

INFORMATION BULLETIN

VERSION 1.0 – JANUARY 2026



WORLD AQUATICS OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP

GOLFO ARANCI 2026



MAY 1-2, 2026



Golfo Aranci
Sardinia, Italy

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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

On behalf of the entire World Aquatics family, I invite you to experience the thrilling competition of the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cup 2026 series.

This year, the world's premier open water swimmers will compete across spectacular venues: Somabay, Egypt (27-28 March); Ibiza, Spain (24-25 April); Golfo Aranci (1-2 May); and Setubal, Portugal (20-21 June).

The crystal-clear waters of Somabay, Egypt, have become a top destination for elite open water racers. Following standout editions in 2023 and 2024 as part of the Egypt Aquatics Festival and last year's Open Water Swimming World Cup opener, this stunning Red Sea setting launches the 2026 season.

The second stop brings us to Ibiza, where athletes will race in the pure waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Spain has staged an impressive 51 World Aquatics events, and this marks Ibiza's second consecutive time hosting the sport's elite competitors.

From Ibiza, the tour moves to Golfo Aranci, Italy, a distinguished destination for open water swimming – a Sardinian seaside village that most recently held the sport's 2025 World Cup Final.

Renowned for staging key events such as the Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifiers in 2012 and 2016, and the Open Water Swimming World Cup for the past three years, Setubal's open ocean waters offer a familiar and rigorous stage for this year's World Cup Final.

With dedicated support from organising committees, local authorities, officials, and volunteers, you are in safe hands in these great cities.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the host cities and sponsors for their steadfast trust and commitment to making 2026 a remarkable year for open water swimming. To all athletes, I wish you success throughout this eagerly awaited racing series.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Al Musallam', written in a cursive style.

Captain Husain Al Musallam

World Aquatics President

2. MESSAGE FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN SWIMMING FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

on behalf of the Italian Swimming Federation and myself, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the athletes, coaches, managers, referees, and delegates who will be taking part in the World Cup open water swimming event, scheduled to take place in Golfo Aranci on May 1 and 2.

FIN is proud to once again contribute to the promotion of a wonderful region, an enchanting place offering hospitality, tourism, food and wine, culture, and scenery that is admired around the world.



It does so in its own way, with an organisation that boasts excellence guided by the passion and expertise of the president of the Sardinia Regional Committee, Danilo Russo, supported by the planning, investment, and long-term vision of local authorities and institutions: the Region of Sardinia, the Municipality of Golfo Aranci represented by Mayor Giuseppe Fasolino, the Port Authority, and the Naval League of Golfo Aranci.

Returning to this extraordinary setting, which has hosted the Open Water World Cup for four years, is a source of pride for the entire movement, which continues to grow in Sardinia, training athletes of national interest and hosting water sports events of international importance.

Sardinia is an extraordinary island, which in September 2024 also hosted the Junior Open Water World Championships in Alghero, which came to the fore for their technical level and the impeccable organisation of the Regional Committee. The World Cup is a highly anticipated showcase from both a competitive and image perspective. The races will be broadcast by Raisport, a national broadcaster that covers all the most important and significant international sporting events. We look forward to welcoming international champions and eagerly await the performances of the most anticipated stars, such as Gregorio Paltrinieri and Ginevra Taddeucci.

The races, which can be watched from the promenade overlooking the beautiful gulf, are also a tribute to eco-sustainability, which has been an unwavering mission of the Italian Swimming Federation for years.

Finally, allow me to thank the sponsors who support the federation's activities and all our stakeholders, the press who help promote aquatic sports, and the volunteers who grow with us in organising events.

Thank you for your attention, good luck, and enjoy yourselves.

Paolo Barelli

President of the Italian Swimming Federation

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Golfo Aranci once again proves to be a stunning setting for the 2026 stage of the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cup!

