

2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**

Development Programmes,
Medical Initiatives
and Athletes' Services

SUMMARY

PRESIDENT MESSAGE	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
MAIN NUMBERS.....	4
BIGGEST MILESTONES ARCHIVED IN 2025.....	6
PROGRAMMES.....	8
ORGANISATION OF THE PROJECTS.....	8
MAIN TIMELINES.....	9
DEVELOPMENT	10
ATHLETES	12
WORLD AQUATICS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME	12
WORLD AQUATICS TRAINING CENTRES	20
STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME.....	24
ADDITIONAL SERVICES SUPPLIED TO SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AT	
TRAINING CENTRES.....	30
REFUGEE TEAM.....	32
ADDITIONAL SERVICES SUPPLIED TO SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS DURING	
THE WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS	34
OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME.....	36
ENTOURAGE.....	38
COACHES	38
COACHES CERTIFICATION	38
COACHES CLINICS.....	46
OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COACHES	50
TECHNICAL OFFICIALS.....	52
WORLD AQUATICS E-LEARNING PLATFORM.....	58
MEMBERS	62
CONTINENTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME	62
WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME.....	66
MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME.....	74
POOLS FOR ALL.....	78
COMMUNITY	80
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY "THE BLUEPRINT"	80
DISCOVER WATER PROGRAMME.....	90
FUTURE WAVE PROGRAMME.....	96
WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS ACTIVITIES	100
MEDICAL INITIATIVES	108
ATHLETES' SERVICES	114
WORLD CUP EXPERIENCES	116
WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS – SINGAPORE 2025	128
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE ELECTION.....	136
WEBINARS ON WOMEN HEALTH	140
FROM PODIUMS TO POSSIBILITIES – ATHLETES CAREER SUMMIT.....	144
MASTERS EDUCATION	152
CONCLUSION.....	156
TEAM PRESENTATION	157

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025 – a year of remarkable achievements – World Aquatics continues to thrive on global, national, and local levels. Our commitment to development and athletes' services ensures that aquatic sports remain accessible, providing athletes, coaches, officials, National Federations and Continental Organisations with the opportunity to succeed.

The year has seen immense progress, with our athletes competing in World Cup seasons across six sports, the World Junior Swimming Championships, the World Youth Artistic Swimming Championships, and the World Aquatics Championships and World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore last July and August.

Beyond competition, our focus on development and athletes' services has remained strong. We launched new coaching and technical officials pathways, championed sustainability through the World Aquatics Blueprint, and advanced the second year of the Discover Water programme to empower athletes and inspire communities worldwide.

Our scholarship programmes supported a record 152 athletes, enabling them to train and compete at elite levels while fully supported by World Aquatics.

The World Aquatics Support Programme was vital in strengthening our Member Federations, with 181 Member Federations receiving funding for 703 projects that benefited 216,131 athletes. Coaches education and technical officials remained a priority, with the development of new certification courses for all disciplines.

Our Pools for All initiative achieved a historic milestone by breaking ground on a national aquatics facility in Grenada through our development programme, which focuses on sustainable aquatics infrastructure, increased participation, and enhanced water safety education.

Additionally, we celebrated the grand opening of the World Aquatics Centre of Excellence at the University of Technology Bahrain, a significant step in our global development strategy, expanding training and educational opportunities for aspiring elite aquatic athletes.

Together, we have strengthened the foundations of our sport and paved the way for future growth. I sincerely thank our athletes, coaches, technical officials, Member Federations, Continental Organisations, partners, and staff for their unwavering commitment. Our progress reflects our shared passion. Let us celebrate 2025's achievements and embrace the opportunities ahead as we continue to elevate aquatics and inspire future generations.




World Aquatics President, Husain Al Musallam

MAIN NUMBERS


152
ATHLETES

Record number of Athletes in
Scholarship Programmes


6
POOLS FOR ALL
projects signed


703
PROJECTS
realised with the support of the
World Aquatics Support Programme


216,131
ATHLETES
involved through the World
Aquatics Support Programme


2
DISCOVER WATER
country leads training done in
Africa and Asia

More than

10M
USD
spent in Development and Athletes
Services in 2025

More than

30
DEVELOPMENT AND ATHLETES'
SERVICES PROGRAMMES
developed in 2025


4
WEBINARS
Organised for Athletes

INTRODUCTION

BIGGEST MILESTONES ARCHIVED IN 2025

ATHLETES

First athletes to graduate from the SHS Sport Scholarship Programme

Opening of a new Training Centre in Bahrain with the Centre of Excellence

ATHLETES' ENTOURAGE

Launch of the new Coaches' Certifications Pathway

Launch of new International Technical Officials' Pathway

Launch of the new E-Learning Platform CORAL

MEMBERSHIP

Publication of the Development, Medical Initiatives and Athletes' Services Report for 2024

New structure of the Mentorship Programme and training of Mentors

AQUATICS COMMUNITY

Launch of Discover Water Programme and organisation of Country Leads' Trainings

Launch of World Aquatics Sustainability Strategy The Blueprint

MEDICAL

Organisation of the Medical Seminar

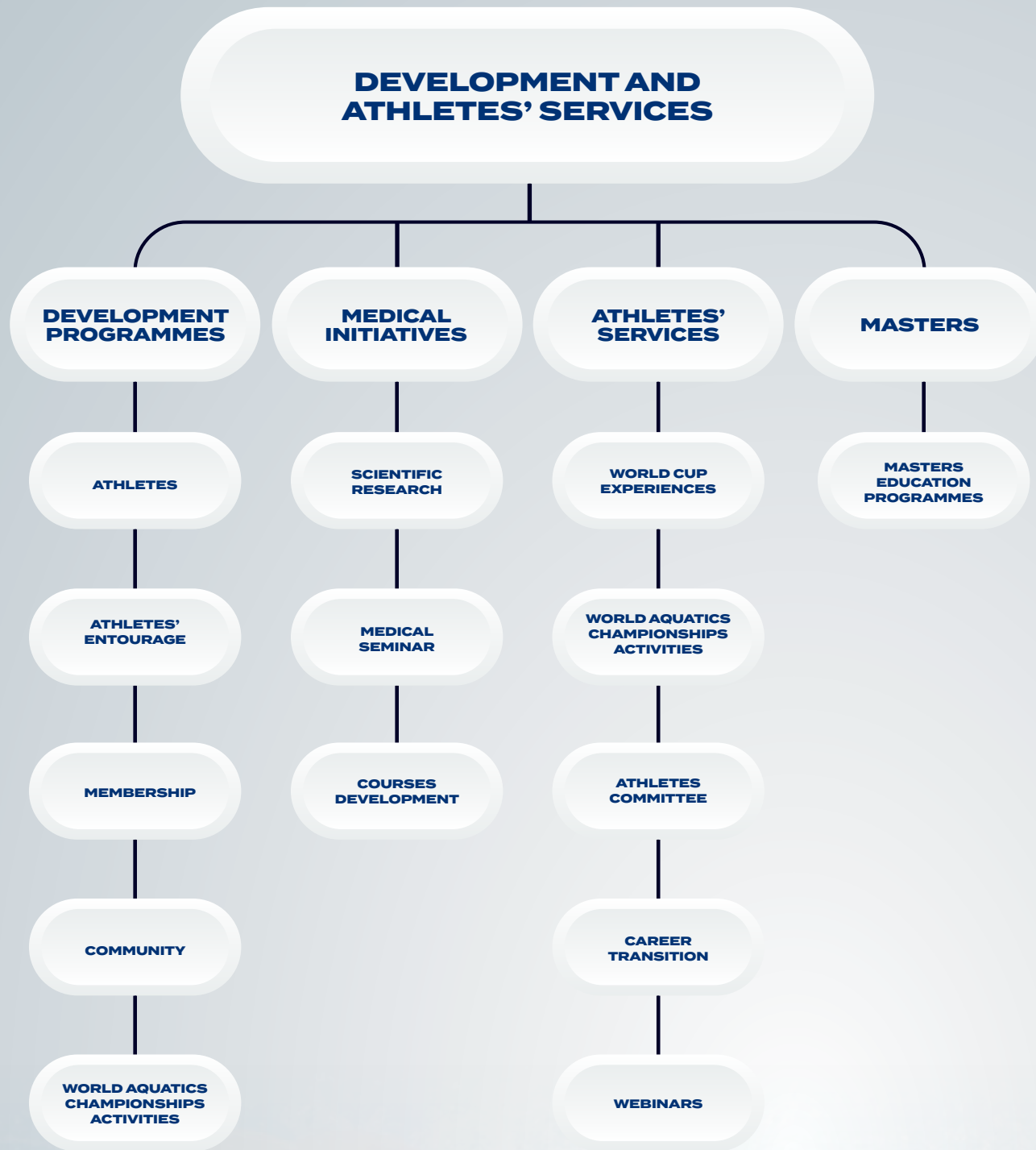
Medical Study for High Diving

ATHLETES' SERVICES

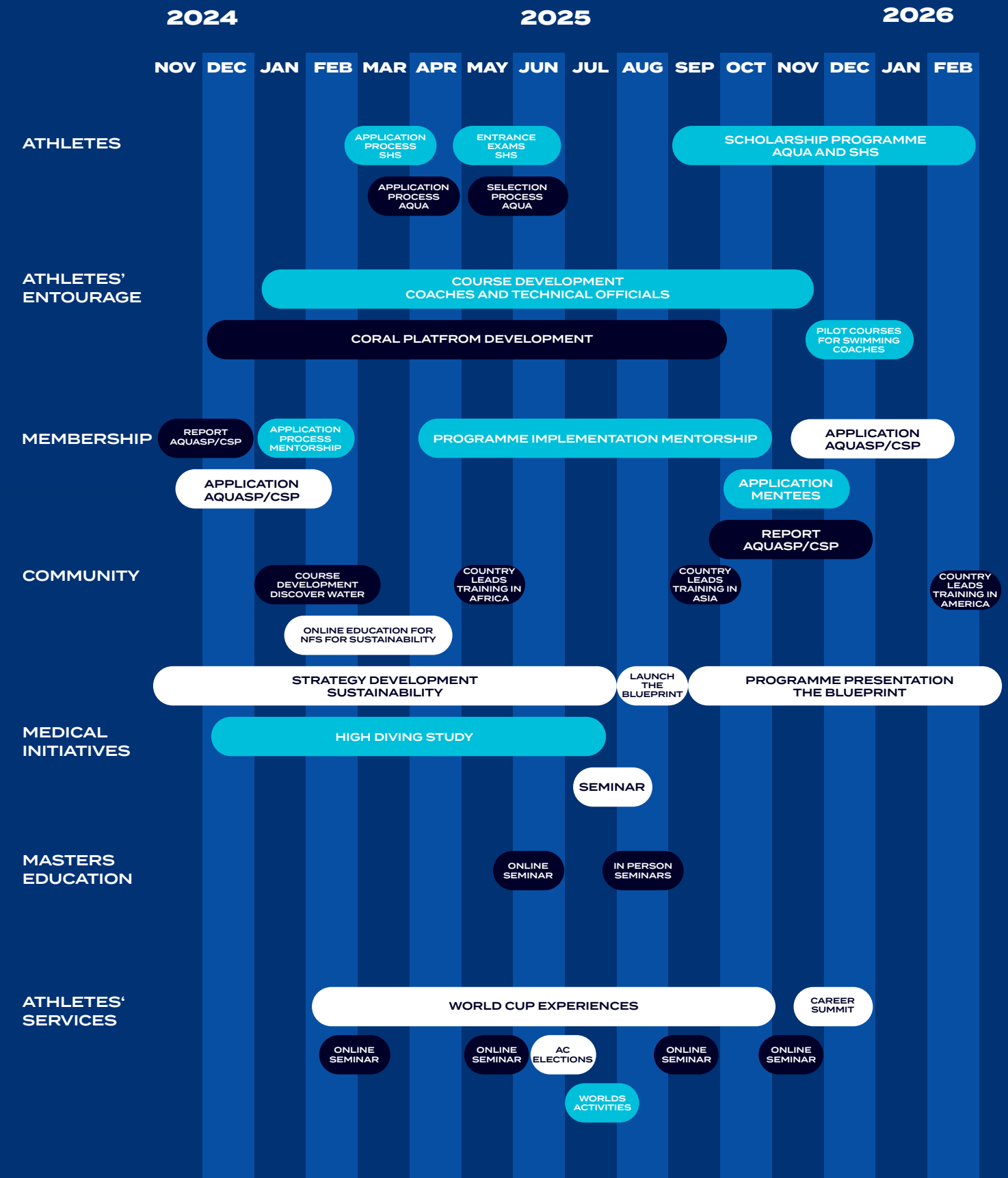
Organisation of the first Athletes' Career Summit

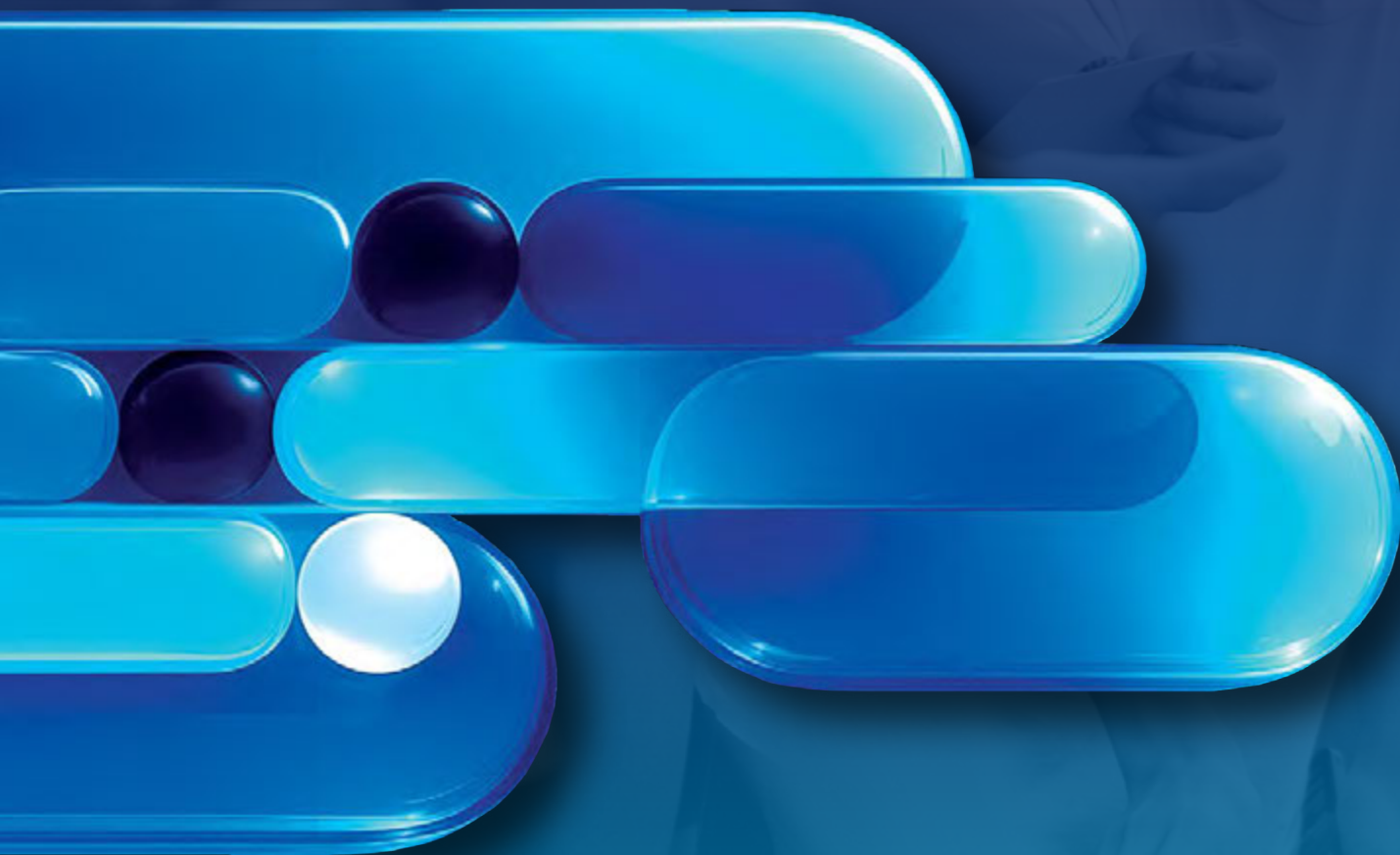
Organisation of webinars for Athletes on Women Health

ORGANISATION OF THE PROJECTS



MAIN TIMELINES





DEVELOPMENT

ATHLETES

WORLD AQUATICS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

Guidelines

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.

100
SWIMMERS

20
OPEN WATER
SWIMMERS

20
DIVERS

10
ARTISTIC SWIMMING
DUETS

20
WATER POLO
PLAYERS

THE PROGRAMME TARGETS

A NOTABLE INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION.

Scholarship holders must have represented their country in international competitions and be committed to participating in the upcoming World Aquatics Championships and the Olympic Games. Applicants must be 18 years to 27 years old by the start of the Scholarship and must hold a top 3 national ranking in their sport.

Priority for the allocation of the scholarships is given to the candidates with greater needs and to whom the scholarship will create an opportunity to reach their full potential. Quotas per continent and gender equality are considered during the selection process.

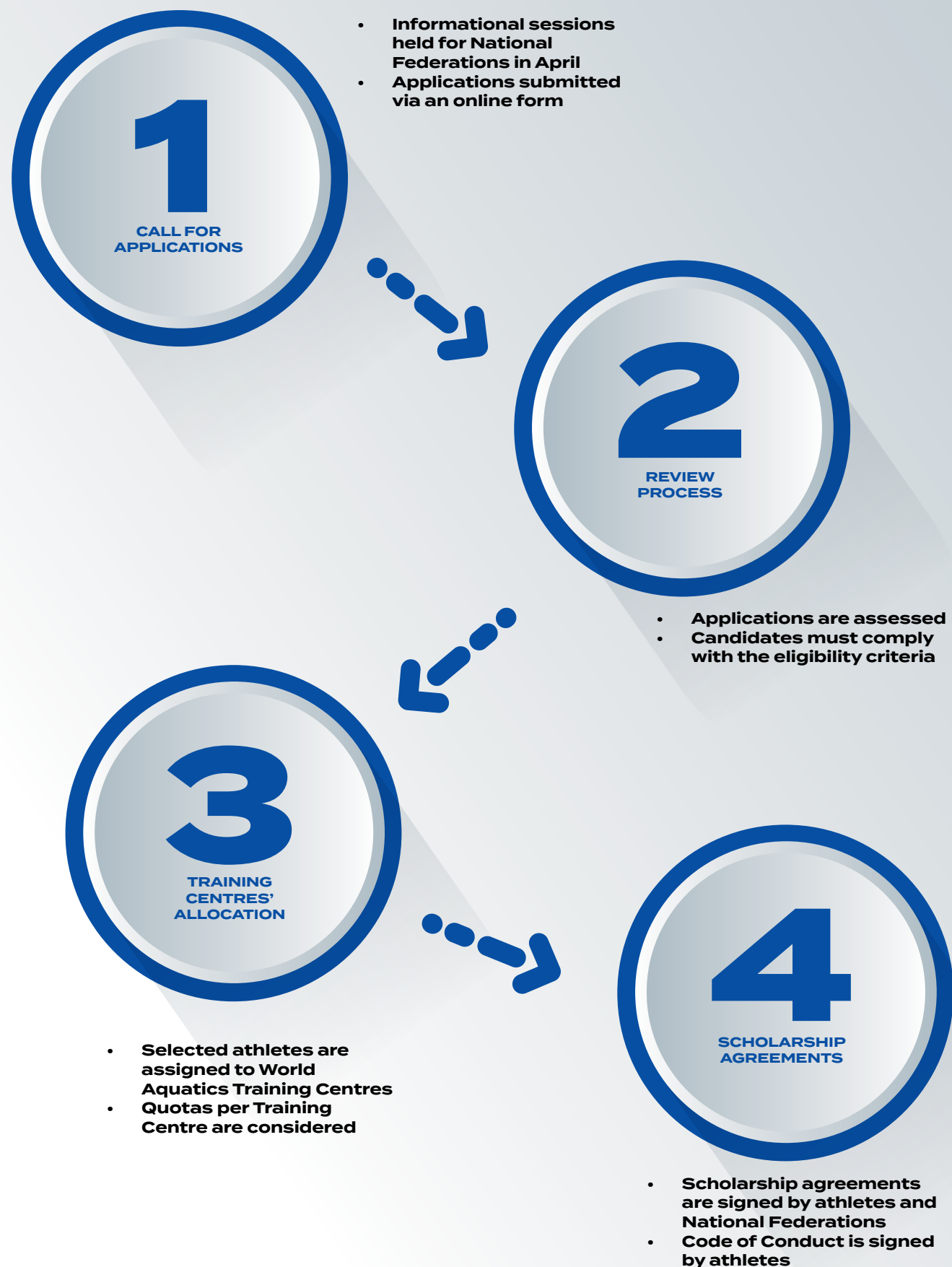
Scholarships are awarded for durations ranging from 1 to 3 years, beginning each September. In the 2024-25 edition, 93 athletes benefited from the programme. By the end of 2025, the World Aquatics Scholarships Programme included 115 athletes, making it as one of the largest cohorts since the programme's inception. 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, and personal development and non-formal educational opportunities. In addition, the World Aquatics Centre of Excellence in Bahrain, which opened in September 2025, offers expanded training and educational opportunities for swimmers, including the chance to enroll in university programmes.

PROGRAMME
GUIDELINES



APPLICATION PROCEDURE



“

QUOTES FROM ATHLETES

“Many cultures, one mission. We train together, respect each other, and move forward as a family”

Sangay Tenzin (BHU)
Swimming Scholarship Holder in Bahrain

“Stepping out of your comfort zone is always challenging, but it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.”

Daniela Zapata (COL)
Diving Scholarship Holder in Toronto

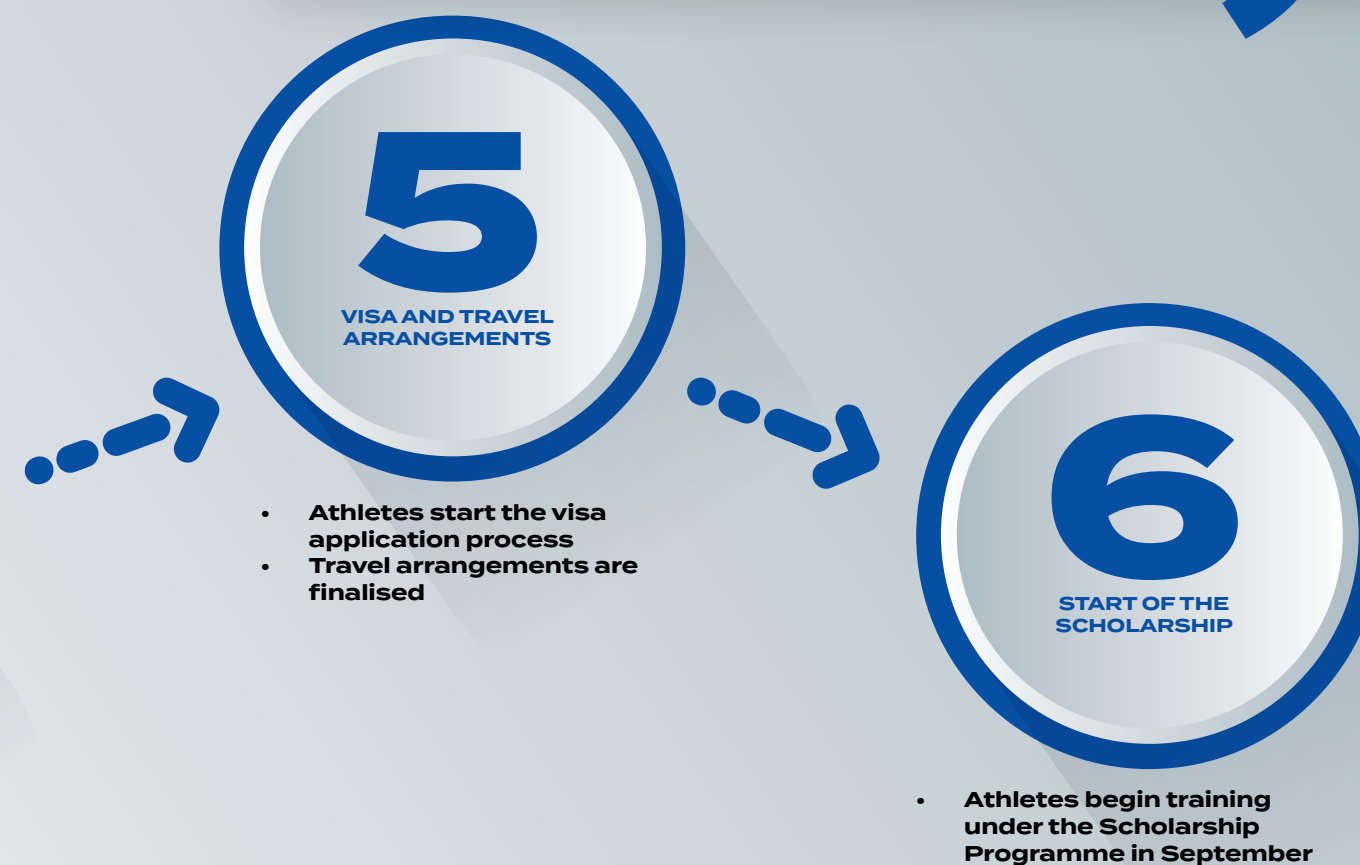
“The World Aquatics Scholarship is a new stage, and an excellent opportunity to improve my athletic skills and perfect my craft.”

