Aquatics that provided essential knowledge, practical tools, and a platform for cross-border dialogue. It strengthened the relationship between athletes and Member Federations, making a meaningful contribution to athlete representation in aquatic sports governance. The event's high participation and the involvement of key experts made it a valuable experience, reinforcing the importance of athlete-driven decision-making in shaping the future of the sport.



ATHLETES' COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The World Aquatics Athletes' Committee (AC) had an impactful year in 2024, working tirelessly to represent the voices of athletes across all disciplines of aquatics. The Committee engaged in key activities to strengthen communication between athletes, sports management, and governing bodies, ensuring that athletes' perspectives were well-represented in critical decision-making processes.

One of the highlights of the year was the Athletes' Committee's active presence at the 2024 World Aquatics Championships. The committee took this global stage as an opportunity to engage with athletes directly, listening to their feedback and concerns while fostering an open dialogue. These interactions were instrumental in shaping the committee's understanding of athletes' needs across various sports. The presence of committee members at such a premier event underscored their commitment to being accessible and responsive to the aquatic's community.

The Athletes' Committee also conducted regular meetings throughout the year to ensure they stayed informed on developments within each aquatic sport. These meetings provided a platform for committee members to exchange updates, discuss pressing issues, and collaborate on solutions. The insights gathered during these discussions were consistently reported to the management and the Bureau, serving as a vital channel for athlete representation in organisational decision-making.

Another key initiative was the committee's participation in the Athletes' Committee Toolkit webinar. This webinar served as a valuable resource for empowering AC members with tools and strategies to better engage with their respective athlete communities. By participating, the Committee enhanced its capacity to communicate effectively, build trust, and foster collaboration between athletes and governing bodies.

Through these actions, the Athletes' Committee reaffirmed in 2024 its dedication to advocating for athletes' interests and promoting a positive, inclusive, and transparent sports environment. Their efforts continue to lay the foundation for meaningful progress within the world of aquatics.

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“The AC gave me the possibility to see the other side of the sport, this helped me to understand different decisions so I could be the middleman for the athletes but also for WA to the athletes. On the other hand, I had a lot of contact with many athletes online or at the events and gave their feedback to WA which helps us all to make our disciplines better.”

“Being on the World Aquatics Athlete Committee has given me valuable insights into the complexities of our sport and highlighted the importance of athlete representation. I've enjoyed being part of a team that encourages open dialogue and collaboration, ensuring our collective voices help shape the future of aquatics.”

“To be part of the World Aquatics Athlete Committee is one of the greatest opportunities I have ever been given in my career. It's an honour to work with other Athletes and talented people that truly have the athletes' best interest in mind and support their success and wellbeing above everything else. It's a chance to learn and to grow as an athlete but also a way to use your voice to give back and empower the development of the sports we all have dedicated our lives to.”

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ATHLETE SUPPORT

WORLD AQUATICS TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS

The Travel and Accommodation assistance for World Aquatics Championships is provided by World Aquatics to all its members to support their participation at the most important World Aquatics event and to ensure that all its members have access to World Aquatics' events. World Aquatics is committed to ensuring that athletes, coaches, and officials from all regions have access to major aquatic events.

This initiative is designed to reduce financial barriers, enabling wider participation and representation at international competitions.

The support program provides funding assistance for:



Travel Costs: Covering transportation expenses such as flights, trains, or other means of travel to the event location.



Accommodation: Supporting housing needs during the event, ensuring participants have access to quality, nearby lodging for the duration of their stay.

The Travel and Accommodation assistance will be defined based on the participation of each National Federation at previous World Championships. The Travel and Accommodation Assistance will be provided only to athletes which are entitled to participate according to the qualification rules

By providing this assistance, World Aquatics seeks to:

1

Promote Equal Opportunity: Enable athletes and teams from developing nations to compete on the global stage.

2

Enhance Event Participation: Encourage a diverse and inclusive field of competitors, which enriches the competitive experience for everyone.

3

Reduce Financial Stress: Help athletes and federations focus on their performance rather than logistical concerns.

Through the Travel & Accommodation Support program, World Aquatics demonstrates its commitment to accessibility and equity, ensuring that financial limitations do not hinder participation in the sport. This initiative reflects the organisation's broader mission to foster inclusivity, unity, and excellence in aquatic sports worldwide.

TOTAL TRAVEL SUPPORT

\$2,254,771.88

WORLD AQUATICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2024

\$ 754,197.37

WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS - BUDAPEST 2024

CONCLUSION

In 2024, World Aquatics made significant strides across development programmes, medical initiatives, and athlete services, backed by a robust global budget exceeding 12 million USD. These efforts have not only strengthened our support structures but have also laid a solid foundation for future growth and excellence.

Our development and athletes programmes focus on nurturing talent, enhancing training facilities, and expanding outreach initiatives to support athletes, coaches, and officials alike. Through tailored courses and collaboration with Member Federations and Continental Organizations, we strengthen the sporting ecosystem. At the heart of our efforts, grassroots programmes play a vital role in identifying future talent and promoting inclusive participation, ensuring a sustainable pathway for sporting excellence.

The launch of our medical initiative in 2024 marked a significant step in prioritizing athlete health and well-being. With a focus on comprehensive health assessments, injury prevention programs, and mental health support services, this initiative lays the foundation for future development. Our goal is to continuously expand these efforts, reducing injury rates and enhancing overall performance, reinforcing our commitment to holistic athlete care.

The World Cup Athletes' Experiences and the World Aquatics Championships in 2024 emphasized building strong connections between athletes, fans, and local communities. Beyond competition, these events fostered personal and professional growth through workshops on mental health, women's health, and athlete well-being. The Athlete Lounges, meet-and-greets, and school visits created spaces for both relaxation and inspiration. Athlete Ambassadors and Committee members played a key role in amplifying athlete voices and shaping future initiatives. Ultimately, World Aquatics continues to champion a supportive, inclusive environment — celebrating athletes not just for their performances, but as individuals with impactful stories.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to building on these achievements by further expanding our programmes, investing in innovative research, and enhancing athlete support services. With a forward-thinking approach and continued financial commitment, we aim to push the boundaries of excellence, empowering athletes and fostering a global community of sporting success.