It is with immense pride that our community welcomes athletes, coaches, organisers, and spectators from around the world to this prestigious competition, which will take place on May 1 and 2 in our crystal-clear waters. Golfo Aranci confirms itself as an ideal venue for international sporting events, thanks to the beauty of its sea, its tourism-oriented spirit, and the hospitality of our people. We are honoured to host this event once again—an occasion that is not only about sport but also about promoting our territory and its values.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those who, with dedication and passion, make this extraordinary event possible. A special greeting to the athletes competing in Golfo Aranci, who embody the values of sport through their enthusiasm.

I wish everyone a competition marked by fairness and excellence, and to all visitors an unforgettable stay in our town.

Giuseppe Fasolino

Mayor of Golfo Aranci

MESSAGE FROM THE HOST

Sardinia is proud to host the fourth edition of the Open Water Swimming World Cup, an event that celebrates both sport and the beauty of our region.

The first three editions gave us unforgettable emotions, and we are confident that this year will also be a great success.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the Region of Sardinia, the Italian Swimming Federation, and World Aquatics for their support, which made this event possible. A special thanks to the Municipality of Golfo Aranci for their warm hospitality, and to Silvia Fioravanti, President of the Aquatic Team Freedom, for her invaluable organisational collaboration. Praise goes to all the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure a flawless experience. In recent years, we have worked with dedication to make our seas a recognised international hub for open water swimming, and today we can proudly say we have reached this important milestone.



Thank you all for believing in this project and for your continued support.

Danilo Russu

President, Sardinia Regional Committee FIN

3. INTRODUCTION

The Italian Swimming Federation has the honour and pleasure to invite you to the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cup 2026 in Golfo Aranci – Sardinia (ITA).

Our organisation is very glad to welcome all Open Water Swimming World Cup 2026 athletes. Golfo Aranci is proud to offer this beautiful event the population of Sardinia and is also honoured to be part of the Open Water Swimming World Cup for the third time.

The following information has been settled to assist your National Federation in its decision to attend this event.

4. EVENT CONTACTS

Should you have any queries regarding the information provided in this document please feel free to contact the following event contacts:

Italian Swimming Federation:

Phone: +39 06 36200457 or 406

Email: logistics@federnuoto.it

Local Organising Committee:

Phone: + 39 3386212062

Email: ows.worldcup.ita@gmail.com

World Aquatics:

Name & Last Name, Role: Ignasi Vendrell, Sport Manager - World Aquatics

Email: ignasi.vendrell@worldaquatics.com

5. CALENDAR

STOP	DATE	LOCATION
#1	MARCH 27-28	SOMABAY (EGY)
#2	APRIL 24-25	IBIZA (ESP)
#3	MAY 01-02	GOLFO ARANCI (ITA)
#4	JUNE 20-21	SETUBAL (POR)

6. EVENT KEY DATES

FEB 20	PRELIMINARY ACCOMMODATION BOOKING DEADLINE Submission of preliminary accommodation forms and Deposit payment 50%
FEB 20	VISA DEADLINE
APR 10	REGISTRATION & SPORT ENTRIES DEADLINE, FINAL ACCOMMODATION DEADLINE & TRAVEL DETAILS Submission of Final Accommodation Form and Balance payment 50%
APR 28 – APR 30	OFFICIAL TRAINING
APR 30	TEAM LEADERS MEETING – 16:00 at the Marana Hotel
MAY 01	COMPETITION – Men's 10km 09:00 COMPETITION – Women's 10km 12:00
MAY 02	COMPETITION – Mixed 4x1500m Relay 09:00 COMPETITION – Men's 3km KNOCKOUT SPRINT 15:00 COMPETITION – Women's 3km KNOCKOUT SPRINT 16:30

7. OFFICIAL SCHEDULE AND COMPETITION PROGRAMME

Training Schedule:

The official training sessions will take place at

- **Tuesday 28 April:**
 - o 09:00-12:00 - pool training
 - o 16:00-18:00 - sea training reduced course
- **Wednesday 29 April:**
 - o 09:00-12:00 - pool training
 - o 16:00-18:00 - sea training reduced course
- **Thursday 30 April:**
 - o 09:00-12:00 - sea training official course (10km)
 - o 16:00-18:00 - pool training
- **Friday 01 May:**
 - o 16:00/18:00 - sea training official course (3km Knock Out)
 - o 16:00-18:00 - pool training

Competition schedule:

- **Friday 01 May:**
 - o 09:00 - Men's 10km
 - o 12:00 - Women's 10km
- **Saturday 02 May:**
 - o 10:00 - Mixed 4x1500m Relay
 - o 15:00 - Men's 3km Knockout Sprint
 - o 16:30 - Women's 3km Knockout Sprint

Medal ceremonies will take place at the competition venue, immediately after the race. All Announcements, instructions, and commands during the event will be in English.