Darya Pochinok (KAZ)
Water Polo Scholarship Holder in União Esportiva d'Horta

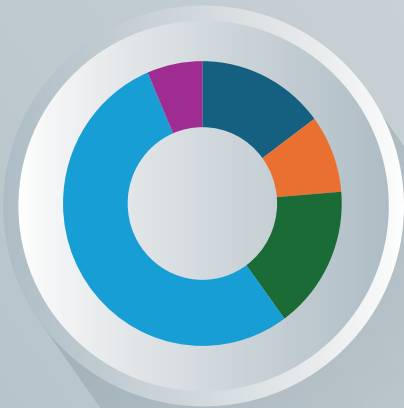
“The Programme helps me a lot, and I am very grateful for this opportunity to train with the best swimmers around the world. It gives me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone in every way in order to improve.”

Ana Abad (ECU)
Open Water Swimming Scholarship Holder in Antibes

”

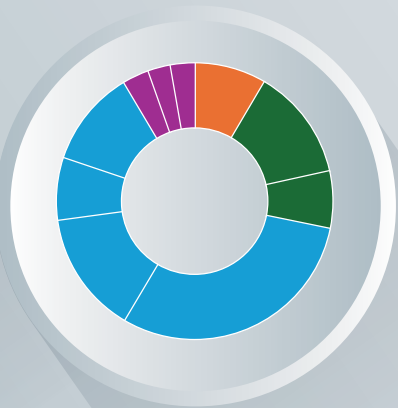


2024-2025



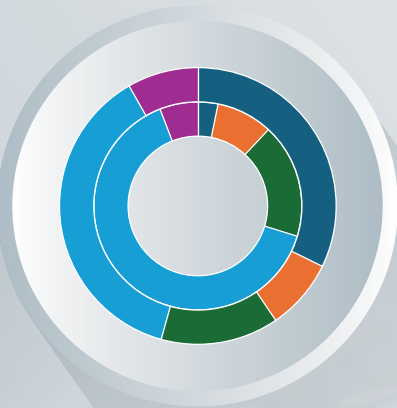
By sport

Artistic Swimming 7 Duets
Diving 8 Athletes
Open Water Swimming 15 Athletes
Swimming 50 Athletes
Water Polo 6 Athletes



By Training Centre

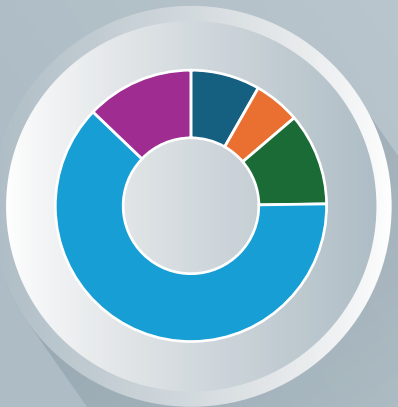
Toronto 9%	Antibes 7%
Azura 13%	Bond University 14%
Antibes 30%	Thanyapura 11%
Budapest 7%	ANC 3%
CN Catalunya 3%	
CN Rubi 3%	



By gender

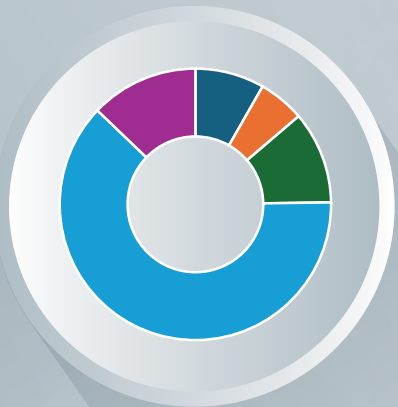
Artistic Swimming 2 Male 12 Female
Diving 5 Male 3 Female
Open Water Swimming 10 Male 5 Female
Swimming 36 Male 14 Female
Water Polo 3 Male 3 Female

2025-2026



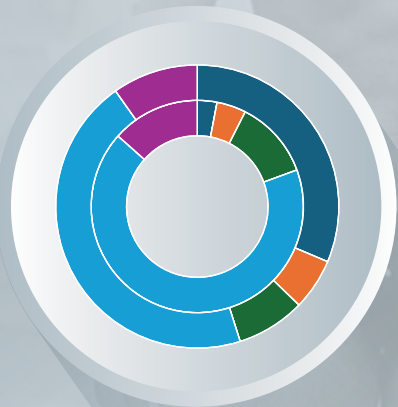
By sport

Artistic Swimming 9 Duets
Diving 10 Athletes
Open Water Swimming 12 Athletes
Swimming 61 Athletes
Water Polo 14 Athletes



By Training Centre

Toronto 6,5%	Antibes 6,5%
Azura 6,5%	Bahrain 35%
Antibes 18,5%	Bond University 10%
Bond University 10%	Thanyapura 3%
ANC Glyfada 1%	
UE Horta 4%	
CN Catalunya 3%	
CN Rubi 3%	
Marseille 1%	
Zadar 2%	



By gender

Artistic Swimming 2 Male 16 Female
Diving 7 Male 3 Female
Open Water Swimming 8 Male 4 Female
Swimming 41 Male 20 Female
Water Polo 9 Male 5 Female

2025
KEY NUMBERS

\$61,102
AIRFARES

\$31,665
QUALIFYING EVENTS SUPPORT

\$1,420,020
SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDS

\$1,512,787
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS RESULTS AT
WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS –
SINGAPORE 2025

Top performers (SW)

TC/NF	Continent	AQUA points	Gender	Athlete	NF
Antibes	Africa	902	Male	Ronan Wantenaar	NAM
NF Option	Americas	874	Male	Lamar Taylor	BAH
Bond	Oceania	861	Female	Lanihei Connolly	COK
Antibes	Africa	815	Male	Samy Boutouil	MAR
Antibes	Americas	795	Male	Gabriel Martinez	HON
Antibes	Africa	793	Male	Oscar Peyre	RWA
Antibes	Europe	780	Male	Kevin Teixeira	AND
Bond	Asia	779	Male	Enkhtamir Batbayar	MGL
NF Option	Americas	766	Female	Alexia Sotomayor	PER
Antibes	Africa	755	Male	Colins Ebingha	NGR

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AT WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS – SINGAPORE 2025



	Ath at TC/NF	Participated	Improved	%	Total PB	Total NR	Ranking
Swimming	44	40	20	50%			
Antibes	16	16	7	44%	8	7	1 SF
Bond	10	10	6	60%	10	4	26/26
Budapest	5	5	2	40%	4	2	
Thanyapura	8	5	4	80%	6	2	
NF Option	5	4	1	25%	2	1	20/22

	Ath at TC	Participated with their NF	Ranking
Water Polo	6	4	
Catalunya	2	2	9
Glyfada	2	1	
Rubi	2	1	

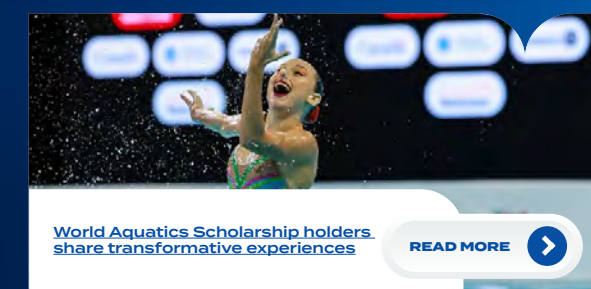
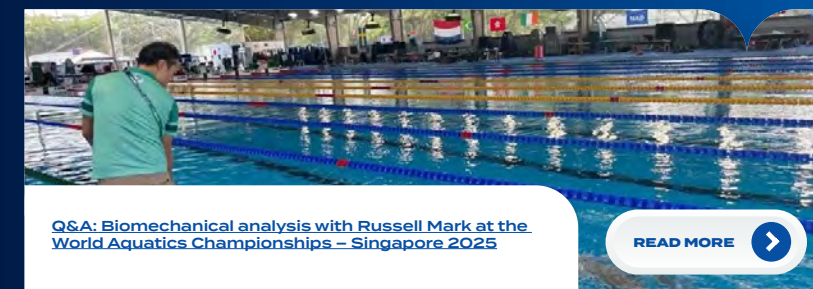
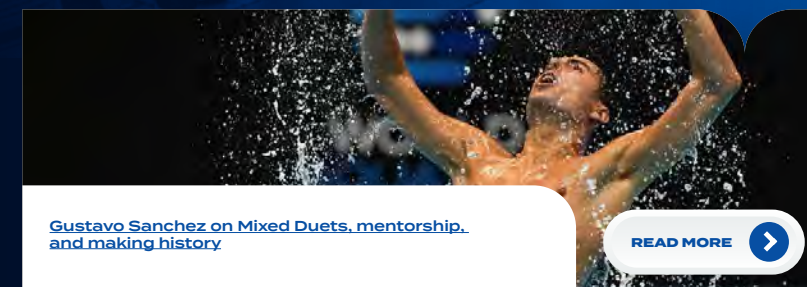
	Ath at TC/NF	Participated	Ranking
Open Water Swimming	14	13	
Antibes	5	5	23
Azura	8	7	1 SF
NF Option	1	1	

	Ath at TC/NF	Participated	Ranking
Diving	7	4	
Toronto	5	2	1 SF/20
NF Option	2	2	25

	AS Duets	Participated	Ranking
Artistic Swimming			
NF Option	6	6	4/12



COMMUNICATION



WORLD AQUATICS TRAINING CENTRES



Guidelines /Application procedure

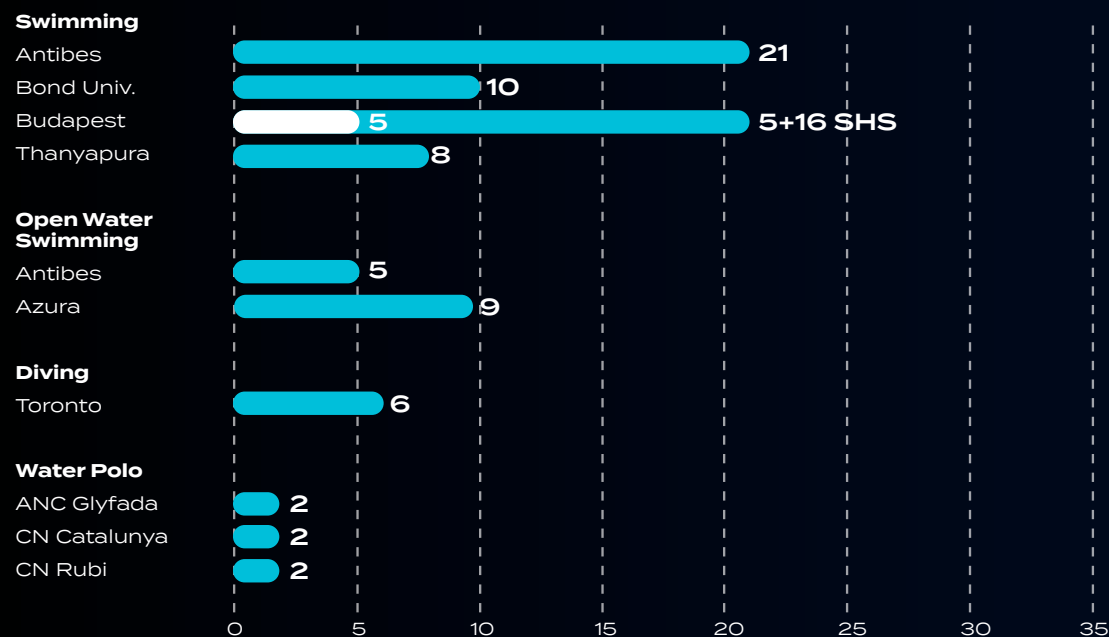
The list of Training Centres is included in the World Aquatics Scholarship Guidelines:

PROGRAMME
GUIDELINES

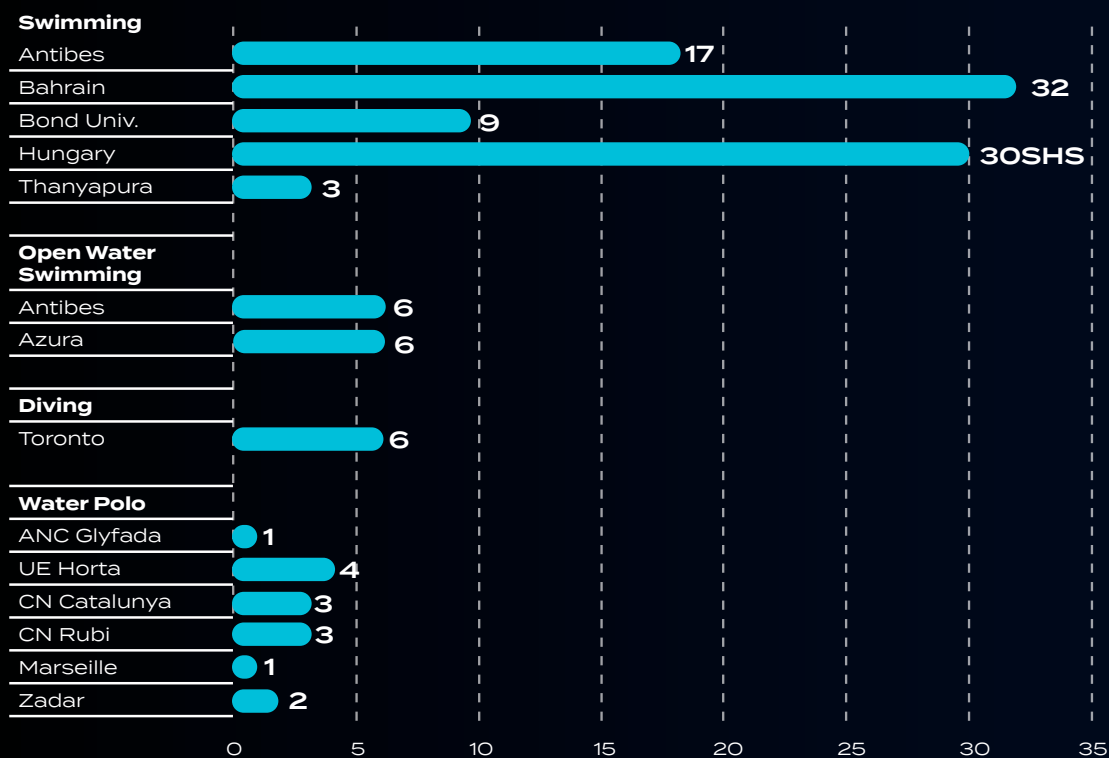


WORLD AQUATICS TRAINING CENTRES

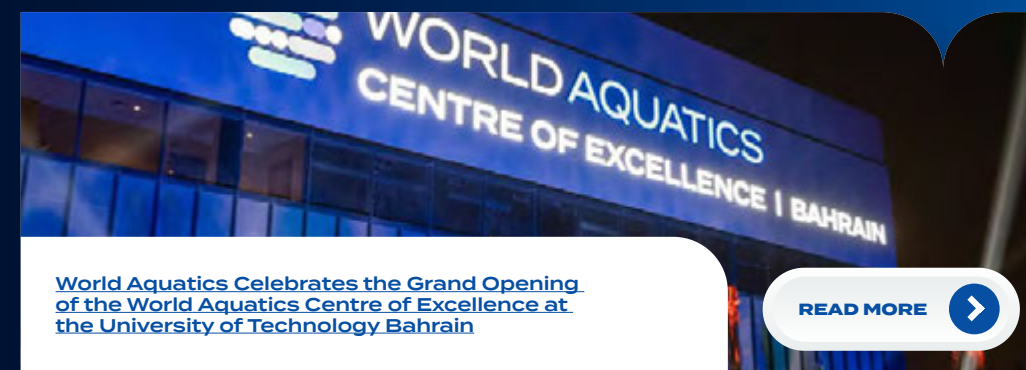
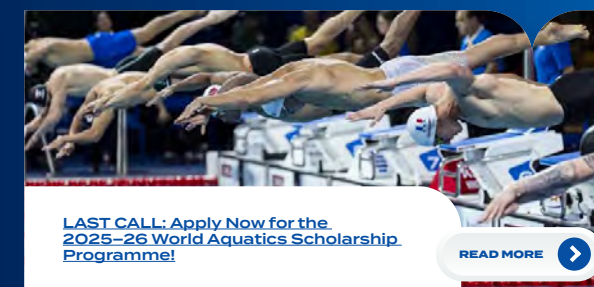
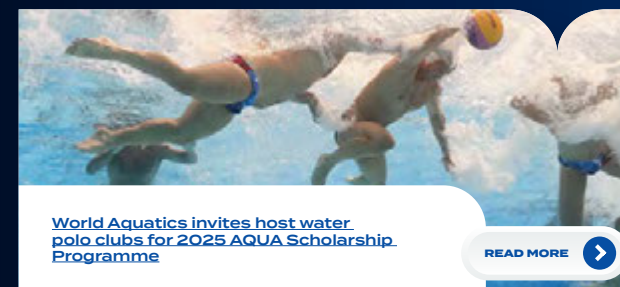
2024-2025 KEY FIGURES



2025-2026 KEY FIGURES



COMMUNICATION



STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

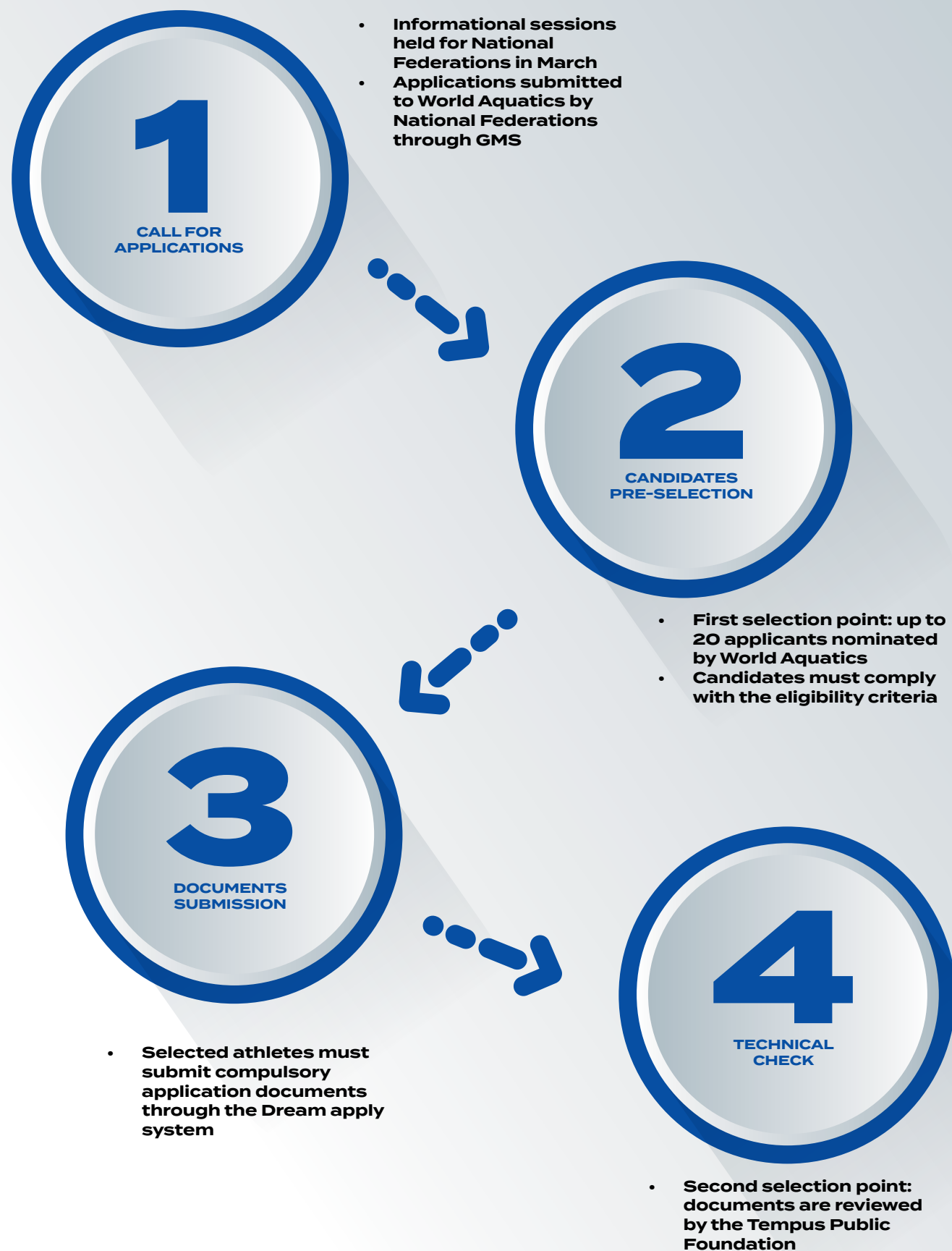
Guidelines

The Stipendium Hungaricum Sports Scholarship Programme (SHS), launched in 2021 by World Aquatics and 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 per year from every country, 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 a round trip ticket from the home country to Hungary once per year, tuition-free education, a monthly stipend from the SHS programme and a monthly scholarship from World Aquatics, free dormitory accommodation or an accommodation contribution, medical insurance, tailored training programmes and professional sports services.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE



QUOTES FROM ATHLETES

"I reapplied because my previous experience was very positive and I wanted to continue growing in both sport and academics."

Abdellah Ardjoune (ALG)
Scholarship Holder in Budapest

Graduated with a Master's degree in Computer Science from Eötvös Loránd University. He is now pursuing a Doctoral degree (PhD) in the Doctoral School of Informatics – Engineering Science at the same institution.

"The programme will help me achieve my ambitions by giving me quality education and professional skills for my future career, while also supporting my growth and success as an athlete."

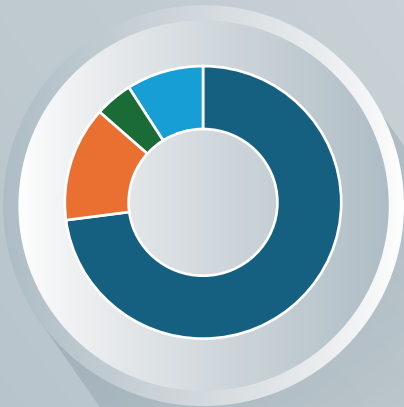
Clinton Opute (NGR)
Scholarship Holder in Pécs

Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Physical Training at the University of Pécs

"I have very high career goals in both my swimming and school. This Master's will help me get an extra advantage into the working field with large organisations; with the fact I have completed a Master's degree in Management and Leadership alongside being an athlete."

Gloria Muzito (UGA)
Scholarship Holder in Budapest
Pursuing a Master's degree in Management and Leadership at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics

2024-2025



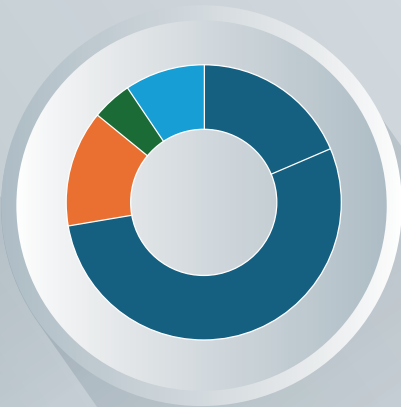
By location

Budapest
16 Athletes

Debrecen
3 Athletes

Eger
1 Athlete

Pécs
2 Athlete



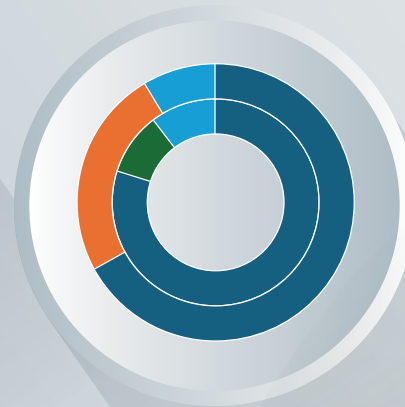
By study programme

Budapest
12 Bachelor 4 Master

Debrecen
3 Bachelor

Eger
1 Bachelor

Pécs
2 Bachelor



By gender

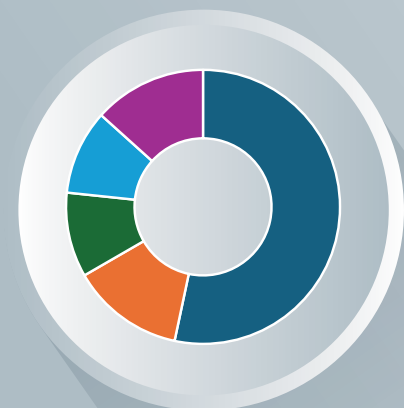
Budapest
8 Male 8 Female

Debrecen
0 Male 3 Female

Eger
1 Male 0 Female

Pécs
1 Male 1 Female

2025-2026



By location

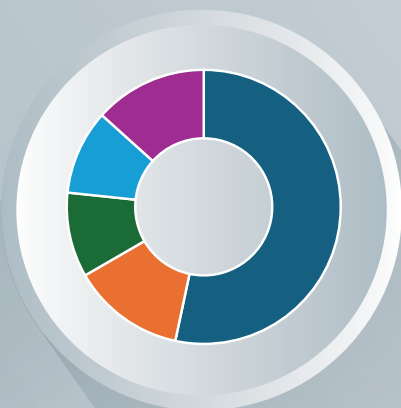
Budapest
16 Athletes

Debrecen
4 Athletes

Eger
3 Athlete

Gödöllő
3 Athlete

Pécs
4 Athlete



By study programme

Budapest
14 Bachelor 4 Master

Debrecen
4 Bachelor

Eger
3 Bachelor

Gödöllő
2 Bachelor 1 Master

Pécs
4 Bachelor



By gender

Budapest
6 Male 10 Female

Debrecen
0 Male 4 Female

Eger
2 Male 1 Female

Gödöllő
3 Male 0 Female

Pécs
3 Male 1 Female

2025 KEY NUMBERS

\$42,078
AIRFARES

\$124,000
SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDS

\$166,078
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

GRADUATED IN 2025

Athlete	Study programme	NF
Abdellah Ardjoune	MA – Computer Science (Budapest)	ALG
Melissa Murua	MA – Business and Management (Budapest)	PAN
Alejandro Evreinoff	MA – Educational Science (Budapest)	PAR

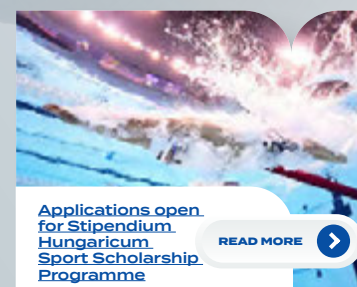
World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025

7 Athletes from
6 Member Federations

2 Female 5 Male

32%
Participation rate

COMMUNICATION



ADDITIONAL SERVICES SUPPLIED TO SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AT TRAINING CENTRES

BIOMECHANICAL ANALYSIS AT THE WORLD AQUATICS TRAINING CENTRES / SHS PROGRAMME

Scholarship holders had the opportunity to receive biomechanical feedback from Russell Mark. During his visits, he provided technical observations and highlighted opportunities to support their improvement.