8. PARTICIPANTS

Entries will be accepted only from National World Aquatics Member Federations which must also register a team official for each respective competitor. A team official can be responsible for up to two (2) competitors only. The team official is responsible for representing their competitor(s) at the Team Leaders Meeting, and feeding the competitor during the event(s). **A competitor without a coach present will not be allowed to start the race** unless World Aquatics has been previously informed.

Please contact World Aquatics at ignasi.vendrell@worldaquatics.com in case you cannot bring a team official onsite.

9. ENTRY PROCESS

All National Federation registrations and sport entries must be done through the World Aquatics General Management System (GMS) via <https://data.worldaquatics.com/> Each National Federation must complete their registrations before the designated deadlines.

10. TEAM LEADERS MEETING

The Team Leaders Meeting will take place on **April 30 at 16:00 at the Marana Hotel**. At least one representative from each National Federation must attend this meeting.

11. VENUE & COURSE INFORMATION

The Venue

The venue layout will be shared with all the teams closer to the competition via the World Aquatics Event Insider App.

Course Information

- The **10km** competition will be organised on a 1666m course. Swimmers will have to complete 6 laps.
- Sprint Winners: Prize Money will be awarded for the top 3 ranked athletes at the first lap of the 10km event.
- For the **Mixed 4x1500m Team Relay**, the same shape of the 10km event will be used, but the course will be only 1500m.
- The **3k Knockout Sprint** event will be organised on a 1.5km /1km /0.5Km course, same shape as the 10km and Mixed 4x1500m Team Relay events but shortening the distances.

The exact design of the competition courses will be shared with the teams closer to the competition via World Aquatics Event Insider App.



12. RULES

Please note that all the events in the World Cup will be conducted according to latest World Aquatics Competition Regulations, in force at the time event.

World Aquatics Competition Regulations can be found [here](#).

13. ACCREDITATIONS & EVENT INFORMATION DESK

Accreditation

The Local Organising Committee will provide all competitors and Team Staff with an official Accreditation. Only accredited people will be allowed to access certain venue areas. All accredited people are requested to always carry their Accreditation with them and to show them upon request.

Accreditation can be collected at the Information Desk in the official hotel. Team Officials will be required to present photographic identification for all team members.

Information Desk

The official hotel will have an Information Desk where all the information related to the competition will be provided.

14. POINT SYSTEM & PRIZE MONEY

Point system and prize money distribution is explained within the 2026 Additional Rules & Regulations that can be found [here](#).

15. MEDICAL

All Medical Support will be delivered by the local health authorities and in articulation with the World Aquatics Medical and Safety Officers, as well as World Aquatics Rules and Procedures.

16. VISA INFORMATION & TRANSPORTATION

The Italian Swimming Federation will facilitate the process of obtaining an entry visa to Italy by issuing a support letter to present at the Italian Embassy in your Country. All participants needing a Visa are requested to contact us (logistics@federnuoto.it) no later than the **20 February**.

For additional information on whether a Visa is needed for entry into Italy please visit <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/>

Transfers services will be provided free of charge only for the National Federations arriving at the Olbia Airport and harbour (15/20 minutes to both hotels). Local transportation between Hotels and training/competition venue will be provided as well.

The LOC will facilitate Airport Welcome and Transportation services upon filling in the Travel Information in the World Aquatics GMS by the deadline of **10 April**.

Transfers from other airports can be organised upon request. We will send you a quotation if needed.

If support is needed for your travel to Golfo Aranci please contact us, We are ready and glad to help you.

Please contact: logistics@federnuoto.it ; ows.worldcup.ita@gmail.com

17. ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

In order to book your accommodation, please send the accommodation forms completed at logistics@federnuoto.it ; ows.worldcup.ita@gmail.com by the deadlines below:

- **20 February 2026:** PRELIMINARY ACCOMMODATION BOOKING & 50% DEPOSIT DEADLINE
- **10 April 2026:** FINAL ACCOMMODATION BOOKING, BALANCE PAYMENT & ROOMING LIST

You can download the accommodation forms [here](#)

Rates by night per person per day in Full Board

270 Euros in single room

220 Euros in double room

200 in triple rooms

Hotel Marana**** <https://www.maranahotel.com/>

Punta Marana Località Marana, Golfo di Marinella 07020 Golfo Aranci (OT)

25 minutes from the Airport

20 minutes from Training Venue – Air Sporting Club

15 minutes from the Competition Venue in Golfo Aranci

Hotel Sestante**** <https://www.hotelsestante.com>

Via della marina 2 07026 Porto Rotondo

25 minutes from the Airport

20 minutes from Training Venue – Air Sporting Club

15 minutes from the Competition Venue in Golfo Aranci

18. CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations made before the 10th March 2026 will not incur any penalty.

Cancellations between 11th March and 10th April 2026 will incur a 50% charge of the total cost of the cancelled reservation.

Cancellations from 11th April 2026 onwards will be charged 100% of the total cost of the cancelled reservation.

19. ANTI-DOPING

Urine and blood samples will be collected during the competition for the purpose of doping controls. The doping controls will be done in accordance with the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules and the World Anti-Doping International Standards, which can be consulted [here](#). The operations will be supervised and coordinated by the International Testing Agency (ITA).

The list of prohibited substances can be consulted [here](#). For reminder, all athletes are strictly responsible for any prohibited substance found in their sample and it is particularly important for them to check any medication they take against the prohibited list. Additionally, all athlete support personnel are responsible to be knowledgeable about anti-doping regulations and procedures.

Mandatory Anti-Doping education course prior to participation:

Athlete

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, any athlete participating in World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course "[International-Level Athletes Education Program](#)" or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).* Any athlete who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to compete and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

Team Official: Coach, Head Coach, Chef de Mission, Team Leader, or Support Staff

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, anyone registered as a team official—including coach, head coach, chef de mission, team leader, support staff—for World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course "[Coaches of High Performance Education Program](#)" or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).* Anyone who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to participate and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

Team Official: Doctor, Medical Professional, Massage Therapist, or Physiotherapist

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, anyone registered as a team official—including doctor, medical professional, massage therapist, physiotherapist—for World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course “[ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program](#)” or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).^{*} Anyone who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to participate and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

*** AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit) Recognised NADO Education Programs**

Please refer to the list of anti-doping education programs from National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) whose certifications are recognised by the AQIU [here](#). These certifications will be accepted as fulfilling the mandatory anti-doping education requirements for all World Aquatics competitions.

Steps to Complete the ADEL Certification

Please follow these instructions in order to complete the ADEL course:

Step 1:

Access the eLearning course webpage [here](#).

Step 2:

Click on “Register here” and follow the steps to register an account.

Step 3:

Sign in to the new account just created.

Step 4:

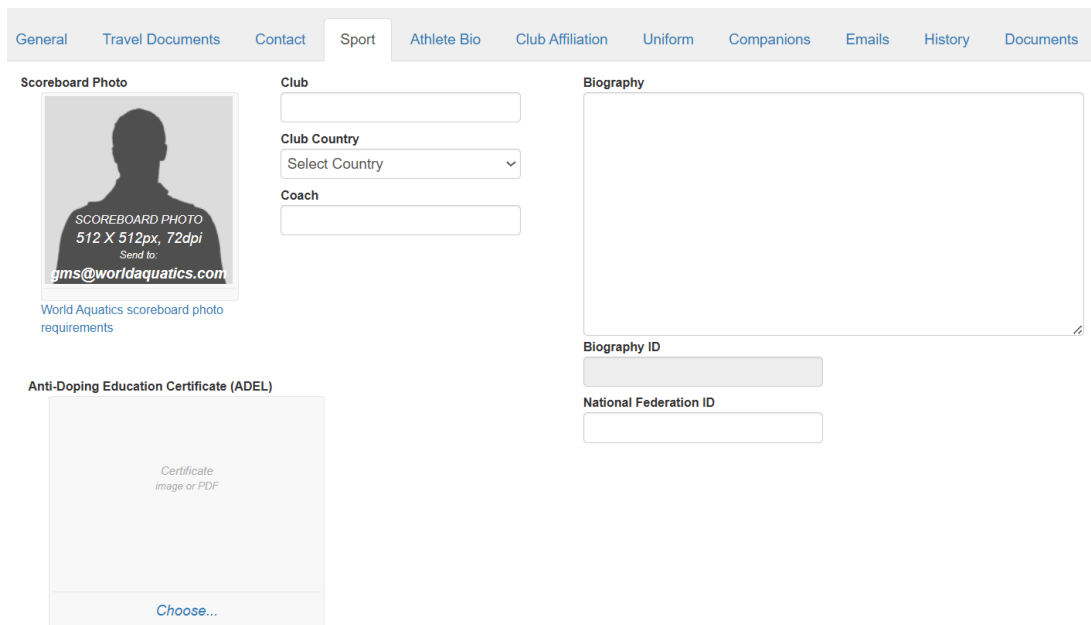
Based on the category, select the course “**International-Level Athletes Education Program**”, “**Coaches of High-Performance Education Program**” or “**ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program**” and complete the course to obtain at least 80% at the final exam at the end of the course. You can do the course again if you do not achieve 80% the first time. The athletes' course is available in twenty-three languages, the coaches' course in seventeen languages, and the medical professionals' course is offered in three languages. Each course takes up to 2-3 hours to complete. The courses can also be accessed through the “**ADEL by WADA**” mobile application.

Step 5:

Once the course has been successfully completed, download the certificate of completion, and send it to your World Aquatics Member. The ADEL guidelines to download the certificate can be found [here](#). In case of any queries that may arise regarding downloading the certificate, you may also reach out to ADEL Helpdesk at [here](#).

Step 6:

The World Aquatics Member must upload the certificate of completion of each athlete on their respective GMS profile [here](#) (in the Sport tab).



The screenshot shows the 'Sport' tab of a GMS profile. It contains the following sections:

- Scoreboard Photo:** A placeholder for a photo with dimensions 512 X 512px, 72dpi. It includes a 'Send to: gms@worldaquatics.com' button and a link to 'World Aquatics scoreboard photo requirements'.
- Club:** Text input for 'Club', a dropdown for 'Club Country' (labeled 'Select Country'), and a text input for 'Coach'.
- Biography:** A large text area for the athlete's biography.
- Biography ID:** A text input field.
- National Federation ID:** A text input field.
- Anti-Doping Education Certificate (ADEL):** A section for uploading a certificate image or PDF, with a 'Choose...' button.

Note: In order to avoid any issues, Members should not wait until their teams are finalised to inform their athletes and team officials about this requirement. Rather, they should ask all athletes and team officials who could potentially participate in the event to complete the course immediately.

Athletes and team officials are encouraged to renew their certifications every four years to stay up to date with the latest anti-doping regulations and procedures.

For any questions regarding this requirement, please contact info@aquaticsintegrity.com

20. WORLD AQUATICS EVENT INSIDER APP

The **World Aquatics Event Insider App** will be used to publish all information related to the OWS World Cup 2026. Please make sure you access by using the QR code and password below. Make sure you activate push notifications within your device in order to receive latest updates and publications.



For direct event information,
please download the Events
Insider app and insert this
password:

OWSWC_2026

 WORLD
AQUATICS

 Download on the
App Store

 GET IT ON
Google Play



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNIA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

SARDEGNA



COMUNE DI GOLFO ARANCI

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WORLD AQUATICS OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP

GOLFO ARANCI 2026

Organised by



MAY 1-2, 2026



Golfo Aranci
Sardinia, Italy