ANTIBES		AZURA	SHS
MAY 25-31	NOVEMBER 2-8	MAY 5-9	OCT 27 - NOV 1
18	23	8	29
ATHLETES TESTED (14 SW + 4 OWS)	ATHLETES TESTED (17 SW + 6 OWS)	ATHLETES TESTED (OWS)	ATHLETES TESTED THEY ARE BASED IN 5 DIFFERENT CITIES (BUDAPEST, PÉCS, DEBRECEN, EGER AND GÖDÖLLŐ)



Athletes received individualised biomechanical feedback based on detailed video analysis:

- Each athlete is provided with a personalised technical report that included annotated screenshots, key performance observations, and side-by-side reference images and videos demonstrating optimal technique.
- The feedback focused on stroke mechanics, body position, efficiency, timing, starts/turns (when applicable) and specific opportunities for technical improvement.
- Observations are practical and actionable, highlighting both strengths and key areas for development.



REFUGEE TEAM

The World Aquatics Refugee Team (ART) was first created in 2021. Since then, the team was represented at all World Aquatics Championships and the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m), including Abu Dhabi 2021, Budapest 2022, Fukuoka 2023, Doha 2024, Budapest 2024 and Singapore 2025, as well as at the Olympic Games – Paris 2024.

In 2025, World Aquatics demonstrated its unwavering commitment to supporting refugee athletes by facilitating their participation in key international events and ensuring they had the resources necessary to compete at the highest level.

World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025

At the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, three athletes, Matin Balsini, Alaa Maso and Eyad Masoud, represented the Refugee Team. World Aquatics provided comprehensive support, including flight tickets, accommodation and competition kits, and collaborated with 361 and TYR to supply swimsuits and additional equipment.

- 5 Events performed
- 3 PBs: (2 Matin Balsini + 1 Eyad Masoud)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1
**IOC Refugee
Scholarship Holders**
2
**Selection for the World
Aquatics Championships –
Singapore 2025**
3
**Participation at the
World Aquatics Championships**

COMMUNICATION



ADDITIONAL SERVICES SUPPLIED TO SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS DURING THE WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

BIOMECHANICAL ANALYSIS AT WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS – SINGAPORE 2025

During the World Aquatics Championships, developing countries had the opportunity to receive biomechanical feedback from Russell Mark.

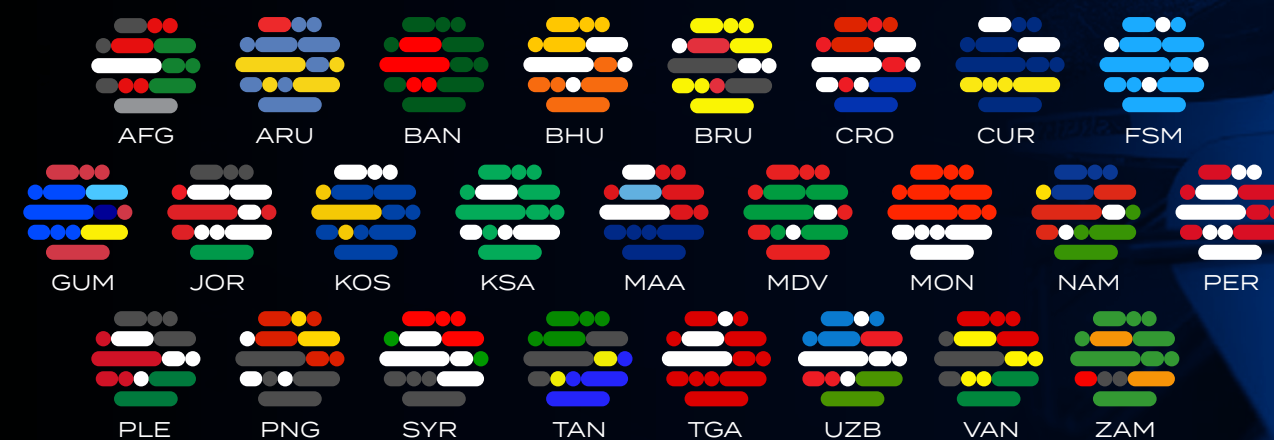
In 15-minute sessions between 27 July and 3 August, he collected underwater video footage and provided feedback based on his extensive knowledge of the most successful techniques from the past two decades.

KEY NUMBERS

During the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025, he provided biomechanical analysis to

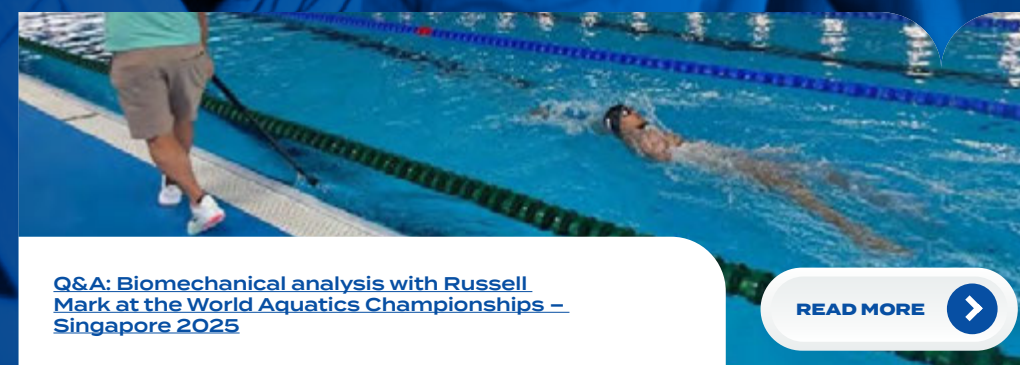
48 ATHLETES FROM **25** COUNTRIES

Countries:



Each athlete was provided with a personalised technical report of their strokes including reference video examples

COMMUNICATION



OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the application process for the Olympic Scholarships for Athletes ahead of Los Angeles 2028.

The aim of the programme is to assist athletes selected by their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in their preparation and qualification for the next Olympic Games.

The programme is operational from 1 September 2025 until 31 August 2028.

KEY NUMBERS FOR AQUATICS SPORTS

90
APPLICATIONS

65
APPROVED
(51 SW/1 DV)

25
UNDER REVIEW

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1

National Federations apply through their National Olympic Committee.

2

As from May 2025, NOCs can submit applications on the Olympic Solidarity Relay platform. The deadline for submitting applications to Olympic Solidarity to be included in the first batch of allocations is 30 June 2025.

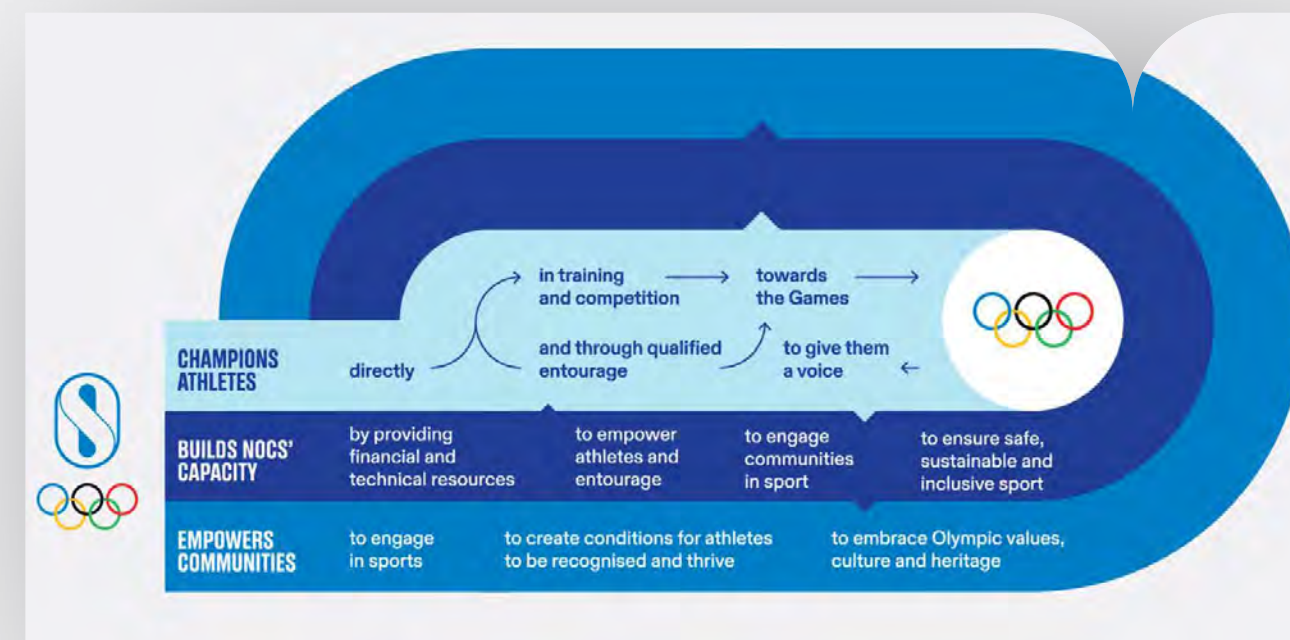
3

Olympic Solidarity contacts the International Federations (IFs) for further feedback: World Aquatics requests information to the relevant National Federations and provides feedback to Olympic Solidarity.

4

Olympic Solidarity reviews and approves the scholarships.

COMMUNICATION



ENTOURAGE COACHES

COACHES' CERTIFICATION

Education for Coaches is an integral part of World Aquatics' Development Programmes. The aim of the new World Aquatics Coaches' Certification Programme is to deliver a rigorous and comprehensive certification programme that develops highly qualified coaches, equipping them with the expertise, professional credibility, and internationally recognised standards needed to excel in coaching.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO PROVIDE COACHES WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL CONTENT.**
- 2 TO OFFER COACHES OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING AND LEARNING.**
- 3 TO ESTABLISH A CLEAR AND SCALABLE FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTING COACH EDUCATION AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SPORT.**

The new World Aquatics Coaches' Certification Programme comprises three certification options: Age Group Coach (for coaches working with athletes aged 8–12 years), Youth Coach (for coaches working with athletes aged 12–17 years), and Performance Coach (for coaches working with athletes aged 17 years and above). Each certification course includes both online and face-to-face course components. In addition, the programme offers an online course, Discover Coaching, which targets a broader audience, including individuals interested in coaching and those considering a career in coaching.

Online Course

DISCOVER COACHING

- 8–10 hours e-learning
- Basic introductory to coaching
- Available for people interested in coaching

Coaches' Certification Courses

AGE GROUP COACH

Coaching Athletes
Ages 8–12

- 20–25 hours of e-learning completed over 1.5 to 2 months
- 5 days in-person

YOUTH COACH

Coaching Athletes
Ages 12–17

- 35–40 hours of e-learning completed over 2 to 3 months
- 6 days in-person

PERFORMANCE COACH

Coaching Athletes
Ages 17+

- Delivered over the span of 10–12 months
- E-learning + webinars
- 2x3–5 days in person

COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

To develop the content for the new Coaches' Certification Programme, World Aquatics collaborated with recognised experts from around the world. The courses take a holistic approach to:

- Equip coaches with comprehensive knowledge to support athletes' mental well-being;
- Enhance athletes' sustainable performance through sport-specific training methods;
- Provide coaches with tools to support their own mental well-being, personal development, and capacity to help athletes thrive both in and out of the pool.

Dedicated Working Groups play a key role in defining the programme structure, curriculum, and content. In 2025, Working Groups for Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Open Water Swimming, and Water Polo were established. The names and nationalities of the members are listed in the table below.



IMPLEMENTATION MODELS

The programme will be delivered through three implementation models, designed to address the varying needs of National Federations and Continental Organisations.

1. World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Courses

This model targets National Federations seeking to certify their coaches through World Aquatics courses. As part of this implementation model, World Aquatics has allocated a scholarship quota which, following a comprehensive data analysis, has been distributed by sport and by continent for the 2025–2028 cycle. National Federations may apply for these scholarships on behalf of their coaches, and scholarships are awarded to coaches who meet both the course prerequisites and the scholarship eligibility requirements.

All World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Courses are organised by World Aquatics and delivered in selected host locations across different continents.

2. World Aquatics Regional / National Coaches' Certification Courses

This model targets organisations that do not currently operate a structured coaches' certification system but have the financial capacity to implement World Aquatics courses.

World Aquatics Regional / National Coaches' Certification Courses will become available following the initial launch of the programme through the World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Courses. Further information will be available mid-2026.

3. World Aquatics Approved Course Status for National Coaches' Certification Courses

This model targets National Federations seeking recognition of their existing coaching courses as equivalent to the World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Courses. Further information on this implementation model will be available mid-2026.

World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Courses

- There is a number of scholarships per continent available.
- The National Federations can apply for the scholarships for their coaches and if they meet the requirements, they can get a scholarship.
- Non-scholarship coaches can attend the course but they need to cover the costs.
- The Model 1 courses will be international and organised by World Aquatics in cooperation with selected hosts.
- Target: National Federations that seek to certify their coaches through international courses.

World Aquatics Regional / National Coaches' Certification Courses

- This model will be available for:
 - Age group Coach courses
 - Youth Coach courses
- To get a course,
 - NFs/COs need to submit an application to World Aquatics.
 - The application needs to be approved by World Aquatics.
- There will be a standard price per course, and if this is covered by any organisation, the course can be organised.
- Target: Organisations that do not currently operate a structured coach certification system but have the financial resources to implement World Aquatics courses.

World Aquatics Approved Course Status for National Coaches' Certification Course

- National Federations that seek to align their coaches' certification programmes with World Aquatics standards can submit their courses for approval to obtain the World Aquatics Approved Course Status.
- Target: National Federations aiming to have their coaching courses recognised as equivalent to World Aquatics certifications.

ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

The first course under the new Coaches' Certification Programme, Swimming Age Group Coach, was launched in November 2025. The face-to-face component of the course was conducted from 24 to 28 November 2025 in Budapest. The details are presented in the table below.

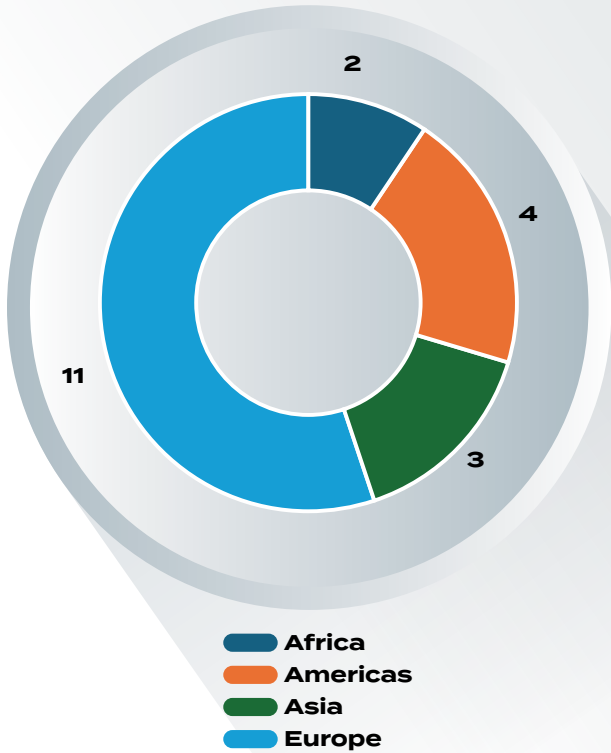


Course Model	Course	Dates	Location
World Aquatics International Coaches' Certification Course	Age Group Coach Course	Face-to-Face Course component: 24-28 November 2025	Budapest (HUN)

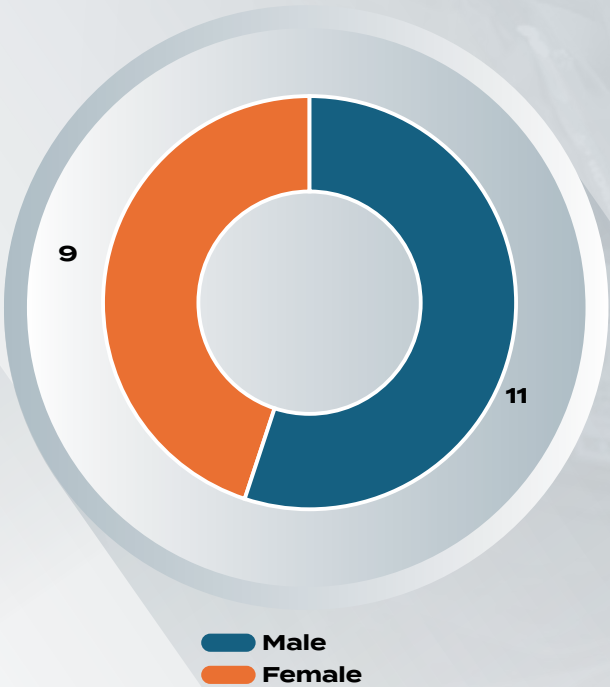
PARTICIPATION & REACH

The Swimming Age Group Coach Course was open to applicants from all National Federations. A total of 98 applications were received, from which 20 coaches were selected. All selected participants were awarded a World Aquatics Scholarship to participate in the course. A breakdown of participants by nationality, as well as by gender, is presented in the table below.

SELECTED COACHES BY CONTINENT



SELECTED COACHES BY GENDER



Continent	Nationalities	Number of Male Coaches per Continent	Number of Female Coaches per Continent
Africa	Nigeria	1	1
Americas	Grenada Saint Lucia Trinidad and Tobago	2	2
Asia	Jordan Mongolia	2	1
Europe	Belarus Croatia Czech Republic Estonia Latvia Malta Russia Slovenia	6	5
Total	13 Nationalities	11 Male Coaches	9 Female Coaches

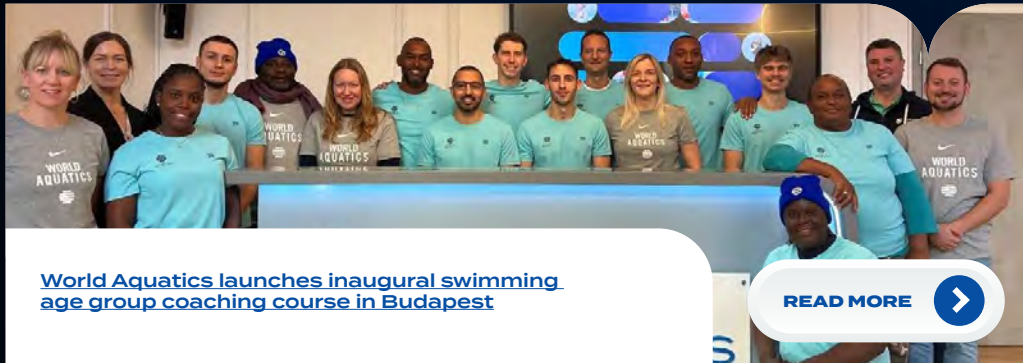
KEY OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The inaugural Swimming Age Group Coach course brought together, for the first time, coaches from different continents and countries.

\$113,330
TOTAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY

World Aquatics launches inaugural Swimming Age Group Coach course in Budapest



PARTICIPANT VOICES

“For me, the best thing in the Face-to-Face Course has been the opportunity to learn directly from experienced international coaches, exchange ideas, and receive immediate feedback that helped me grow both professionally and personally.”

Olita Viduce
Latvia, Coach

“It feels like we have built a beautiful multi-national family of swimming coaches.”

Valorie Andrew
Grenada, Coach

“It was very valuable to observe and hear how other coaches work in their countries and learn from their different systems. I also appreciated the way the content was delivered—highly interactive, with group activities—and the opportunity to work with swimmers from the hosting country, which made the learning practical and engaging.”

Sharif Lutfi
Jordan, Coach

“I still look back to Budapest with so many great emotions and feel so happy I am part of this amazing journey. The hunger to learn more and more grew in me quite a lot thanks to this Course.”

Jakub Jílek
Czechia, Coach

NEXT STEPS

The estimated timelines for the course launches are presented in the table below:

Sport	Course	Estimated Launch
Swimming	Discover Coaching	Q1 2026
Swimming	Age Group Coach	Launched
Swimming	Youth Coach	Q2 2026
Swimming	Performance Coach	Q1 2027
Artistic Swimming	Discover Coaching	Q3 2026
Artistic Swimming	Age Group Coach	Q3 2026
Artistic Swimming	Youth Coach	Q4 2026
Artistic Swimming	Performance Coach	Q4 2027
Open Water Swimming	Discover Coaching	Q2 2026
Open Water Swimming	Youth Coach	Q3 2026
Open Water Swimming	Performance Coach	Q1 2027
Water Polo	Discover Coaching	Q3 2026
Water Polo	Age Group Coach	Q4 2026
Water Polo	Youth Coach	Q2 2027
Water Polo	Performance Coach	Q3 2027
Diving	Discover Coaching, Age Group Coach, Youth Coach, Performance Coach	Q1 2028
High Diving	Discover Coaching, Youth Coach, Performance Coach	Q3 2028

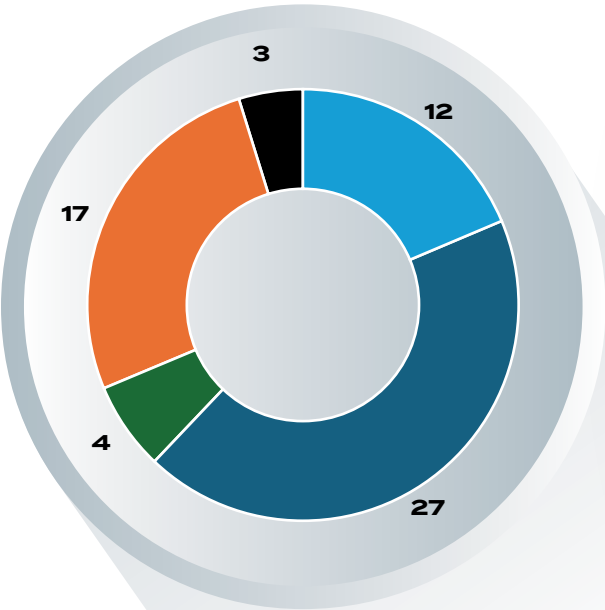


COACHES CLINICS

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. 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

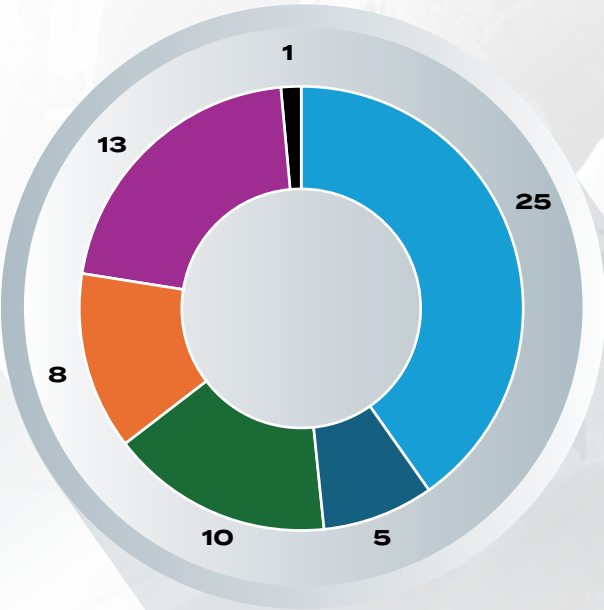
ACTIVITIES DELIVERED AND PARTICIPATION

SELECTED COACHES BY
CONTINENT



Continent	Number of Clinics	Number of participants
Africa	12	326
Americas	27	1255
Asia	4	111
Europe	17	1153
Oceania	3	39
TOTAL	63 Clinics	2884 participants

SELECTED COACHES BY
SPORT



Sport	Number of Clinics
Swimming	25
Open Water Swimming	5
Artistic Swimming	10
Water Polo	8
Diving	13
High Diving	1

KEY OUTCOMES & IMPACT



OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY COLLABORATION

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY COURSES

Olympic Solidarity offers short-term training opportunities at different levels for active coaches officially recognised by their National Federation (NF) and working in their own country. The programme is open to all National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The courses are designed 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 (Olympic Solidarity online platform) 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

READ MORE



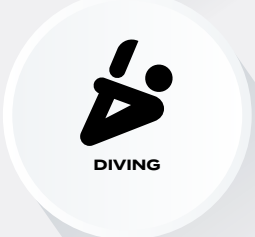
OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMMES

READ MORE



ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

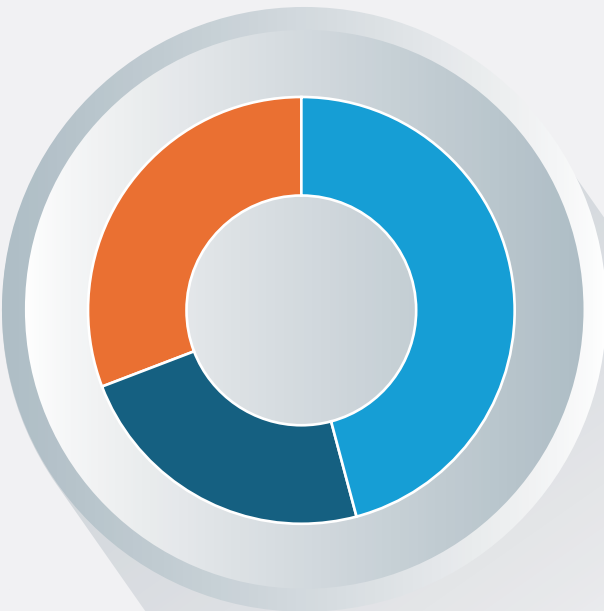
3 technical courses for coaches were organised in 2025. Two Swimming courses were conducted in Asia, and one Diving course was conducted in Asia.

	CONTINENT	COUNTRY	FORMAT	DATES
 SWIMMING	Asia	Turkmenistan	Face-to-Face Course	10-17 March
 SWIMMING	Asia	Kyrgyzstan	Face-to-Face Course	7-9 May
 DIVING	Asia	Malaysia	Face-to-Face Course	6-9 October

PARTICIPATION & REACH

Number of participants, geographic and gender breakdown (if available)

Country	Male Coaches	Female Coaches	Total
Turkmenistan	30	15	45
Kyrgyzstan	19	4	23
Malaysia	15	15	30



OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COACHES

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

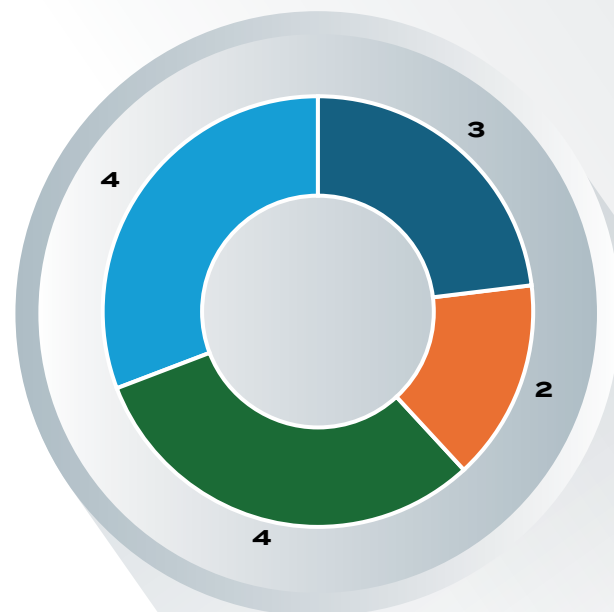
In 2025, 13 Coaches benefited from Scholarships to study at coaches' development programmes organised by the Olympic Solidarity and educational institutions in Hungary, USA and Spain.

PARTICIPATION & REACH

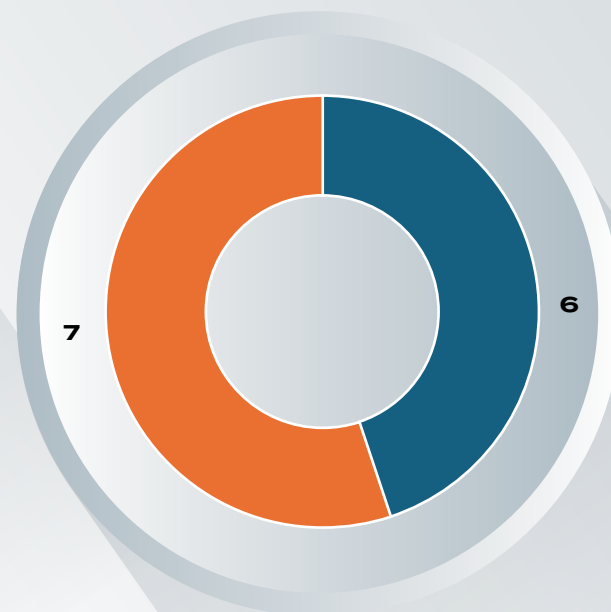
A total of 13 coaches were awarded an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship, including 6 male and 7 female coaches. The continental distribution of the scholarships is presented in the table below.

Continent	Nationality	Gender
Africa	Ghana	Male
Africa	Mauritius	Male
Africa	Malawi	Female
Americas	Bolivia	Female
Americas	Colombia	Female
Asia	Mongolia	Male
Asia	Cambodia	Female
Asia	Republic of Korea	Female
Asia	Bangladesh	Male
Europe	Bulgaria	Female
Europe	Moldova	Male
Europe	Malta	Female
Europe	Serbia	Male

COACHES BY CONTINENT



COACHES BY GENDER



Africa Americas Asia Europe

Male Female



PARTICIPANTS' VOICES

"Receiving the scholarship to complete my coaching certification at the Hungarian University of Sports Science was a transformative opportunity that significantly shaped my personal and professional growth. The opportunity exposed me to international coaching methodologies, sport science principles, and high-performance training environments that I would not have otherwise been able to access. The experience strengthened my technical knowledge, broadened my perspective on athlete development, and deepened my confidence as a coach.

The impact of this scholarship continues to extend beyond my own development. I have been able to transfer the knowledge and best practices gained into my coaching, contributing to the improvement of swimmer performance, programme structure, and athlete education within my community. Apart from this, I will be able to mentor other athletes and coaches, to promote higher swimming standards, and have a more unified vision for competitive swimming in Malawi. This opportunity was not only an investment in my career, but an investment in the wider sporting community I serve here in Malawi."

Takondwa Chang'anamuno
Coach from Malawi

"The Olympic Solidarity Scholarship has represented a significant milestone in my development as a coach. The knowledge, tools, and international exposure gained through this support not only strengthen my professional capacities, but also contribute directly to the growth and long-term development of swimming in Bolivia. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity, which allows me to give back to my athletes and to the national swimming community with greater preparation and commitment."

Vanesa Mejía Loza
Coach from Bolivia



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Education for Technical Officials is a fundamental component of the World Aquatics Development Programmes. The renewed World Aquatics Technical Officials Pathway aims to strengthen officiating standards worldwide through a transparent, consistent, and competency-based certification system applicable across all aquatic disciplines. The key objectives of the renewed pathway are to:

1

Introduce a three-tier competency system comprising Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels.

2

Establish a common education and certification framework across all six aquatic sports.

3

Implement a competency-based approach to Technical Officials' certification.

4

Ensure transparency and merit-based appointments.

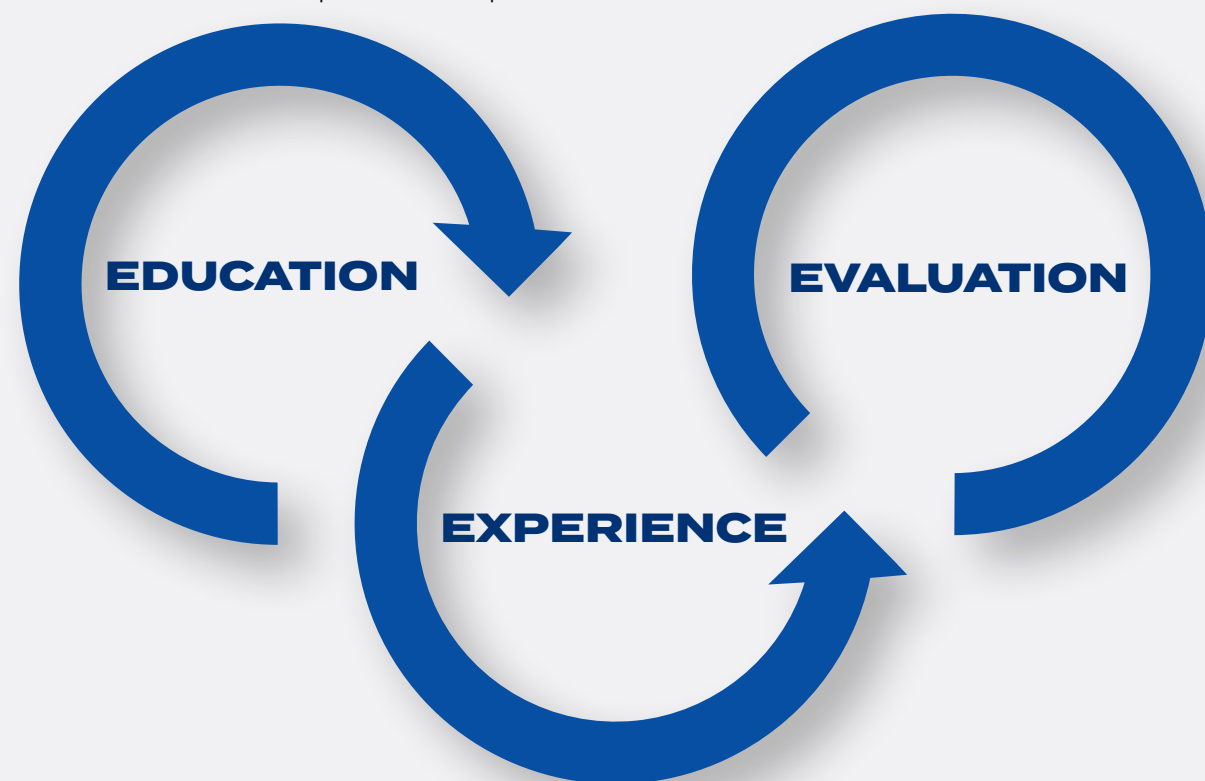
5

Promote global consistency and continuous professional development.

COMPETENCY-BASED FRAMEWORK

The Technical Officials Pathway is underpinned by a structured competency-based framework designed to clearly define expectations, support professional growth, and enable fair and objective progression. The framework includes:

- **Competencies:** Clearly defined areas of expertise required for effective officiating at each certification level.
- **Performance Standards:** Descriptions of the expected standard of performance at the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels.
- **Assessment and Evaluation:** Regular and objective evaluations to confirm that officials meet the established standards.
- **Learning and Development Pathway:** Education and training aligned with the needs of the different aquatic sports and the development stages of Technical Officials.
- **Progression Framework:** A structured and transparent system enabling advancement based on demonstrated competence and performance.



BUDGET SPENT

\$111,356
TOTAL SPENT IN 2025

CORE COMPETENCIES BY CERTIFICATION LEVEL



BRONZE-LEVEL

Technical Officials are confident and reliable judges who apply the rules accurately and perform their duties with consistency and professionalism. They operate effectively within the World Aquatics officiating structure, support the delivery of international competitions, and demonstrate impartial conduct while developing the knowledge, decision-making skills, and professional behaviour required for progression.



SILVER-LEVEL

Technical Officials are experienced international referees and judges who demonstrate advanced rule interpretation, consistent performance across roles, and strong communication within officiating teams. They lead fair and effective officiating in diverse competition environments, contribute to the organisation and integrity of events, and apply critical judgment while preparing for high-performance and senior officiating roles.



GOLD-LEVEL

Technical Officials are elite referees and judges with exceptional technical expertise, evaluative precision, and leadership skills. They officiate at the highest-profile international competitions, deliver confident decisions under pressure, and lead officiating teams in high-stakes environments. In addition, they play a key role in mentoring other officials, promoting excellence, and upholding World Aquatics values as ambassadors of the sport.



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT'S OPINION

"The new World Aquatics Technical Officials education pathway represents a significant step forward for our sport. It establishes a clear and consistent standard for officiating education while allowing for different learning pathways and development stages. By combining online and in-person delivery with practical experience, the programme will help raise officiating standards and improve consistency across international water polo."

Boris Margeta
Slovenia, President of World Water Polo Referees' Association



NEXT STEPS

Bronze-level courses will be developed and delivered on the CORAL platform from Q1 to Q3 2026, complemented by in-person courses scheduled between Q2 and Q3. Annual examinations for all aquatic sports will take place on CORAL from Q3 to Q4. In addition, a mentorship programme will be developed during Q3–Q4 2026 to support ongoing learning and progression within the Technical Officials pathway.

	 BRONZE-LEVEL	 SILVER-LEVEL	 GOLD-LEVEL
 SWIMMING	2026 Q3	2026 Q3	2026 Q4
 ARTISTIC SWIMMING	2026 Q3	2026 Q3	2026 Q4
 OPEN WATER SWIMMING	2026 Q3	2026 Q3	2026 Q4
 WATER POLO	2026 Q2	2026 Q2	2026 Q3
 DIVING	2026 Q2	2026 Q2	2026 Q3
 HIGH DIVING	2026 Q3	2026 Q3	2026 Q4
MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	2026 Q3		

As part of the Learning and Development component of the Competency-Based Framework, World Aquatics led the design and development of education and training content for the International Technical Officials' Education Programme. This work was based on the programme structure and curriculum developed in collaboration with the European Observatory of Sport and Employment (EOSE).

To support this process, World Aquatics engaged Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from across the global aquatics community. These experts are selected for their extensive experience and technical expertise across the six aquatic sports and contributed to the development of high-quality, standardised educational content.

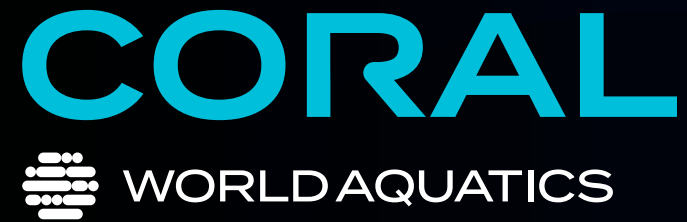
Through this approach, World Aquatics ensures that courses:

- Provide comprehensive knowledge of rules and competition protocols;
- Reflect the latest competition regulations and World Aquatics standards;
- Are grounded in practical experience, supporting the development of confident, consistent, and professional technical officials at all stages of the pathway.

In 2025, SMEs were engaged across Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Water Polo, Diving, and High Diving. The names and nationalities of the experts are presented in the table below.

SWIMMING	Daphne Bird	 RSA
	Ryan Arblaster	 AUS
	Mireille Zimmer	 LUX
DIVING	Melanie Beck	 GBR
	Gordon Peterson	 CAN
OPEN WATER SWIMMING	Yew Siang Soh	 MAS
WATER POLO	Boris Margeta	 SLO
ARTISTIC SWIMMING: JUDGES	Eleni Kougia	 GRE
ARTISTIC SWIMMING: TECHNICAL CONTROLLERS	Kara Heald	 CAN
HIGH DIVING	Anke Piper	 GER
	Claudio Miro	 ITA

WORLD AQUATICS E-LEARNING PLATFORM



CORAL (Community for Online Resources in Aquatics Learning) is World Aquatics' digital learning platform, designed to support and expand the delivery of education across aquatic sports.

The platform provides a shared digital environment where learning can take place beyond traditional classroom settings. Through CORAL, World Aquatics delivers education online and supports continuous learning throughout the year. The platform also provides a shared space where participants can engage with educational content and connect with one another to exchange experiences and knowledge. This approach expands the range of learning formats that World Aquatics can offer, while supporting consistency and quality across its education programmes.

As a newly launched platform, CORAL evolved throughout the year as new learning opportunities were introduced. It plays a central role in World Aquatics' education ecosystem by enabling learning activities that are delivered entirely online, supporting in-person education programmes through digital components, and fostering interaction and knowledge sharing among participants through its social learning space.

KEY FUNCTIONALITIES OF THE PLATFORM



E-learning courses



Examinations and
certification-related
assessments



Live and recorded webinars



Structured learning plans
linked to specific roles and
sports



Social learning space that
allows participants to share,
discuss, and engage with one
another

ACTIVITIES & CONTENT DELIVERED

During the year, CORAL supported the delivery of an expanding range of digital education activities across aquatic sports. As a newly launched platform, content and learning opportunities were introduced progressively, reflecting both the development of the platform itself and the evolving education needs of World Aquatics.

Learning activities delivered through CORAL included fully online courses, structured learning modules, live and recorded webinars, and online examinations linked to certification pathways for coaches and technical officials. This approach supported the delivery of learning activities that were aligned with World Aquatics' objectives and tailored to the needs of their intended audiences.

Live and recorded webinars played a key role in supporting interactive learning and discussion on priority education topics. A particular highlight was the Safeguarding Webinar held in December for coaches and technical officials, which brought together over 200 participants in an interactive online session led by safeguarding experts.

Content was developed in close collaboration with subject-matter experts and aligned with World Aquatics' existing programmes. This ensured that learning activities delivered through the platform were consistent in quality, relevant to the target audiences, and directly connected to broader education objectives across aquatic sports.



200
 PARTICIPANTS
 AT THE
 SAFEGUARDING
 WEBINAR

CORAL
 WORLD AQUATICS



269
 HOURS OF
 INSTRUCTOR-LED
 TRAINING



1750
 INDIVIDUAL LEARNING
 ACTIVITIES

Over the course of the year, users completed a total of 1,750 individual learning activities, reflecting sustained interaction with courses, modules, examinations, and webinars delivered through the platform.

Assessment outcomes were particularly strong. Among users required to complete an examination, 96% successfully passed, highlighting a high level of learner preparation and engagement with the educational content.

In addition to self-paced and assessment-based learning, CORAL supported a significant volume of instructor-led activity. A total of 269 hours of instructor-led training were delivered during the year, underlining the continued importance of expert-led education alongside digital learning formats.

As learning opportunities expanded toward the end of the year, user engagement increased accordingly. Monthly active usage grew during periods of intensified education activity, reflecting the platform's role as a focal point for participation during key learning and certification moments.

KEY OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The development and delivery of CORAL represents a strategic investment in World Aquatics' digital education capabilities.

This investment supported the establishment of a stable and scalable digital learning environment, enabling the expansion of both hybrid and fully digital education formats across aquatic sports. CORAL also contributed to greater consistency in education delivery and created new opportunities for engagement through digital and social learning.

The platform demonstrated its ability to support periods of increased activity linked to courses, examinations, and webinars, providing a strong foundation for the continued development of World Aquatics' e-learning offering.

\$86,737
 TOTAL SPENT

NEXT STEPS

Building on its first year of activity, CORAL will continue to evolve as a central pillar of World Aquatics' education offering. In 2026, focus will be placed on curating a strong and diverse library of learning content covering a wide range of education topics across aquatic sports.

New learning formats will be introduced, including Expert Series and other advanced content types, further enriching the learning experience for participants. Alongside content development, ongoing improvements to the user experience will be made as we consistently aim to make learning on CORAL more intuitive, engaging, accessible, and fun.

MEMBERS

CONTINENTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Continental Support Programme reflects World Aquatics' continued commitment to strengthening aquatic sports development across all continents. Through close collaboration with our five Continental Organisations, the Programme supports the delivery of development initiatives, driving sustainable and long-term growth across six Aquatic sports and tailored to the specific needs and priorities of each continent.

In addition, the Programme provides financial support for the organisation of Continental Competitions, strengthening the competitive landscape at continental level and providing meaningful competitive opportunities for athletes.

The Programme is structured around three areas of support. Development grants strengthen organisational capacity and enable tailored projects, while funding for continental competitions enhances the competitive landscape and provides athletes with regular progression opportunities. In parallel, clinics for coaches build capacity by improving the quality and safety of training environments and ensuring fair and consistent competition delivery. Together, these components support a more coherent and sustainable sport system.

PARTICIPANT VOICES

"Africa Aquatics has seen a significant improvement in the growth of the Member Federations since the inception of the programme. We have seen this through the increased participation at Continental events and the participation in coaching clinics."

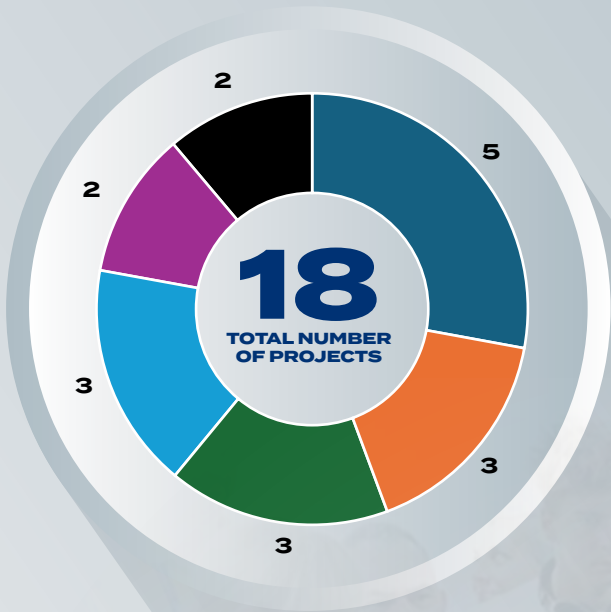
Mohamed Diop
President of Africa Aquatics

"European Aquatics is proud to actively participate in the World Aquatics Continental Support Programme. This initiative represents a strong commitment to solidarity, development, and the shared future of our sport. We deeply appreciate the support provided by World Aquatics, which strengthens our ability to empower Member Federations, enhance athlete pathways, and elevate aquatic sports across Europe. Together, we are building a more sustainable and successful future for aquatics at every level."

Antonio Silva
President of European Aquatics

PROJECTS BY TYPE:

Build and maintain strong, transparent and effective governance structures	5
Increase participation in Aquatic Sports	3
Enhance the administrative capacity of the Organisation	3
Enhance athlete performance and development, including Coaches' and Technical Officials' training and education	3
Support participation in Continental competitions	2
Host successful competitions	2



COMPETITION GRANTS

Continent	Competition	Funding (USD)	Number of participating Member Federations	Number of participating athletes
Africa	Zone 2 Senior & Junior Championships 2025	10,000	17	154
Africa	Zone 3 Senior & Junior Championships 2025	10,000	11	368
Africa	Zone 4 Senior & Junior Championships 2025	10,000	13	317
Americas	Panam Aquatics Championships Medellin 2025	10,000	36	1025
Americas	Panam Aquatics U15 Water Polo Championships Bauru 2025	5,000	9	240
Americas	Central American Games Guatemala 2025	5,000	7	175
Europe	European Short Course Swimming Championships 2025	5,000	46	533
Europe	European Junior Swimming Championships 2025	5,000	45	662
Oceania	Oceania Artistic Swimming Championships 2025	5,000	14	106
Oceania	Pacific Mini Games 2025	5,000	13	128
Asia	2025 Asian Water Polo Championship	5,000	9	225
Asia	Asian Water Polo Championship (U20), & Qualification Tournament for World Aquatics Water Polo (U20)	5,000	8	180

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY

2025 GUIDELINES

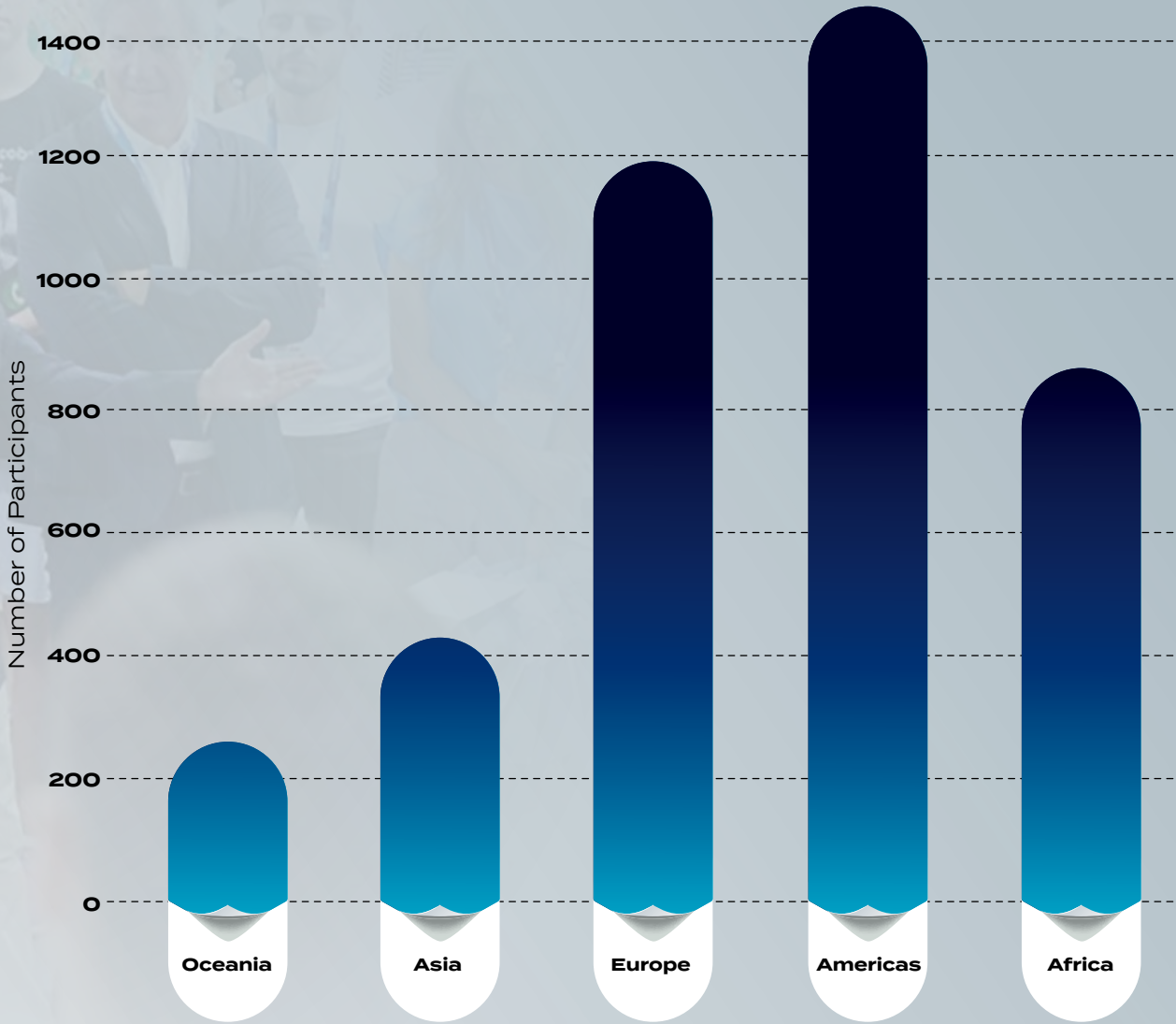


DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Africa Aquatics	USD 100.000
Asia Aquatics	USD 100.000
European Aquatics	USD 100.000
Panam Aquatics	USD 100.000
Oceania Aquatics	USD 60.000

\$460,000
TOTAL AMOUNT INVESTED

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONTINENTAL COMPETITIONS SUPPORTED BY WORLD AQUATICS



NEXT STEPS

The 2026 Guidelines including the eligibility criteria are available here:

2026 GUIDELINES



WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The World Aquatics Support Programme is the cornerstone of our commitment to the global growth of aquatic sports.

The Programme offers Member Federations financial and technical support for the development of Aquatic Sports in their countries. The Programme aims to:

- 1** | Empower Member Federations to strengthen their structures and capacities
- 2** | Support the development of Aquatic Sports from grassroots to high performance
- 3** | Place athletes at the centre of development
- 4** | Foster meaningful, long-term projects that promote growth, education, and good governance
- 5** | Promote integrity, transparency, sustainability, and excellence across our global Aquatics family

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE MEMBER FEDERATIONS

The Programme provides financial support to eligible Member Federations through the allocation of a budget of USD 25'000, subject of to the approval of applications. An additional USD 5'000 bonus is granted to Member Federations that have improved their Governance Score, as measured through the World Aquatics Governance Survey, compared to the previous year.

70% of the funding is released to Member Federations after the approval of their application, and the remaining 30% after project completion, as well as submission and approval of a Final Report.

2025 GUIDELINES



181

MEMBER
FEDERATIONS

216,131

ATHLETES
INVOLVED

10,430

STAFF INVOLVED
(INCLUDING
VOLUNTEERS)

18,130

COACHES
INVOLVED

22,310

TECHNICAL
OFFICIALS
INVOLVED

147,250

GRASSROOTS
(YOUTH AND
CHILDREN)

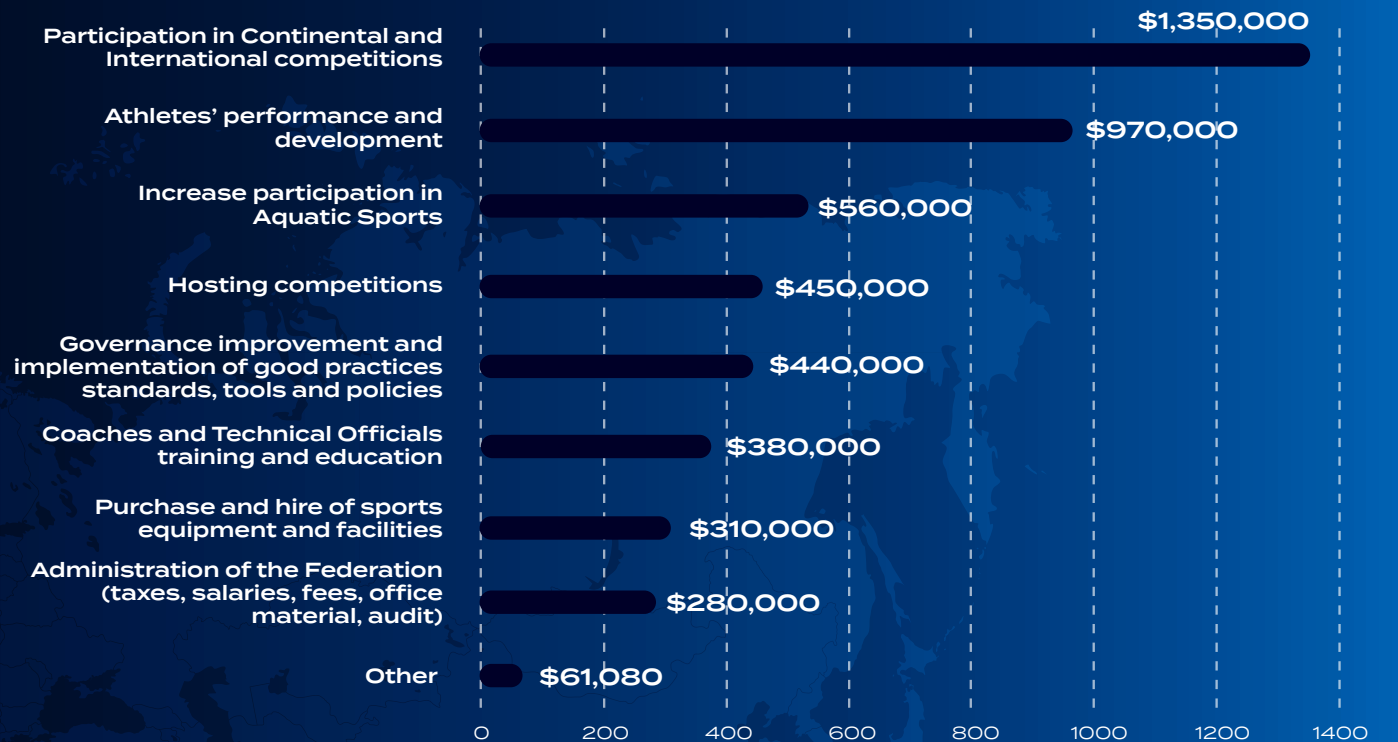
703

PROJECTS

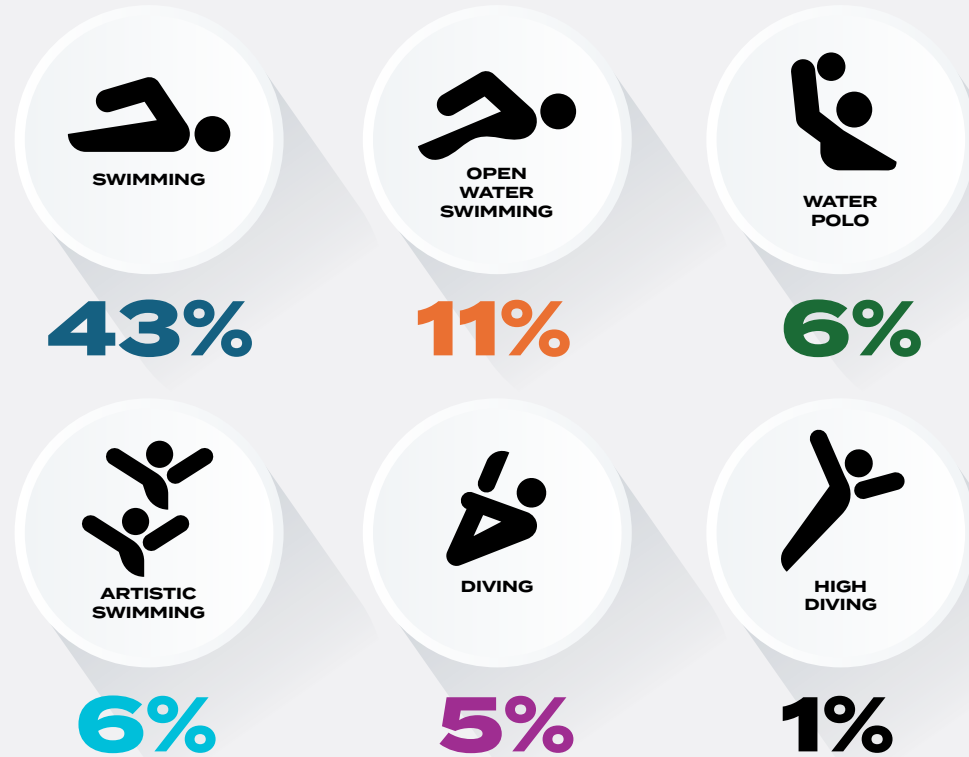
\$4,801,080

AMOUNT SPENT

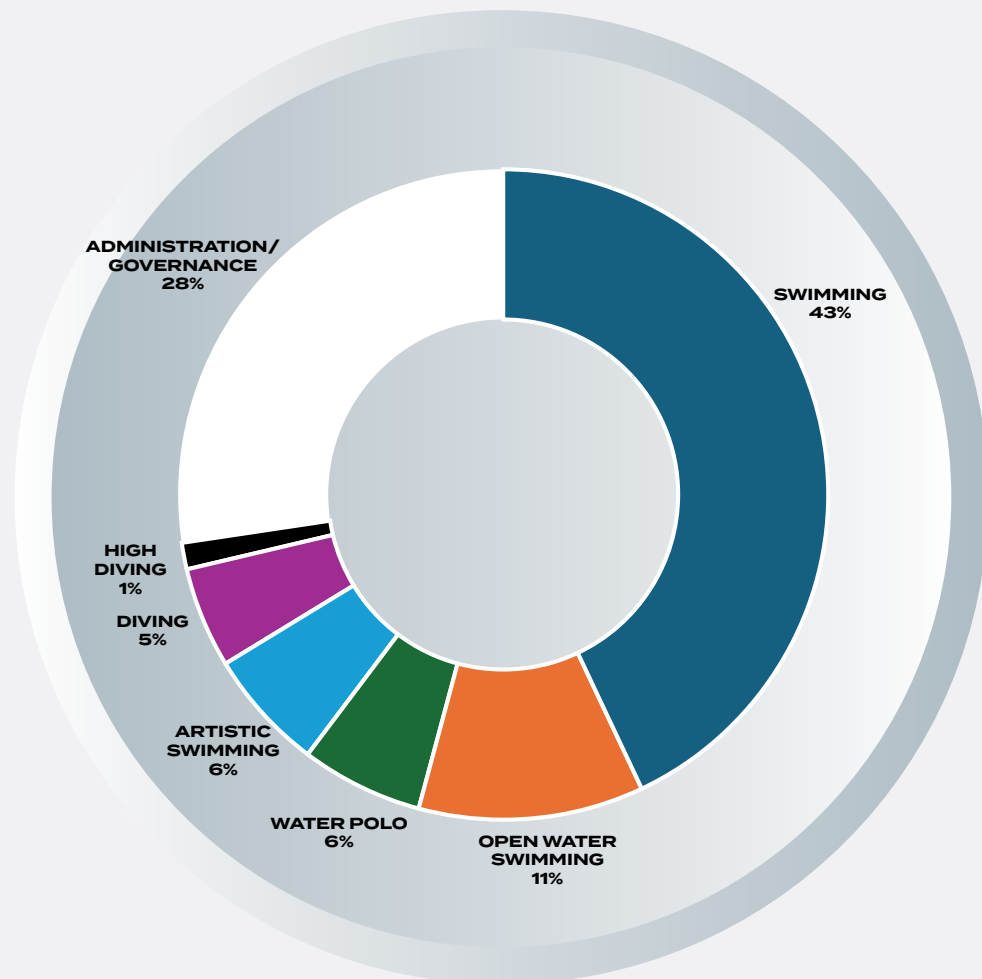
MEMBER FEDERATIONS SPENT PER CATEGORY



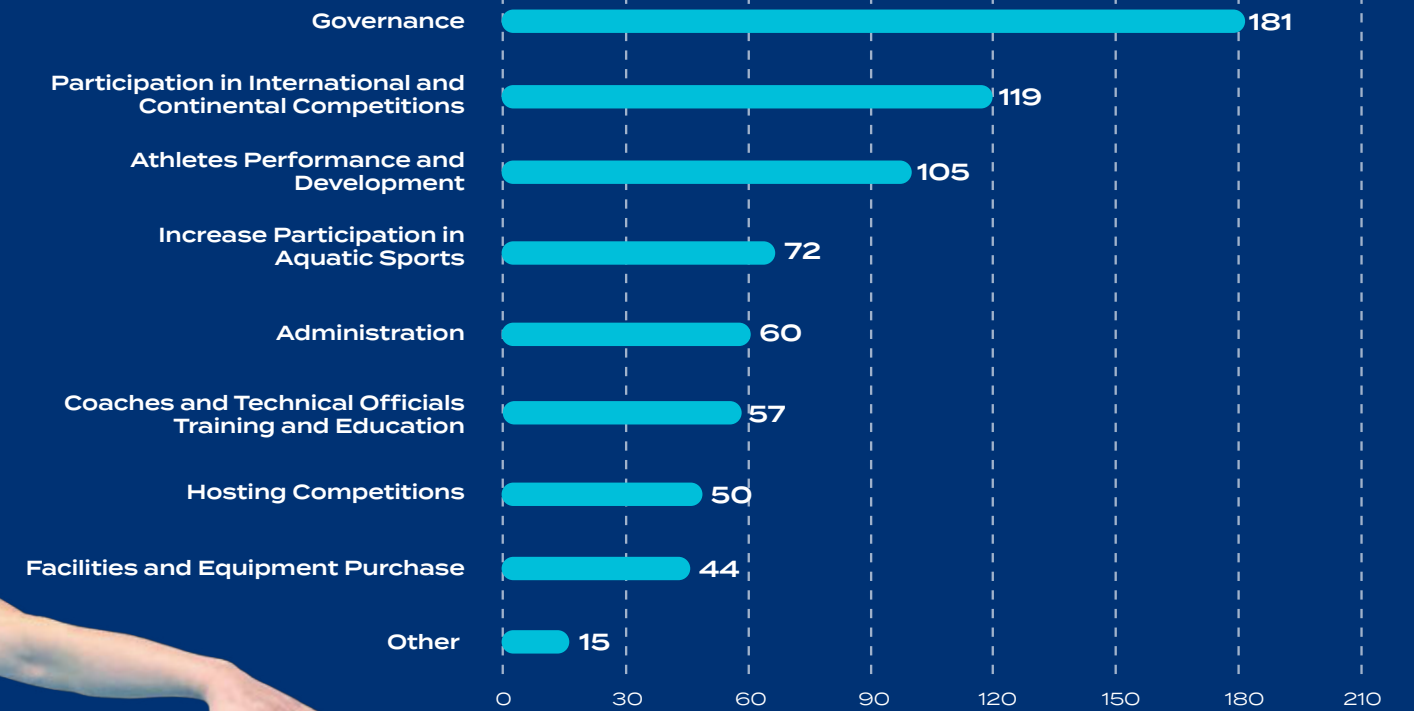
PROJECT ACTIVITY BY SPORT



DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY TARGET AREA



MEMBER FEDERATIONS PROJECTS BY CATEGORY



COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



2025 WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME GUIDELINES:

[2025 GUIDELINES](#)

NEXT STEPS

[2026 GUIDELINES](#)

PARTICIPANT VOICES



“The Swimming Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina is very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the World Aquatics Support Programme. For our Federation, this programme represents the only structured opportunity to work on the improvement of our strategic objectives and long-term development.

As the Federation have limited funding and resources, support from World Aquatics is essential for sustainable progress.

Through the 2025 Support Programme, we significantly strengthened the operational capacity of the Federation by acquiring essential office equipment, improving pool infrastructure, and organising the first-ever national team training camp. It was highly valued by athletes and coaches.

The programme also enabled us to develop our official website and strengthen our social media presence, which has proven extremely important for promoting our donors and partners who co-finance other development projects, as donor visibility is a key requirement for continued support.

The World Aquatics Support Programme plays a crucial role in the development of swimming in Bosnia and Herzegovina and represents a rare and vital source of structured support for the future of our sport.”

Swimming Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina

”

“

“The Spanish Swimming Federation has been part of the World Aquatics Support Programme since its inception. We strongly believe in their objectives from a dual perspective.

First, the programme supports the preparation and ongoing maintenance of transparency standards, which are essential requirements for access to the funding. Second, they facilitate the effective planning and implementation of initiatives financed through the resources received.

These funds enable the development of programmes aimed at keeping governance measures up to date and continuously improving them, contributing to a safer, more transparent, and more accountable sporting environment for all.

In addition, the World Aquatics Support Programme has helped Spain Aquatics implement key improvements in its National Training Centres and programs, directly enhancing coaches' capacity to monitor and evaluate athletes' preparation for pinnacle events.”

Royal Spanish Swimming Federation

“

“The Mauritanian Swimming Federation benefited for the first time in 2025 from the World Aquatics Support Programme. This experience marked a major turning point for our Federation, enabling us to relaunch and structure our activities after many years of operating with very limited financial resources.

The financial support and guidance provided by World Aquatics had a very positive impact on our programmes, our athletes, and our staff. It allowed for the implementation of a clear and transparent action plan focused on promoting swimming in Mauritania, identifying and training young talents, organising regular activities, improving the Federation's communication, strengthening good governance, and supporting the participation of our athletes in regional and international competitions. The Programme also contributed to stabilising the Federation's administrative operations and strengthening the capacities of our technical staff.

Among the key highlights, we would particularly like to emphasise the organisation of five editions of the “Open Days for Swimming” in 2025, which were highly successful and saw strong engagement, notably by national sports authorities, the Mauritanian Olympic Committee, the media, and families. This initiative enabled a large number of children and young people to be introduced to swimming and laid the foundations for the sustainable development of aquatic sports in Mauritania.

The World Aquatics Support Programme represents a key strategic lever for the Mauritanian Swimming Federation and a strong reference in terms of cooperation, support, and trust placed in emerging federations.”

Fédération Mauritanienne de Natation

“



“The Swimming Federation of India conducted a Youth Water Polo development programme under the 2025 World Aquatics Support Programme. This marked the first time that Youth Water Polo events were organised as an Inter-Club competition for clubs across India, providing young players who previously had limited opportunities with exposure at national level. The programme served as a feeder initiative to introduce new young talented players.

Through this programme, new State units introduced Water Polo and entered their junior teams in national events, enabling the Federation to identify emerging young talent across the country. In addition, World Aquatics provided standard Water Polo balls, which were distributed to clubs and State units for use by their teams, directly supporting player development.

The programme also supported the Federation's efforts to build a strong group of young players with a view to future participation at continental-level events. Following the positive impact of this initiative, the Swimming Federation of India has decided to continue this Youth Water Polo programme on a regular basis and is thankful to World Aquatics for the support provided under the World Aquatics Support Programme.”

Swimming Federation of India

”

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The World Aquatics Mentorship Programme was redesigned in 2025 with a new two-phase format, clearly distinguishing the mentor preparation phase from the mentee support phase.

This new structure strengthens governance, leadership, and strategic capacity within Member Federations through a structured and progressive mentoring approach.

NEW 2025 FORMAT

Q1 AND Q2 2025 MENTORS' PREPARATION

**Selection
of mentors
from Member
Federations**

- Online learning sessions (thematic modules, case studies, peer exchanges, expert input),
- A 3-day in-person training held during the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore.

**Comprehensive
training
programme**

Q3 AND Q4 2025 MENTEES' SELECTION

**Launch of
the call for
applications
for mentees**

**Evaluation
process and
final selection
of mentees at
the end of the
year**

ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

In 2025, the Mentor Training was delivered as below:

Online sessions covering:

- Mentorship principles
- Strategic planning
- Governance and leadership
- Practical case discussions and knowledge exchange

3-day in-person training in Singapore (held alongside the World Aquatics Championships):

- Interactive workshops
- Practical exercises and real-case analysis
- Sessions led by World Aquatics experts
- Development of mentoring and strategic advisory skills

15

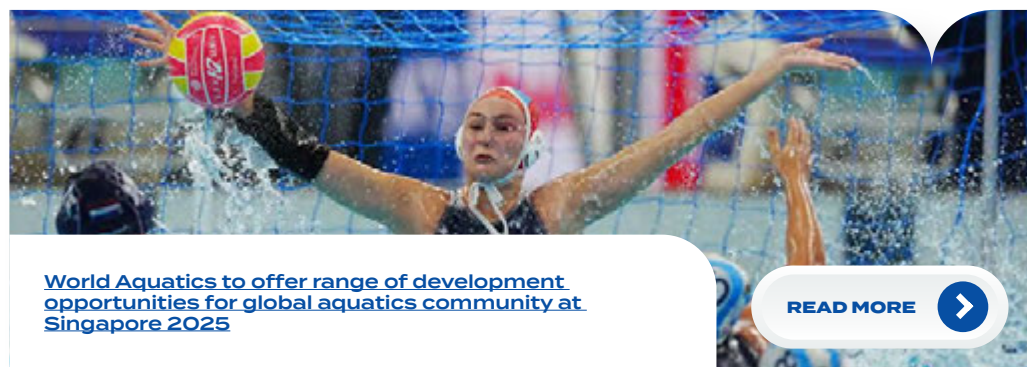
MENTORS
TRAINED OVER A
6-MONTH PERIOD,
SUPPORTED BY
WORLD AQUATICS
EXPERTS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A
QUALIFIED POOL OF MENTORS
READY TO SUPPORT MEMBER
FEDERATIONS IN ADDRESSING
THEIR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

10

MENTEES
SELECTED
FOLLOWING THE
APPLICATION
AND EVALUATION
PROCESS

COMMUNICATION



[World Aquatics to offer range of development opportunities for global aquatics community at Singapore 2025](#)

READ MORE



NEXT STEPS

- Launch of Phase 2 (2026):
 - Close collaboration between mentors and mentees.
 - Joint development and implementation of a tailored strategic plan for each Member Federation.
- Ongoing mentoring support until mid-July 2026, including progress monitoring and final evaluation.

This new cycle reinforces World Aquatics' commitment to capacity building, leadership development, and governance strengthening across the global aquatics community.

POOLS FOR ALL

The Pools for All Programme reflects World Aquatics' strong commitment to fostering the global development of aquatics and ensuring that individuals worldwide have access to safe and sustainable aquatic environments.

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of death globally, reinforcing the urgent need to expand access to safe water facilities and structured learn-to-swim opportunities.

Through this initiative, World Aquatics focuses particularly on countries that lack the necessary technical and logistical infrastructure for aquatics development, helping to bridge critical gaps across communities worldwide.

Under the Pools for All framework, the programme continues to support the construction of sustainable aquatic facilities that promote water safety, grassroots participation, and long-term sport development.

In 2025, the programme reached significant milestones:

- Groundbreaking ceremony held in Grenada, marking the official launch of construction of a new aquatic facility.
- Five contracts signed with five African countries for the construction of new pools as part of the Pools for All Programme.
- Continued progress in pool construction in the Maldives, advancing access to aquatic infrastructure in the region.

These achievements demonstrate World Aquatics' long-term commitment to expanding access to aquatic facilities and strengthening national capacity in underserved regions.



Official groundbreaking ceremony in Grenada, launching the construction phase of the new pool project.



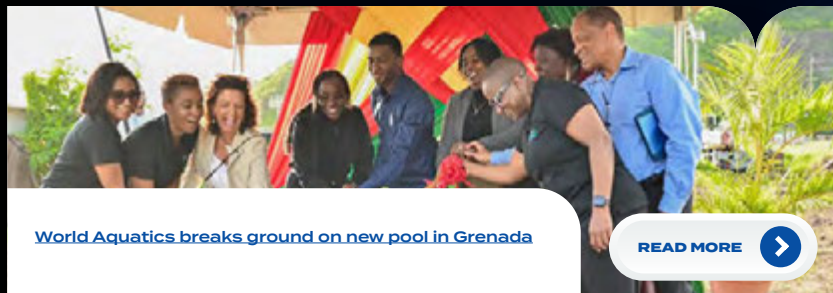
Contract signing ceremonies with five African countries, formalising agreements for the development of new aquatic facilities under the programme.



Ongoing pool construction in the Maldives, ensuring continued implementation of previously initiated projects.

The Pools for All Programme continues to serve as a cornerstone of World Aquatics' development strategy, expanding access to safe aquatic environments and creating lasting impact for communities around the world.

COMMUNICATION



[World Aquatics breaks ground on new pool in Grenada](#)

READ MORE 

"Getting started with aquatics at a young age is so important, not just for sport, but for safety, confidence and lifelong enjoyment of the water. Facilities such as this pool bring communities together, give children the skills to stay safe and provide opportunities for everyone to experience the benefits of swimming. It's been fantastic to work with our partners here in Grenada and across the world, to make this project a reality and I'm looking forward to seeing the completed pool!"

Maureen Croes
World Aquatics Vice President

COMMUNITY

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY "The Blueprint"

The aim of World Aquatics' sustainability programme is to ensure that aquatic sports contribute positively to people, communities, and the planet, while safeguarding water – the essential element at the heart of the sport. As an International Federation with a global platform, World Aquatics recognises its responsibility to lead by example by integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles across its operations, events, and community engagement.

In 2025, this commitment was strengthened through a key milestone: developing and publishing the World Aquatics Sustainability Strategy, The Blueprint. The first ever World Aquatics Sustainability Strategy establishes a clear direction and shared responsibility for advancing sustainable development within the global aquatics community.

The objectives of sustainability at World Aquatics, are to reduce the organisation' environmental impact, promote responsible and inclusive event delivery, empower athletes, Member Federations, and partners to act, and encourage long-term social and environmental benefits for communities. Recognising that sustainability is a continuous journey, World Aquatics is committed to working collaboratively to ensure that aquatic ecosystems, access to sport, health, safety, and education are protected and strengthened for future generations.

THE BLUEPRINT



ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

World Aquatics' sustainability strategy, The Blueprint, was developed to translate the organisation's vision and mission into a clear, long-term framework for sustainability action.

Aligned with 10 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, the Blueprint provides a structured approach to sustainability through 2030. It is organised around three Key Pillars, supported by nine Priority Areas, and underpinned by 58 specific targets.

KEY PILLARS

WORLD AQUATICS AS AN ORGANISATION

Integrating sustainability into governance, operations, and internal decision-making.



WORLD AQUATICS AS AN EVENTS' OWNER

Ensuring responsible planning, delivery, and legacy of aquatic events worldwide.



WORLD AQUATICS AS A LEADER OF THE AQUATICS COMMUNITY

Empowering athletes, member federations, partners, and communities to drive positive change.



PRIORITY AREAS

The nine Priority Areas define the focus of action across the three pillars and provide a practical framework for implementation:

- 1.0 Advocacy for sustainable development**
- 2.0 Reducing the climate impact of World Aquatics**
- 3.0 Sustainable procurement**
- 4.0 Strategic event planning**
- 5.0 Event operations**
- 6.0 Sustainable travel**
- 7.0 Athlete engagement**
- 8.0 Improving facility and equipment sustainability standards**
- 9.0 Community empowerment**

Together, these Priority Areas form the operational backbone of the Blueprint, ensuring a coherent, measurable, and adaptable approach to sustainability across the global aquatic ecosystem.

WORLD AQUATICS SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

The World Aquatics Sustainability Advisory Group drove and led the development of the Sustainability Strategy.

Comprising experts from diverse fields, they:

- 1** | IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES
- 2** | DEVELOPED STRATEGIES
- 3** | DREW ON EXPERIENCE FROM THE WIDER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
- 4** | SHARED EXPERTISE, IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS



ADVISORY GROUP

Position	Name, Surname
Chair of the Working Group	Monica Chang'anamuno - Malawi
Athletes' representatives	Ellie Smart, High Diving - USA Erika Fairweather, Swimming - New Zealand Leonie Beck, Open Water Swimming - Germany Nicole Dzurko, Artistic Swimming - USA Sabrina van der Sloot, Water Polo - Netherlands
World Aquatics Member Federations'	Erika C - Radewagen American Samoa Josh Rudd -British Swimming Sonam Karma Tshering - Bhutan
Partners' representatives	Innocenzo Pochini - Myrtha Technical Director Yong Uk Lee - Wongab corporation

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

In May and June 2025, World Aquatics organised three online webinars aimed at building sustainability awareness among Members Federations while also gathering input to inform the development of the World Aquatics sustainability strategy. The sessions combined education, practical guidance, and interactive discussion, creating a platform for shared learning and strategic consultation across the aquatics community.

22
MAY
2025

FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN AQUATICS

Introduced the core principles of sustainability in sport, highlighting practical entry points for Member Federations, athlete perspectives on climate action, and interactive exchanges on early sustainability efforts across the aquatics community.

10
JUNE
2025

HOW CAN WE WORK SUSTAINABLY?

Focused on practical tools, ESG principles, and real-life examples to help Member Federations reduce environmental impact through operations, event planning, and community engagement, supported by peer discussion and live Q&A.

19
JUNE
2025

INTRODUCTION TO THE BLUEPRINT

Presented the World Aquatics Sustainability Blueprint and Declaration Form for Member Federations, outlining a clear framework and support mechanisms for long-term sustainability planning and collective action.

PARTICIPATION & REACH

Participation and reach of the webinars:

Over the 3 sessions, 110 participants joined.

The following speakers presented over the 3 sessions:

- Leonie Beck (GER)
- Josh Rudd (UK)
- Jonathan Amoako-Atta (GHA)
- Stefano Rubaudo (ITA)

Moreover, the sustainability programme was shaped through internal and external consultations, including engagement with nine World Aquatics departments, a partners' sustainability survey and an ongoing hosts' survey, ensuring alignment with stakeholder expectations across the aquatics ecosystem.



SUSTAINABILITY AT THE WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS – SINGAPORE 2025

The World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 marked a key milestone in the implementation of The World Aquatics’ Sustainability Strategy, the Blueprint, serving as a flagship event to showcase sustainability in action. Following an initial introduction of the framework on World Water Day in March 2025, the strategy was formally launched during the Championships on 29 July 2025, embedding sustainability actions directly within a global event.

One of the main initiatives of Singapore 2025 was the ‘Trash to Treasure’ programme, through which medals were produced from locally sourced recycled aluminium cans. Approximately 100,000 cans were collected by students through the School Recycling League. The cans were then transformed into 6,290 medals. Manufactured by sustainable design company ipse ipsa ipsum, the medals demonstrated circular economy principles while actively engaging the local community in sustainability efforts.

Beyond medals, the Championships prioritised energy efficiency, responsible water management, waste reduction, and sustainable transport options for athletes, officials, and spectators. Single-use plastics were reduced, recycling initiatives promoted, and sustainability considerations embedded throughout event operations. Educational initiatives and training sessions were also delivered to Member Federations, vendors and sponsors to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices.

To support measurement, reporting, and transparency, Singapore 2025 partnered with MVGX as Sustainability Solutions Partner, enabling environmental impact tracking and facilitating voluntary carbon offsetting aligned with international frameworks.



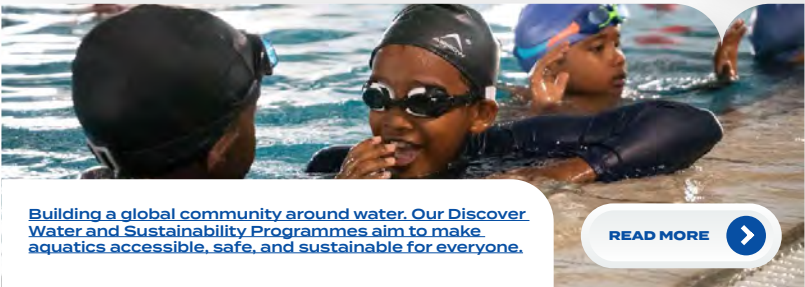
UNFCCC SIGNATORY STATUS

As a signatory of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, World Aquatics reports its climate actions and greenhouse gas emissions to the UNFCCC, contributing to the Global Climate Action Portal and supporting transparency and accountability in sport.

In 2025, World Aquatics calculated its organisation’s Carbon Footprint for 2024

Boundary	Emissions Source	tCO2e	% of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Stationary and Transport Fuel	1.83	0.04%
Scope 2	Electricity Consumption	3.92	0.09%
Scope 3	Purchased Goods and Services	1,648.19	38.69%
	Capital Goods	31.57	0.74%
	Fuel and energy-related activities	2.06	0.05%
	Upstream transportation and distribution	37.34	0.88%
	Waste	2.05	0.05%
	Business Travel	2,448.0	57.47%
	Employee Commuting (Home Working)	85.05	2.00%

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



THE BLUEPRINT STRATEGY DOCUMENT:

READ MORE





PARTICIPANT VOICES

"I am pleased that a comprehensive sustainability strategy has been developed, providing a clear blueprint for our future actions as an organisation, event owner, and community leader. Its strength lies in its inclusive approach, bringing together athletes, national federations, partners, and a broad range of stakeholders."

Monica Changanamuno,
Malawi, Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Working Group

"It has been a real pleasure working with World Aquatics and getting to grips with the significant potential (and appetite) that the sport has with regards to sustainable development. The Blueprint itself is comprehensive with no stone left unturned from the exploration phase; the team can be proud of a world leading strategy, and we look forward to seeing it coming to life ensuring growth of the sport whilst protecting the very environment that so many aquatic athletes enjoy. As World Aquatics joins some of the international frameworks with this strategy, the stage is set for them to become a world leader in positive impact through sport accelerated through partnerships and the collective determination to have a positive impact".

Dan Reading,
Chief Sustainability Officer for Sporting Giants

"As athletes, we are directly affected by the decisions made today, so it is essential that our voices are part of shaping the future of our sport. The Blueprint recognises this by placing athletes at the centre of the sustainability strategy and ensuring we are not just participants, but active contributors to meaningful and lasting change."

Nicole Dzurko,
Artistic Swimming, USA

NEXT STEPS

In the first year following the launch of the Sustainability Strategy, the Blueprint, World Aquatics will focus primarily on building momentum, raising awareness, and creating strong governance structures. Across all actions, the Organisation pillar represents the largest share, reflecting the importance of establishing foundations and partnerships early in the process.



Organisation Pillar

This first year is crucial for creating awareness, securing buy-in, and establishing governance. Advocacy and internal capacity building are essential to ensure the Blueprint is understood and adopted across the global aquatics community.



Events Pillar

Events are the most visible part of World Aquatics' operations. Early integration of sustainability in event planning and delivery ensures long-term impact and sets standards for future competitions.



Community Pillar

Building a sustainable community requires education, engagement, and capacity development. This pillar is essential for long-term behaviour change and strengthening the global aquatic ecosystem.



DISCOVER WATER PROGRAMME

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 “The Discover Water” programme will be available to be adapted in different environments, countries and continents, World Aquatics developed a robust educational toolkit comprising of a Guidebook, Playbook and ready-to-use activity cards for lesson planning. These resources are designed to equip educators, and programme facilitators with the necessary knowledge and methodologies to implement Discover Water successfully, promoting a holistic approach to aquatic education.

13TH
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ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

COUNTRY LEADS' TRAININGS

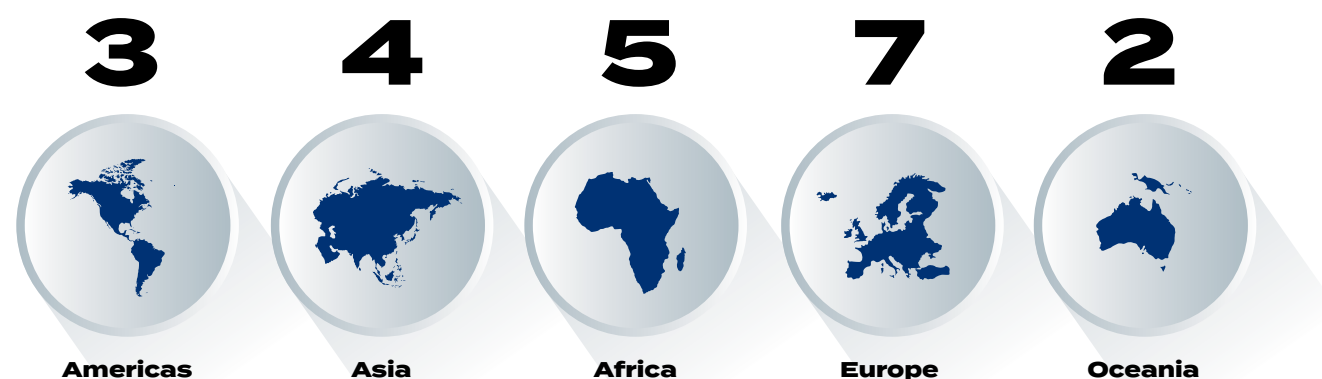
In 2025, World Aquatics delivered two Discover Water Country Leads trainings as part of the continental rollout of the programme. These training courses focused on preparing nominated representatives from Members Federations to act as Country Leads, responsible for implementing Discover Water at national level, training educators, and supporting local delivery in collaboration with key partners.

The inaugural training took place in Salima, Malawi, followed by a second course in Asia hosted in Bhubaneswar, India, delivered by World Aquatics experts and supported by local partners. Both courses combined interactive classroom-based sessions with practical implementation activities, including direct engagement with children.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

To expand the global delivery capacity of the Discover Water Programme, World Aquatics organised a training of international experts in Budapest from 20–25 May 2025. The objective was to strengthen the international pool of trainers who support and accompany the lead international trainer in delivering Country Leads courses worldwide.

The training brought together experts representing 21 countries across all continents, ensuring strong geographic balance:



NATIONAL TRAINING

Discover Water National Training was delivered at local level in Turkmenistan, where a World Aquatics trainer conducted a Discover Water training for local educators from 16–21 June. The course focused on programme principles and practical application, with 10 local educators participating, supporting the programme's grassroots implementation and reach.

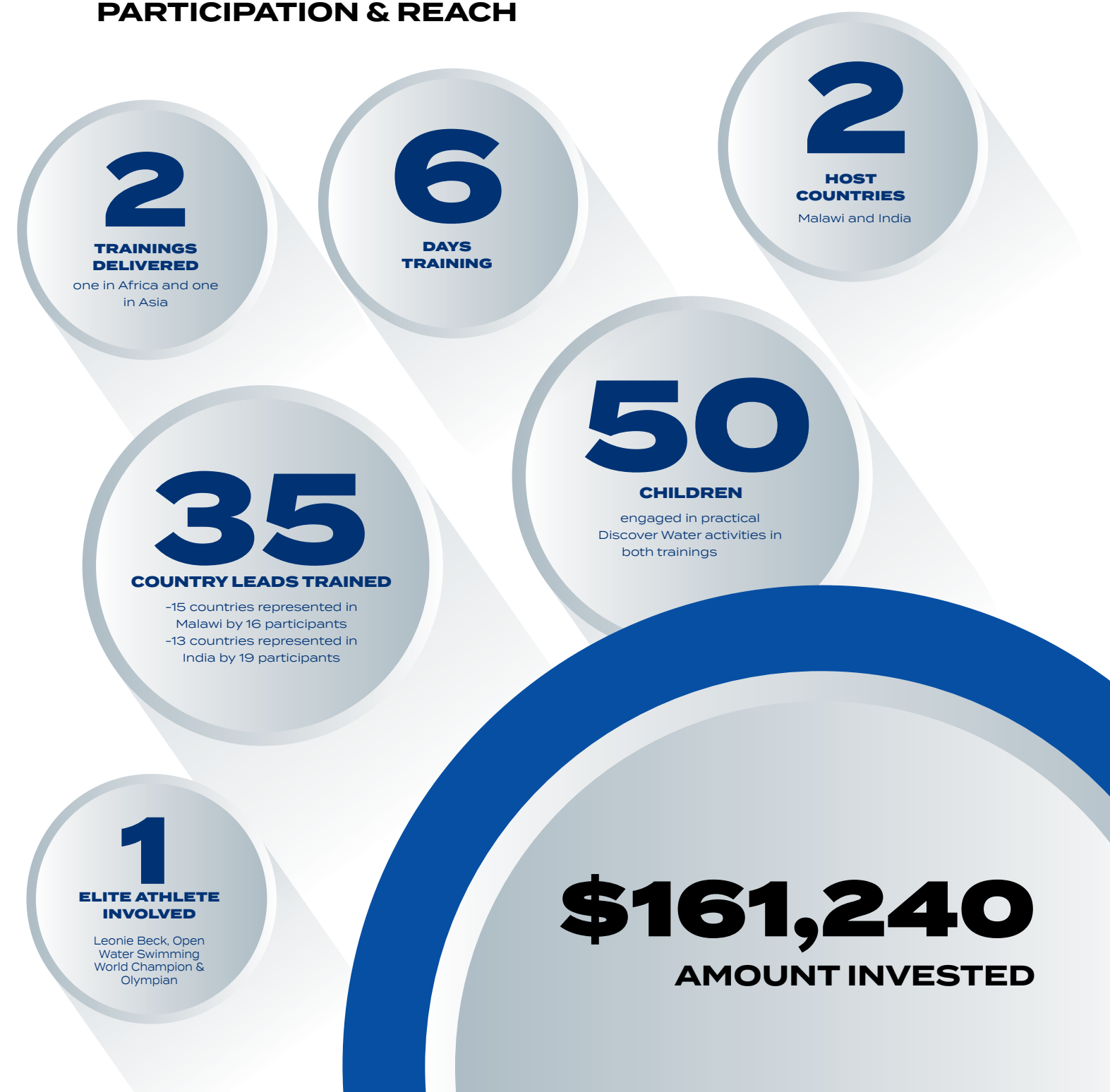
THE TOOLKIT

World Aquatics Discover Water toolkit, comprising three key resources. The Guidebook presents the programme concept, educational approach, and practical recommendations for planning and implementing Discover Water locally.

The Playbook, available only to Country Leads working with Member Federations, provides recommended activities developed by practitioners worldwide, assessment guidance, checklists, and examples to support curriculum creation and evaluation.

The Activity Cards are ready-to-use lesson resources for educators, aligned with the Discover Water concept. Country Leads also have access to additional training materials for educator courses, including guidelines, energisers, and facilitator help notes to ensure consistent and high-quality delivery.

PARTICIPATION & REACH





PARTICIPANT VOICES

“Meeting other Country Leads and not just individuals from my country was very important and it was such an eye-opener, because I got to learn about different situations and different countries. Some countries are advanced in certain areas we are not, and some countries I could share what we do in our country to help solve issues,”

Puni Gaetsewe, Botswana, Coach

“The Discover Water programme was well organised and ran smoothly throughout the week, supported by patient and passionate trainers. Group discussions were a highlight, fostering cultural exchange, shared learning, and strong connections among participants. Key takeaways included the importance of physical literacy, creating safe and enjoyable learning environments, and applying STEP and SMILES to support inclusive teaching. Overall, the training strengthened participants’ confidence and vision for implementing Discover Water locally, while also building meaningful professional relationships.”

**Ang Beng Siong,
Brunei Darussalam, General Secretary**

“I really enjoyed the course. Although it felt challenging at first, everything gradually came together, and by the end it made a lot of sense. The instructor was superb and played a big role in making the learning experience meaningful. One of the most valuable lessons I gained was how to educate children using the concept of physical literacy, as well as how to train adult educators effectively. The tools and the toolkit provided throughout the course have been extremely helpful and practical. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet many new people from different cultures. Understanding the challenges they face in their countries gave me useful insights that will help me implement the Discover Water Programme more effectively in my own country.”

**Avantha Weerasinha,
Sri Lanka, Head Coach**

NEXT STEPS

Looking ahead, World Aquatics will focus on expanding the Discover Water programme through regional Country Leads trainings, including delivery in the Americas and preparation for Europe and Oceania. Efforts will also focus on strengthening partnerships, and engaging potential sponsors to support sustainable growth and global reach.

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



DISCOVER WATER GUIDEBOOK

READ MORE →



FUTURE WAVE PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Future Wave is a new initiative led by World Aquatics in partnership with The International Olympic Committee and Africa Aquatics which took place in the second quarter of 2025. It is an educational programme, designed to support the long-term development of young swimmers and their coaches across the African continent.

Launched in the lead-up to the Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games, hosted in Africa for the first time, Future Wave offered a unique opportunity to build the future of aquatic sports by equipping young athletes and coaches with the knowledge, tools and mentorship needed to thrive both regionally and globally.

The Future Wave programme was designed for promising swimmers aged 14 to 16, providing focused development at a key stage in their athletic journey. National coaches were also engaged in the programme, where they received training, mentorship, and resources to better support their athletes.

FUTURE WAVE

ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

The Future Wave programme combined in-person camps, online sessions, and mentorship to support both athletes and coaches across participating countries.



In-Person Camps:

Training camps integrated athlete development, hands-on coach education, and mentorship:

- Camp 1: Eswatini, 8–12 September (Zone 4) – Angola, Madagascar, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Eswatini, Zimbabwe
- Camp 2: Ghana, 6–10 October (Zones 1, 2, 3) – Mauritania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Kenya



Online Sessions:

Coaches

- 27 October: Planning and periodisation with coach Abbie Fish
- 8 December: Mental health with expert Alan Currie
- 15 December: Athlete development with coach Abbie Fish and Zambia National Team Coach Ian Harry Stephenson

Athletes

- 29 October: Becoming an international swimmer with Olympic swimmer Jamila Lunkuse (Uganda)
- 11 November: Team culture and values with Olympic swimmer Collins Saliboko (Tanzania)
- 10 December: Mental health with Olympic champion Antony Ervin



Mentorship Sessions:

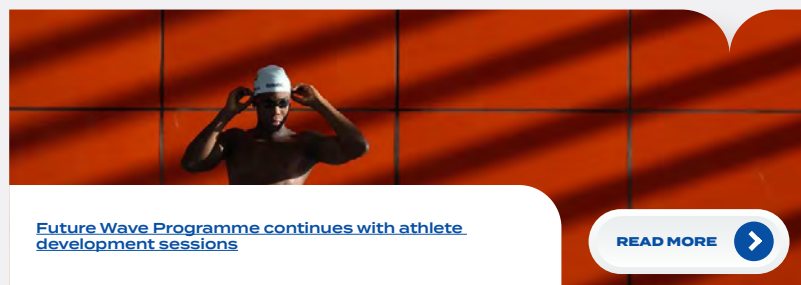
Mentorship sessions focused on daily coaching challenges, training priorities, key periods like tapering, and sharing experiences to support athlete development together with mentors Sibani Makhanya (RSA) and Malick Fall (SEN).

KEY OUTCOMES AND LEGACY

The Future Wave programme supported 54 young swimmers, 30 male and 24 female, along with 21 national coaches, including 14 men and 7 women. Through focused training, mentorship and educational opportunities, both athletes and coaches strengthened their technical abilities, confidence and preparedness for future competition.

As a pilot initiative, Future Wave demonstrates the shared commitment of World Aquatics, Africa Aquatics and the International Olympic Committee to advance aquatic sport across the continent. The programme has helped build stronger coaching networks, empowered athletes to progress in their development and established a sustainable pathway that will continue to support the growth of African aquatics in the lead-up to Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



PARTICIPANT VOICES

"I've learnt a lot and have improved my technique and I see myself...overall having a better mindset".

Luca Frase
Eswatini

"The programme helped us improve our mentality our flexibility and also our mental health".

Leruo Bakwena Leruo
Botswana

"It helped me come up with better and cool and fun ways of developing swim programmes, also how to develop myself as a coach. I learned from coaches around Africa on how to keep athletes motivated in and out of the swimming pool".

Masilela Nofundo
Eswatini

"It is important for us as coaches to know where our swimmers are going not just in terms of their times but also their physical and mental wellbeing."

Changanamuno Takondwa
Malawi



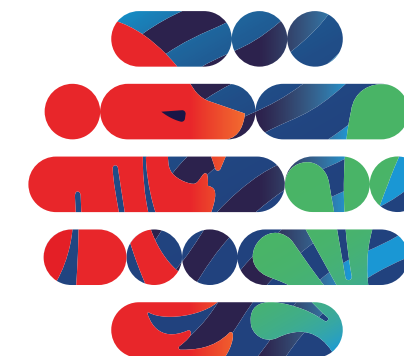
WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS ACTIVITIES

COACHES

During the World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025, the Development Department delivered a comprehensive coaching programme designed for coaches across all six aquatic sports. The initiative aimed to support professional development, strengthen leadership capacity, and promote sustainable coaching practices and encourage cooperation and collaboration within the coaches' community.

The programme combined cross-sports workshops with leadership discussions, creating an inclusive platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Delivered by internationally recognised experts, coaches, elite athletes and members of World Aquatics working groups, the sessions provided practical insights while reinforcing the long-term vision of coach education.

In total, approximately 120 coaches from across the six aquatic sports participated in the workshops and interactive sessions.



WORLD AQUATICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
SINGAPORE 2025

ACTIVITIES DELIVERED

Sustainable Development of Open Water Swimming

Led by Fernando Possenti, this workshop addressed long-term athlete development, programme sustainability, and strategic growth of open water swimming. Coaches explored performance pathways alongside structural considerations necessary for the continued development of the sport.

19
JULY
2025

23
JULY
2025

Water Polo Community Leadership

Led by Filip Filipovic, this session focused on leadership within the water polo coaching community. The discussion emphasised responsibility, collaboration, and the role of coaches as leaders within their sporting environments. The session generated strong interest from both international and local coaches.

24
JULY
2025

Chat with Coaches: Leading Yourself First – Building a Sustainable Coaching Career

Led by James Gibson and panellists Angie Winstanley-Smith, Head Coach of New Zealand's women's water polo team, and Matt Scoggin, Head Coach of Diving at the University of Texas. This interactive session focused on personal leadership, resilience, and career sustainability. Coaches from different aquatic sports engaged in discussions on maintaining long-term motivation and effectiveness in high-performance settings.

25
JULY
2025

Chat with Coaches - Development of the Swimming Coaches' Certification Courses

Led by James Gibson, Fernando Possenti and Heli-Maija Koukkari, this interactive session focused on the new World Aquatics Swimming and Open Water Swimming Coaches' Certification Courses, highlighting the holistic educational content developed in collaboration with internationally recognised experts from diverse fields around the world. Coaches had the opportunity to engage directly with the team that develops the courses and ask all the necessary questions.

30
JULY
2025

Performance Review – World Aquatics Swimming Championships Budapest 2024 (Selected Races)

Led by Russell Mark and James Gibson, this session was the most attended workshop for swimming coaches. Through detailed race analysis of selected events from Budapest 2024, participants gained technical insights into race strategy, performance trends, and elite execution.

31
JULY
2025

Practical Pool Session – Swimming

A practical pool-based session led by James Gibson attracted more than 40 coaches. The session provided hands-on technical demonstrations and applied coaching insights in a real training environment. The strong attendance reflected the high demand for practical learning opportunities integrated within major championship events.



KEY OUTCOMES AND LEGACY

- 1** Engaged approximately 120 coaches representing all six aquatic sports.
- 2** Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across sports.
- 3** Increased visibility and interest in World Aquatics Coaches Certification Courses.
- 4** Reinforced leadership development and sustainable coaching principles.
- 5** Delivered practical technical analysis linked to recent championship performances.
- 6** Enhanced direct interaction between coaches and World Aquatics experts.

The programme contributed to the ongoing professionalisation of coaching worldwide and reinforced World Aquatics' commitment to education, development, and cross-sport collaboration during major events.

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS FEDERATIONS

During the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, the Development Department organised a series of continental meetings with Member Federations. The objective was to strengthen direct communication, present key development initiatives, and provide an open platform for dialogue with Member Federations across all regions.

The meetings offered an opportunity to update Member Federations on strategic development programmes, educational initiatives, and support mechanisms, while also gathering feedback and understanding regional priorities and challenges.

Meetings were organised by continent to allow for focused discussion and regional relevance.

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY

JULY
2025
29



**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
FROM AFRICA**

JULY
2025
30



**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
FROM EUROPE**

JULY
2025
31



**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
FROM OCEANIA AND ASIA**

AUGUST
2025
01



**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
FROM THE AMERICAS**



[Empowering the aquatics community: Development activities made waves at the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025](#)

[READ MORE](#)



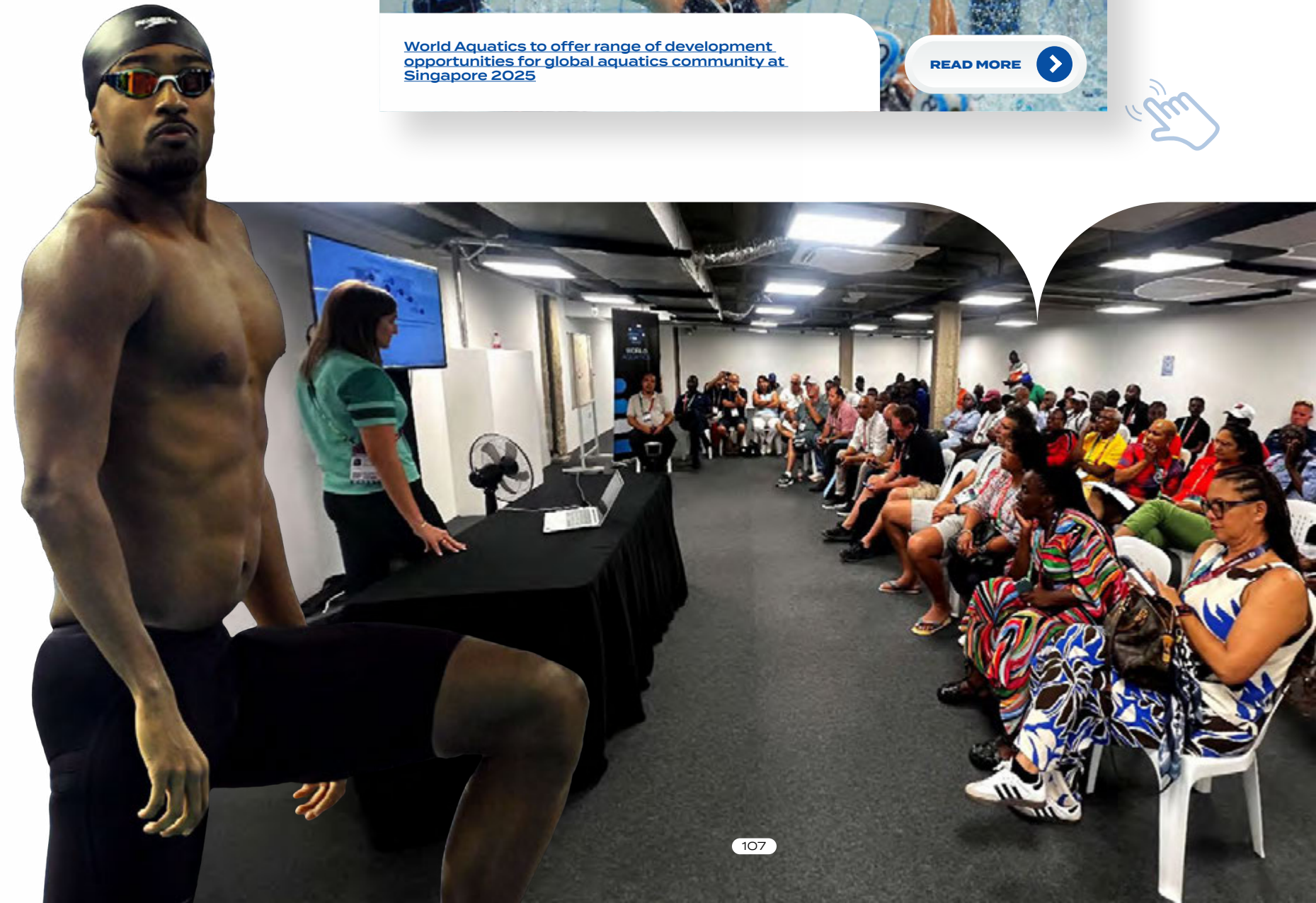
[World Aquatics to offer range of development opportunities for global aquatics community at Singapore 2025](#)

[READ MORE](#)

During each session, updates were provided on the following key programmes and initiatives:

- 1**
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES
- 2**
COACHES PROGRAMME
- 3**
MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME
- 4**
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME
- 5**
DISCOVER WATER PROGRAMME
- 6**
LEARNING PLATFORM: CORAL
- 7**
WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME
- 8**
PARTNER PRESENTATION: MYRTHA POOLS

More than 160 representatives attended the National Federation meetings. Each meeting included time for questions and discussion, allowing National Federations to seek clarification and share feedback.





MEDICAL INITIATIVES

MEDICAL SEMINAR

The seminar organised during the World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025 offered a dynamic programme featuring interactive workshops and sessions on a range of critical topics. Key areas of focus included Assessment of Elite Swimmers, Rethinking Shoulder Health in Competitive Swimmers, Recovery and Nutrition – Supplements, Injury prevention strategies in elite swimmers, biomechanics and injury prevention, recovery in competitive swimming; integrating science with athlete-centered practice.

The purpose of the medical seminar was to provide valuable and applicable information and sharing expertise with doctors, physiotherapists, other medical personnel and coaches involved in athlete care in our sports.

This year, speakers from the teams presented in Singapore but also local experts from Singapore Sport Institution participated in the seminar:

Main speakers:

 **Daniel Moedas (POR)**

 **Dr. Bon Sek Hui (SGP)**

 **Erin Cameron (USA)**

 **Dexter Kin (SGP)**

 **Dr. Riham Safwat (EGY)**

 **Robbie Smyth (IRL)**

 **Russel Mark (USA)**

 **Dr. Cherianne Taim-
Dr Kester Choo-Regine Zhou(SGP)**

 **Dr. Kelvin Tan**
Chief Medical Officer of Singapore 2025.

around
65
participants registered
for the seminar
Mainly team
physicians and team
physiotherapists

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

COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



[World Aquatics Medical Seminar empowers global aquatics community at World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025](#)

READ MORE



“

QUOTES

“We are delighted with the success of the World Aquatics Medical Seminar, which was thanks in no small part to the engagement of the participants with the dedicated experts on each of the topics”

World Aquatics Sports Medicine Committee Chair Cess Van Den Hoogendand

“World Aquatics [Medical Seminar] 2025 was a great cross-learning experience, seeing how other nations approach sports science, especially in physiotherapy. It's a field close to my heart, and it reminded me how far the profession has come and how much faster the sport is getting.”

Dexter Kin
Team Physiotherapist

“It was an honour to be able to attend and present at the Medical Seminar. I learned so much from the other presenters and have already begun to incorporate what I learned into my practice.”

Erin Cameron
Team Physiotherapist

“The AQUA Medical Seminar is a great event that is important for the growth and evolution of knowledge across medical staff that work in sport. To best serve our athletes, we need to keep sharing information about best practices that are currently being utilised.”

Russell Mark
Biomechanics and Video Analysis Expert

PARTICIPANT VOICES

“The seminar was well-organized and provided valuable insights into medical practices in aquatic sports. I appreciated the range of expert presentations and the focus on athlete health and safety.”

LC

“The Seminar was very helpful and updating for me and our federation, and the presentation was attractive.”

Dr. Fetiha Ahmedin, ETH

HIGH DIVING STUDY

In 2025, World Aquatics conducted a research project on high diving. Given that most injuries occur during water entry, our project set out to better understand the physical demands of the sport and establish pathways for injury prevention, performance enhancement, and career longevity. The objectives were to describe the training habits of elite high divers, to identify mobility and strength profiles, and the risk factors for injury in high diving, and to develop expert based recommendations for training and recovery.

The project was divided into two key phases. The first step involves completing a survey to collect your insights and experiences regarding injuries and conditioning practices in High Diving.

The second phase was a physical assessment session held in Singapore. The session only allowed us to collect information on the physical mobility of elite high divers. Athletes were a bit reluctant to perform strength exercises before their competitions as this was interfering with their routine and athletes were afraid that this would cause fatigue. We are now collaborating with our experts to develop a new protocol that avoids interference with competition schedules, likely during the off-season.

A scientific article about the first results was published in the International Journal of Sports and Exercise Medicine (IJSEM).

READ MORE



EXPERTS

- Angela Passenbruner, Physiotherapist for Red Bull Cliff Diving Series and several elite high divers
- Alain Kohl: former high diver and Athletes Committee Member
- Dr. Wessel Zimmerman, THDC Honorary Secretary

EVALUATION

Participation in the mobility testing sessions reached 56%, a strong result given that divers were actively competing throughout this period.

To further optimise engagement, it may be beneficial to schedule strength testing sessions during pre-season training or on designated recovery days.

NEXT STEPS

1

Develop a standardised test battery for coaches, physiotherapists, and trainers.

2

Establish baseline profiles for safe mobility and strength in High Diving.

3

Expand data collection at future World Aquatics events.





ATHLETES' SERVICES

WORLD CUP EXPERIENCES

The Athletes' Experience, introduced in 2022, is designed to enhance athlete engagement at each World Cup stop by integrating cultural, community, and fan-focused activities alongside elite competition. The initiative offers athletes a unique opportunity to connect more deeply with their sport, local communities, and fans, while operating in parallel with the demands of high-performance competition.

The programme delivers tangible benefits to all stakeholders.



FOR ATHLETES

it creates meaningful off-field experiences that strengthen their connection to the aquatic community and provide opportunities to inspire younger generations.



FOR LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEES (LOCs)

The Athletes' Experience guarantees the presence and active participation of top-level athletes, increases the overall appeal of the event to spectators and sponsors, and provides a platform to showcase the host city's culture, identity, and infrastructure.



FOR WORLD AQUATICS

The initiative enhances the attractiveness of the World Cup series to prospective hosts while fostering stronger, long-term relationships with aquatic athletes.

The Recreational Activity highlights the host city's unique cultural, historical, artistic, or sporting identity and may include experiences such as visits to cultural landmarks, engagement with local traditions, or participation in other sporting events, including interactions with local or national athletes. All Athletes' Experience participants are required to take part in this activity at each World Cup stop. World Aquatics requests that LOCs ensure the activity does not exceed three hours and that scheduling remains compatible with athletes' performance requirements.

The Clinic is aimed at inspiring young swimmers and divers and takes place at the competition venue, specifically in the competition pool, between official training sessions. Each Clinic lasts no more than one hour and includes an introduction, a training session, and a photo and autograph opportunity. Between two and four Athletes' Experience participants, as designated by World Aquatics, take part in each Clinic, with every athlete expected to lead one Clinic over the course of the three World Cup stops.

The Meet & Greet offers fans the opportunity to connect directly with their favourite athletes and creates memorable moments that strengthen fan engagement. These sessions take place on competition days, excluding weekends, and last no more than 30 minutes. They include photo and autograph opportunities and involve two to four Athletes' Experience athletes per session, as determined by World Aquatics. Each athlete is required to participate in at least one Meet & Greet during the World Cup series.

Athlete selection for the Athletes' Experience is based on sporting performance from the previous year, social media presence, and discretionary invitations, including nominations by the World Aquatics President. Selected athletes are required to compete at all World Cup stops, participate in the Recreational Activity, lead one Clinic, attend one Meet & Greet, and support event promotion through their social media channels.

The Athletes' Experience is built around four core elements:



A RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY



A YOUTH CLINIC



A FAN MEET & GREET



AN ATHLETES' LOUNGE

All activities are carefully scheduled to respect athletes' competition, training, recovery, and personal commitments.

In 2025, the Athletes' Experience continued across Swimming and Diving, with Open Water added to the programme, further expanding athlete engagement and overall event impact.

For Swimming, World Aquatics increased its level of athlete support in response to challenges faced by many competitors in covering travel expenses throughout the World Cup tour. As a result, starting in 2025, World Aquatics financially supported additional international swimmers to participate in the World Cup. These supported athletes are required to compete at all World Cup stops and, over the course of the three stops, participate in at least one Meet & Greet of a maximum duration of one hour. Selection for this group is also based on sporting performance from the previous year.

In addition, the Swimming programme includes the appointment of an Athletes' Experience Ambassador. The Ambassador's role is to help lead and coordinate the Athletes' Experience onsite, attend all related activities, and engage with athletes and coaches throughout the event, contributing to the overall cohesion and success of the programme.

3 STOPS

CARMEL

INDIANA, USA

2025
OCTOBER
10-12



WESTMONT

ILLINOIS, USA

2025
OCTOBER
17-19



TORONTO

ONTARIO, CAN

2025
OCTOBER
23-25



SWIMMING

SUPPORTED ATHLETES

9

female

Kylie Masse (CAN)
Mary-Sophie Harvey (CAN)
Lani Pallister (AUS)
Katarzyna Wasick (POL)
Marrit Steenbergen (NED)
Gretchen Walsh (USA)
Roos Vanotterdijk (BEL)
Mio Narita (JPN)
Erika Fairweather (NZL)

9

male

Matthew Richards (GBR)
Caspar Corbeau (NED)
Ilya Kharun (CAN)
Kieran Smith (USA)
Luke Hobson (USA)
Dylan Carter (TTO)
Michael Andrew (USA)
Shaine Casas (USA)
Jack Alexy (USA)

10 ATHLETES

5

female

Kate Douglass (USA)
Regan Smith (USA)
Summer McIntosh (CAN)
Kaylee McKeown (AUS)
Mollie O'Callaghan (AUS)

5

male

Noè Ponti (SUI)
Hubert Kós (HUN)
Thomas Ceccon (ITA)
Joshua Liendo (CAN)
Adam Peaty (GBR)

ATHLETES REPRESENTED THE FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Americas



Europe



Oceania

PARTICIPANT VOICES

"Grateful. Swimming World Cup 2025. Unreal experience."

"Thank you to World Aquatics for an amazing experience and 3 weeks of racing."

"Thanks to World Aquatics for another great World Cup experience."

"Thank you, World Aquatics, for the memories in and out of the pool!"

ATHLETES REPRESENTED THE FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Americas



Europe



Oceania



Asia

The Swimming World Cup Athletes' Experience continued to foster strong engagement across all stops. Most invited athletes confirmed participation promptly, and fulfilled their commitments in clinics, meet & greets, and recreational activities.

Recreational activities offered a mix of interactive and cultural experiences, from visits to local sports venues, attending sporting events to sessions with professional teams. Activities that combined active participation were particularly well received, with optional activities providing further engagement opportunities.

Clinics were well organised, allowing athletes to share their expertise with young swimmers. Meet & greets ran smoothly for experience athletes, while slight scheduling adjustments could improve attendance for supported athletes.

Athletes' Lounges provided comfortable spaces for relaxation and informal interaction.

3 STOPS

GUADALAJARA

2025
APRIL
3-6



MEX

WINDSOR

2025
APRIL
10-13



CAN

BEIJING

2025
APRIL
3-6



CHN



DIVING

6 ATHLETES

3

female

Maddison Keeney (AUS)
Yiwen Chen (CHN)
Chiara Pellacani (ITA)

3

male

Zongyuan Wang (CHN)
Osmar Olvera Ibarra (MEX)
Jack Laughner (GBR)

ATHLETES REPRESENTED THE FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Americas



Europe



Oceania



Asia

“



PARTICIPANT VOICES

“This was lovely doing the clinic - having to interact with the kids was good and them getting to know the 'older divers' was actually very lovely and wholesome and got a lot of good feedback from those divers and coaches about it.”

“Thanks for this opportunity, it's difficult to come up with ideas but I think the organisers did a really good job with time around the competition.”

“Really enjoyed being a part of the athlete's experience and the activities that came with them. And enjoyed the World Cups too despite performance. Thanks again.”

”

The Diving Athletes' Experience successfully engaged athletes across Guadalajara, Windsor, and Beijing, combining cultural, sporting and community activities with competition.

Recreational activities were varied and culturally enriching. In Guadalajara, athletes attended a Lucha Libre match, while Beijing featured a light-hearted curling session.

Clinics were valued by both athletes and participants. In Windsor, athletes delivered a motivational talk and demonstration of warm-up exercises, effectively engaging the local club. Beijing's clinic welcomed both club and community participants, combining in-water and dryland activities for broad engagement.

Meet & greets were held at each stop, generally at the end of day 1 of competition. In Mexico and Canada, fans were selected through a draw or online competition, while in Beijing, the event took place outside the venue with ticketed on-site selection. Sessions were well received at all locations, offering casual interaction while respecting athletes' schedules.

4 STOPS



OPEN
WATER
SWIMMING

“

PARTICIPANT VOICES

“The experience was great thank you for having me and hope to be part of it next year.”

“It was great to do different activities from the competition.”

“Thank you for the Experience.”

”

SOMA BAY

2025
FEBRUARY
21-22



IBIZA

2025
APRIL
25-26



SETUBAL

2025
JUNE
14-15



GOLFO ARANCI

2025
OCTOBER
10-11



8 ATHLETES

4

female

Moesha Johnson (AUS)
Ginevra Taddeucci (ITA)
Bettina Fábrián (HUN)
Caroline Jousse (FRA)

4

male

Kristóf Rasovszky (HUN)
Oliver Klemet (GER)
Marc-Antoine Olivier (FRA)
Hector Pardoe (GBR)

ATHLETES REPRESENTED THE FOLLOWING CONTINENTS:



Europe



Oceania

The Open Water Athletes' Experience engaged top athletes across the World Cup. Recreational activities in Soma Bay and Golfo Aranci were particularly appreciated, with a quad bike experience in the desert and a scuba diving experience.

Clinics were well received and provided strong value for local communities, allowing athletes to share their expertise.

Meet & greets were well organised onsite after the medal ceremonies.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

SWIMMING WORLD CUP

\$363,513

AMOUNT SPENT

DIVING WORLD CUP

\$43,250

AMOUNT SPENT

OPEN WATER WORLD CUP

\$56,160

AMOUNT SPENT

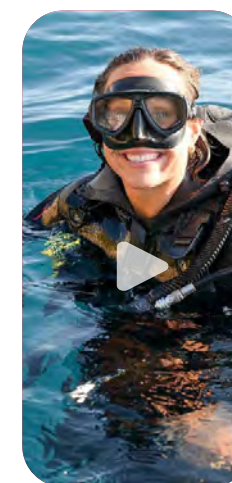
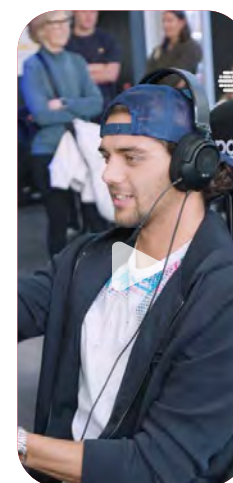
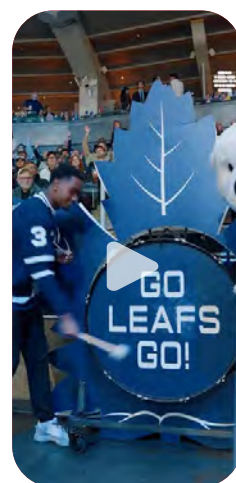
Across Swimming, Diving, and Open Water, the 2025 Athletes' Experience successfully combined competition with cultural engagement, community connection, and fan interaction.

The programme strengthened athlete involvement, showcased local contexts, and contributed to the World Cup's broader goals of visibility, engagement, and memorable experiences for athletes and audiences alike.

ARTICLE



SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEOS



WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS - SINGAPORE 2025

The World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 placed a strong emphasis on sustainability and athlete engagement. Through a series of workshops, an expanded Ambassador programme, active involvement from the Athletes' Committee, and dedicated Athlete Lounges across venues, World Aquatics worked to enhance the overall athlete experience. Increased survey participation compared to the previous Championships in Doha further reflected strong athlete engagement and valuable feedback.

WORKSHOPS

The main theme of the event was sustainability, World Aquatics were able to deliver relevant and meaningful sessions.

World Aquatics engaged a range of experts across different teams, including sports nutritionists and physiotherapists, who were supported by Ambassadors and Athlete Committee Members. Their presence helped provide valuable insights from an athlete's perspective.

In total, more than 6 workshops were delivered for athletes.

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOPS

Date	Time	Topic	Public	Presenters
14.07.2025	17:30 - 18:30	Environmental Sustainability: What can we do?	OW Athletes	Alice Dearing
22.07.2025	16:00 - 17:00	How to prospect sponsor through social media?	HD Athletes	Luca Fasani
23.07.2025	15:00 - 17:00	Climate Fresk	WP Athletes	Vita Balsyte
	18:00 - 19:00	Nutrition / Plant Power: Fuelling Performance with Plant-Based Proteins	AS Athletes	Olivia Wong + Giorgio Minisini
30.07.2025	15:00 - 16:00	Nutrition / Plant Power: Fuelling Performance with Plant-Based Proteins	DV Athletes	Liyan Huang + Melissa Wu
31.07.2025	18:00 - 19:00	Nutrition / Plant Power: Fuelling Performance with Plant-Based Proteins	SW Athletes	Liyan Huang + Jess Hansen + Jamila Lunkuse

The workshop programme demonstrated adaptability in aligning athlete education with a sustainability-driven event framework. Despite thematic constraints, the sessions delivered practical value.





AMBASSADOR QUOTES

"Overall, it was a precious experience that I'm grateful to have lived! Personally, I would be happy to repeat it, and if that happened, I would love to connect more with the other ambassadors and the other disciplines."

Giorgio Minisini

"I really enjoyed being part of the event as an ambassador! I loved that our ambassador activities crossed over, so we had the opportunity to participate in different activities with different ambassadors. I think it made the activities more enjoyable for the participants too and collaboration and different perspectives are always great!"

Melissa Wu

"This was the best organised so far! But also the one with the most ambassadors, sometimes that can be messy. With a lot of ambassadors, the activities are more spread out. If possible, plan a coffee or lunch with all the ambassadors because it's very nice to get to know each other."

Ranomi Kromowidjojo



11 RETIRED OR NON-COMPETING ATHLETES

5
female

Sharon Van Rouwendaal
Ranomi Kromowidjojo
Melissa Wu
Cate Campbell
Alice Dearing



6
male

Giorgio Minisini
Filip Filipovic
Kosuke Kitajima
Alain Kohl
Anthony Ervin
Chad Le Clos



World Aquatics had the largest group of ambassadors to date with 11 ambassadors in Singapore from every discipline. The programme was exceptionally well organised by the Singapore Organising Committee, even with the large group. The programme offered a well-balanced mix of cultural and community outreach activities, with a particularly strong focus on youth engagement through clinics and talks, which was a highlight.

Singapore had planned dedicated hosts for each event, and this greatly facilitated interaction with participants and helped the ambassadors feel more comfortable and confident in their roles.

Some of the activities that the ambassadors participated in were:

School visits
to give talks
about their
career to
students

Meet & greet
with fans

Sport specific
clinics for
the local
community

Tourism visits
(local sites of
interest, food
tasting, etc.)

Behind the
scenes tours

ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

3 ATHLETES

2
female

Jamila Lunkuke 
Jessica Hansen 

1
male

Alain Kohl 

Some members of the Athletes Committee were present during the event and run excellent activities. They contributed to some workshops but primarily spent time in the Athlete's Lounges, engaging with competing athletes and coaches. Their role included offering athletes' assistance, gathering concerns to be reported, and actively encouraging athletes to complete the survey and vote for the Athletes' Committee election. They also motivated athletes to participate in workshops.

Their visibility and accessibility contributed positively to athlete confidence and information flow during the Championships.

The Committee's proactive approach reinforced its role as a trusted bridge between athletes and event organisation, highlighting the importance of maintaining a strong athlete representation presence even with constrained availability.



ATHLETES' LOUNGES

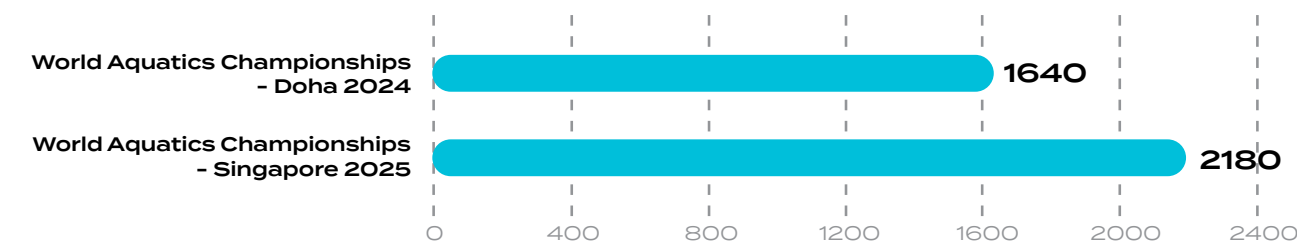
Athletes' Lounges are dedicated spaces for athletes to unwind, enjoy themselves between training sessions and competitions, and momentarily escape the pressures of competition. The lounges are also a space to provide athletes and coaches with light snacks, fruits, and a variety of hot and cold beverages.

In the World Championships Arena (Swimming and Artistic Swimming venue), positioning the lounge near the athlete entrance proved very convenient. In addition to the main venue hosting Swimming and Artistic Swimming, athlete lounges were also available at the Diving and Water Polo venue, as well as at the Open Water and High Diving venue.

World Aquatics prioritised athlete engagement through the distribution of gifts and by encouraging participation in the athlete survey and AC elections. Additional value was created through interactive initiatives led by the OC digital team. The inclusion of nail artists across several disciplines was particularly well received, contributing to a positive and relaxing athlete experience.

SURVEY

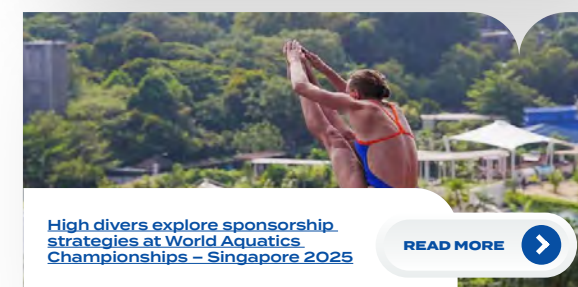
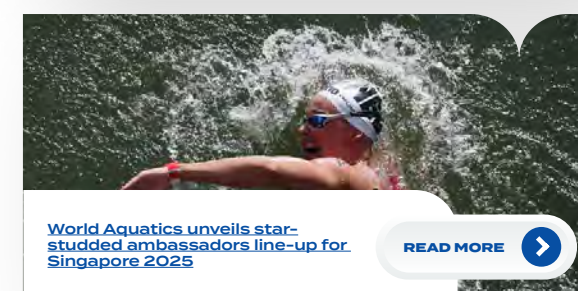
At each World Aquatics Championships event, World Aquatics runs a survey on the event itself with questions on the competition, training, workshops, etc. to help improving the event. The athletes are asked to answer the survey and if they complete it, they get a small gift. In Singapore, over 2180 athletes completed the survey, compared to 1640 in Doha at the last World Championships.



Survey participation showed a marked improvement compared to previous championships, indicating stronger athlete engagement and effective promotion strategies. The response volume provides a solid foundation for meaningful analysis and evidence-based improvements.



ARTICLES



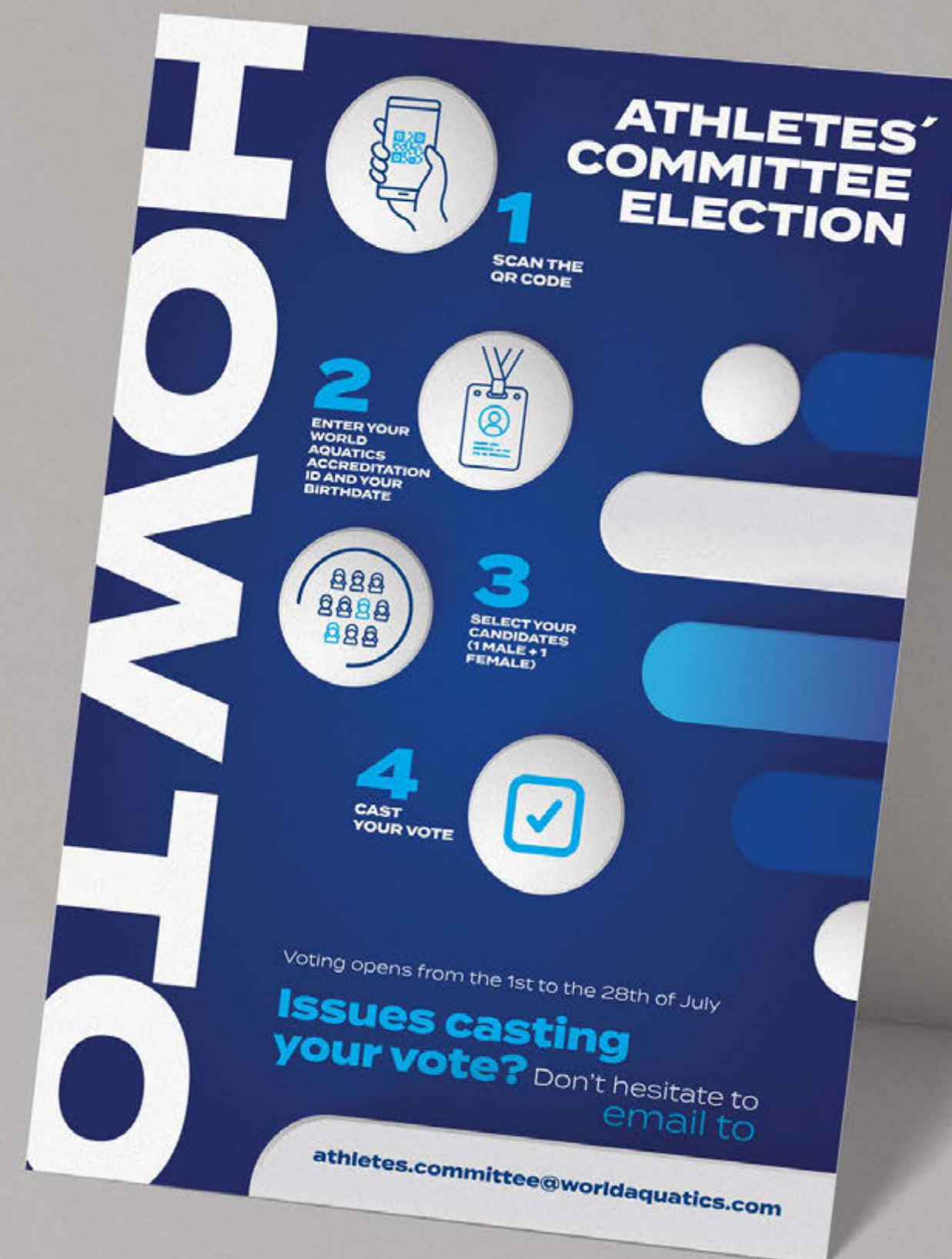
ATHLETES' COMMITTEE ELECTION

The year 2025 marked the conclusion of one Athletes' Committee term and the beginning of a new one. The World Aquatics Athletes' Committee is composed of both elected and appointed members.

20 ATHLETES

A total of 20 athletes were elected by their peers during the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025.

Candidates were nominated by their respective National Federations, with a maximum of one nomination per Member federation across all disciplines.



Of the 20 elected positions, 10 are allocated to swimming, with representation structured as one male and one female athlete per continent, ensuring both gender balance and continental equality. The remaining disciplines – open water swimming, diving, high diving, artistic swimming, and water polo – each elected one male and one female representative to the Athletes' Committee, further reinforcing World Aquatics' commitment to equitable gender representation across all disciplines.

10 ATHLETES REPRESENTING SWIMMING



Respectively, 1 male and 1 female athlete representing each of the following disciplines:



In total, 44 candidates stood for the 20 elected positions. Athletes competing at the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 were eligible to vote for their representatives, with voting open from 5 to 28 July 2025. Each athlete was permitted to vote once for a candidate within their own discipline; in the case of swimming, votes were further restricted to candidates from the same continent.

Voting was conducted online via a dedicated platform, with athletes required to log in using their personal identification number and date of birth. To support participation, athletes were actively encouraged to vote during the Championships in Athletes' Lounges at each venue, with assistance from volunteers and current Athletes' Committee Members.

Following the close of voting, the World Aquatics Bureau appointed an additional six appointed members and six honorary members to complete the committee.

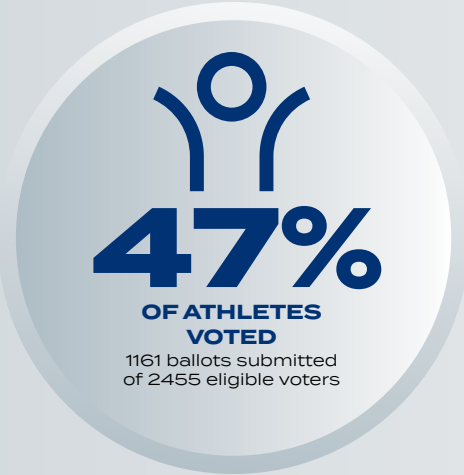
ARTICLES



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READ MORE



The 2025 Athletes' Committee elections saw strong engagement from the athlete community. The current Athletes' Committee actively encouraged participation, resulting in nearly 50% of eligible athletes casting their votes—a very positive turnout that demonstrates significant interest and support for athlete representation.

The overall voter engagement reflects a growing awareness of the importance of having a voice in governance and decision-making processes within World Aquatics. The elections were successfully completed, and all positions were filled in accordance with the established procedures.

Following the announcement of the appointed and honorary members of the Committee, World Aquatics invited both elected and appointed members to express their interest in standing for the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Honorary Secretary. After nominations were confirmed, all Committee members were given a deadline to cast their votes.

Jacqueline Simoneau was elected as Chair, Siobhan Haughey as Vice-Chair, and Marko Bijac as Honorary Secretary.

	Last Name	First Name	Gender
ELECTED MEMBERS			
1.	DLAMINI	SIWAKHILE	F
1.	SALIBOKO	COLLINS	M
1.	SOTOMAYOR	ALEXIA	F
1.	IGA CESAR	JORGE ANDRES	M
1.	HAUGHEY	SIOBHAN	F
1.	WANG	SHUN	M
1.	RUSHTON	SIMONA	F
1.	AUBOECK	FELIX	M
1.	ROVA	CHEYENNE VICTORIA ROSIMERE	F
1.	ROBERTS	WESLEY TIKIARIKI	M
1.	CUNHA	ANA MARCELA	F
1.	FARINANGO BERRU	DAVID ANDRES	M
1.	CARBONELL BALLESTERO	ONA	F
1.	MAY	BILL	M
1.	WU	MELISSA	F
1.	LAUGHER	JACK	M
1.	VAN KATWIJK	GINNI	F
1.	PREDA	CATALIN-PETRU	M
1.	KESZTHELYI	RITA	F
1.	BIJAC	MARKO	M

	Last Name	First Name	Gender
APPOINTED MEMBERS			
1.	BALANDIN	DMITRIY	M
1.	PICTON	ZACH	M
1.	STEFFENS	MAGGIE	F
1.	SIMONEAU	JACQUELINE	F
1.	VAN ROUWENDAAL	SHARON	F
1.	WESEMANN	MORITZ	M
HONORARY MEMBERS			
1.	LUNKUSE	JAMILA	F
1.	KROMOWIDJOJO	RANOMI	F
1.	KNIGHT-WISDOM	YONA	M
1.	MARTINENGHI	NICOLO	M
1.	TANAMURA	KATSUYUKI	M
1.	COOPER	ISAAC	M
IOC ATHLETE			
1.	PELLEGRINI	Federica	F

WEBINARS ON WOMEN HEALTH

In 2025, World Aquatics officially launched a new webinar series dedicated to women's health, with a specific focus on menstrual health. This initiative built on the strong engagement generated during the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Budapest in December 2024, where menstrual health prompted meaningful discussions within athlete and coach workshops.

Open to athletes, coaches, national federations, and support staff, the series aimed to promote education, reduce stigma, and encourage open, evidence-based conversations around key health topics affecting female athletes. The webinars were delivered via Zoom in April, June, September, and December 2025 and featured a highly interactive format, including live polls and Q&A sessions.

2025
APRIL

2025
JUNE

2025
SEPTEMBER

2025
DECEMBER



The series was led by Olympic swimming gold medallist Pernille Blume (Denmark) and open water swimming Olympian Caroline Jouis (France), alongside Marine Dupuit, Sport Scientist at the French Institute of Sport Performance, and elite coach Tom Rushton.

The specific topics of the webinars:



The webinar series proved to be highly successful, attracting more than 1,000 participants across the four sessions. In a sporting landscape where women’s health and menstrual health in particular can still be considered taboo, this level of engagement clearly demonstrates both the need for these conversations and the strong desire among athletes, coaches, and support staff to better understand and openly address these topics with female athletes.

The series has continued to grow and is already having a meaningful impact across the global aquatics’ community. While there was an initial recognition of the need for education in this area, the level of engagement from athletes and coaches worldwide exceeded expectations. Understanding the menstrual cycle is a powerful tool for any female athlete, and these webinars have created a safe and supportive space for participants to learn, ask questions, and share experiences.

Encouraging athletes to track their cycles helps them better understand their bodies and take control of their health and performance. The fact that these conversations are now taking place openly represents a significant step forward for women in aquatic sports.



QUOTES FROM THE EXPERTS

“It’s been incredible to see how these webinars have grown and the impact they’re having across the aquatic’s community. When we started this series, we knew there was a need for these conversations, but the engagement we’ve seen from athletes and coaches around the world has been very impressive. Understanding your cycle is such a powerful tool for any female athlete.”

Pernille Blume

“What I’ve loved most about this webinar series is seeing how it’s creating a safe space for athletes to learn and share their experiences. Tracking your cycle helps to understand your body and take control of your health. The fact that we’re having these conversations openly now is a huge step forward for women in aquatic sports.”

Caroline Jouis

“Across all these webinars that World Aquatics has initiated, the most important takeaway has been recognising the menstrual cycle as a key component of athlete health, not something separate from performance. Sharing knowledge on this topic is essential if we want to support female athletes in a more informed, holistic and sustainable way.”

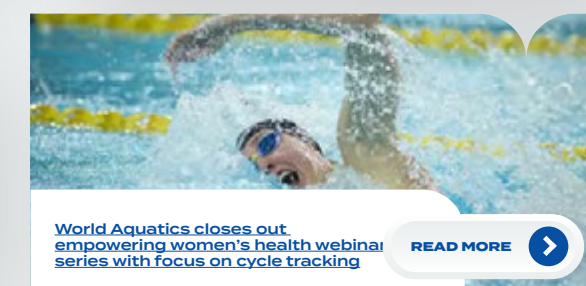
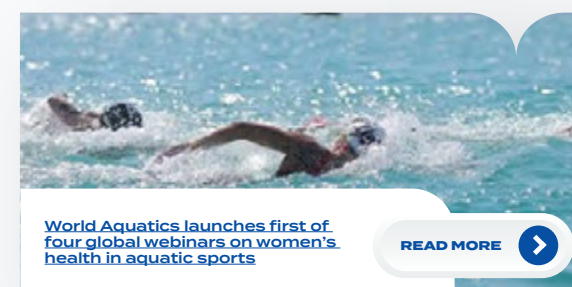
Marine Dupuit

“As a coach, being part of this series has been eye-opening. The more we understand about the menstrual cycle and its effects, the better we can support our athletes. I’ve seen first-hand how valuable having these important conversations can be, for athlete wellbeing and performance.”

Tom Rushton



ARTICLES



FROM PODIUMS TO POSSIBILITIES – ATHLETES CAREER SUMMIT

From 3 to 5 December 2025, World Aquatics delivered the inaugural Athletes Career Summit: From Podium to Possibilities, reinforcing its commitment to athlete welfare and long-term development beyond competitive sport. The three-day Summit was designed to support elite athletes as they transition from high-performance careers to new professional and personal pathways.

The Summit brought together 18 elite athletes, including Olympic and World Champions. Participants were selected based on their recent retirement or their intention to retire at the end of the current Olympic cycle. The group comprised 10 swimmers and 8 athletes from Artistic Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Open Water Swimming, representing all five continents, ensuring diversity of experience and perspective.

The Athletes Career Summit aimed to:



**CELEBRATE ATHLETES'
COMPETITIVE CAREERS
AND ACHIEVEMENTS**



**PROVIDE A SAFE AND
TRUSTED ENVIRONMENT
FOR REFLECTION AND
DIALOGUE**



**EQUIP ATHLETES WITH
PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR
CAREER TRANSITION**



**ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY,
CONFIDENCE AND A SPIRIT
OF GIVING BACK TO SPORT**



Athletes' Career
Summit 2025



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Summit programme combined inspirational content with practical learning and peer exchange. It included:

- **Two panel sessions**
- **Four breakout sessions**
- **One DiSC personality assessment session**

Discussions and activities were facilitated by Anthony Ervin, Olympic and World Swimming Champion, and Ana Jelušić Black, three-time Olympic alpine skier, who served as Master of Ceremony.

SPEAKERS AND CONTENT

The Summit featured contributions from leading figures across sport, business and leadership. Coy Wire, former NFL player and CNN Sports Anchor, delivered the keynote address. Additional speakers included Ivan Rakitić, former professional footballer and UEFA Foundation Trustee; Cameron van der Burgh, Olympic gold medallist and hedge fund manager; Bill O'Brien, entrepreneur and former professional lacrosse player; Claudio Gonzalez and Mathias Padilla from EXCENSY Group and Thomas Junod and Joël Pinson from the UEFA Academy.



Breakout sessions focused on:



The DiSC personality session, led by Nicola Rogers, World Aquatics HR Director, supported athletes in understanding their behavioural styles and how these translate into professional environments. The Summit represents a significant step in World Aquatics' ongoing commitment to athlete well-being, career sustainability and holistic development, ensuring that athletes are supported not only during their competitive careers, but throughout their lives beyond sport.

The Athlete Career Summit: From Podium to Possibilities delivered a high-impact learning and development experience, equipping participating athletes with practical skills, mentorship and strategic insight to support successful transitions beyond elite competition. The programme strengthened athletes' capacity to translate sport-derived competencies, such as discipline, resilience, adaptability and leadership into new professional and personal contexts.

World Aquatics conducted a post-event evaluation survey to assess participant satisfaction and perceived impact. Feedback was exceptionally strong across all areas of the programme. All survey questions received ratings between 8.0 and 9.9, indicating a consistently high level of satisfaction with the content, delivery, relevance and overall organisation of the Summit. Notably, the survey generated exclusively positive qualitative feedback, highlighting the value athletes placed on the safe environment for open discussion, the quality of speakers, and the practical relevance of the sessions.

Overall, the evaluation confirms that the Athlete Career Summit successfully met its objectives and addressed a critical need within the athlete community. The overwhelmingly positive feedback demonstrates the effectiveness of the initiative and reinforces World Aquatics' commitment to athlete welfare, holistic development and long-term career sustainability beyond competitive sport.

The success of the inaugural Athlete Career Summit clearly demonstrates the importance and relevance of proactively addressing athlete career transition within the World Aquatics community. The strong engagement and exceptional feedback underline a clear need for structured, long-term support in this area. In response, World Aquatics will develop and implement a dedicated post-career support programme in 2026, building on the Summit's outcomes to provide continued guidance, resources and opportunities for athletes as they prepare for life beyond competitive sport.



QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I think the most beneficial thing to note was don't do it all yourself ... I would tell every athlete if there is another Summit where people want to help you for after your career, just do it."

Sharon van Rouwendaal

"We have this culture in high performance where you have to be [totally focused] on your sport and that's all you can do and ... starting to think about your passions outside of the pool from an early age can be really beneficial."

Dylan Carter

"It was a great opportunity for us to discuss and to share our experiences and it was a super positive way to get together amongst all [aquatics] disciplines ... talking with the other athletes and experts was amazing."

Felipe Perrone



PARTICIPANTS

Last Name	First Name	Discipline	Country
 Campbell	Bronte	SW	 Australia
 Carter	Dylan	SW	 Trinidad and Tobago
 Crooks	Jordan	SW	 Cayman Islands
 Fink	Nic	SW	 USA
 Kim	Seoyeong	SW	 Republic Korea
 Kromowidjojo	Ranomi	SW	 Netherlands
 Laugher	Jack	DV	 Great Britain
 Le Clos	Chad	SW	 South Africa
 Mandic	Dusan	WP	 Serbia
 May	Bill	AS	 USA
 McKay	Caeli	DV	 Canada
 McKeon	Emma	SW	 Australia
 Minisini	Giorgio	AS	 Italy
 Osman	Farida	SW	 Egypt
 Perrone	Felipe	WP	 Spain
 Platanioti	Evangelia	AS	 Greece
 Shioura	Shinri	SW	 Japan
 Van Rouwendaal	Sharon	OW	 Netherlands

SPEAKERS & MC

Last Name	First Name	Company	Role
	Anthony		
	Claudio	EXCENSY Group	Founder & CEO
	Ana	Black Peak Consulting	Master of Ceremony
	Thomas	UEFA Academy	Head of the UEFA Academy
	Bill	Herculean Path Ventures	Founder
	Mathias	EXCENSY Group	Founder of AIM (EXCENSY Group) and Creative Director
	Joël	UEFA Academy	UEFA Programme and Management Expert
	Ivan	HNK Hajduk Split	Technical Director
	Nicola		
	Cameron	Millenium	Hedge Fund Manager
	Coy	CNN	Sports anchor and correspondent

ARTICLE



From podium to possibilities: World Aquatics host inaugural Athletes' Career Summit

READ MORE



PROGRAMME

Day 1 – 03/12/25 – 19:00 to 23:00

19:00 – 19:30	Overall introduction of the 3 days
19:30	Dinner

Day 2 – 04/12/2025 – all day

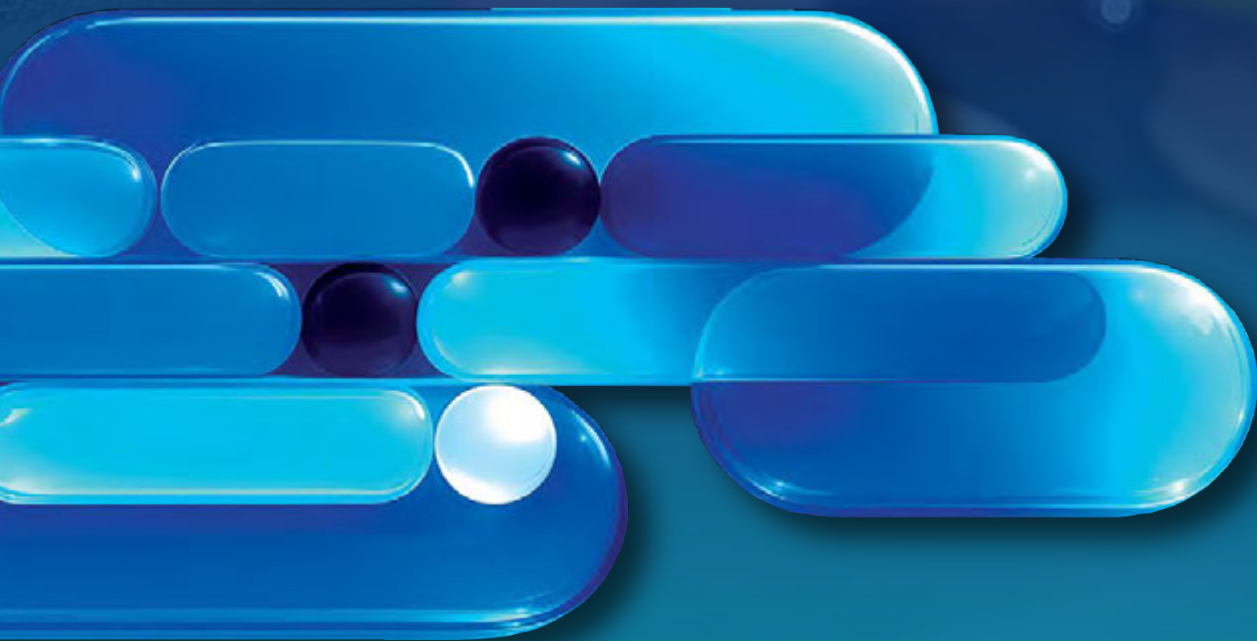
8:30 – 8:45	Introduction of the day by the MC.
8:45 – 10:15	Panel discussion with Coy Wire
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:45	Panel discussion with Cameron Van Der Burgh, Ivan Rakitic and Bill O'Brian
11:45 – 12:45	1st Breakout Session
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:45	2nd Breakout Session
14:45 – 15:45	3rd Breakout Session
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:15	Final Breakout Session
17:15	Brent J. Nowicki (AQUA Executive Director) remarks
18:30	Dinner – Café du Grütli Lausanne

Day 3 – 05/12/25 – 9:00 to 13:00

9:00 – 9:15	Introduction of the day by the MC
9:15 – 11:30	DISC discussion with Nicola Rogers (AQUA HR Director)
11:30 – 12:00	Global conclusion
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch and visit of the Olympic Museum



BUDGET SPENT
\$188,949



MASTERS EDUCATION

MASTERS EDUCATION



The 2025 World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore brought over 6,000 athletes together for competitions in swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, and open water swimming events. For the first time, a Masters Education Programme offered workshops and talks, both online before the event with Dr Miller on seasonal training and in-person, on stroke technique with Nadine Day, and the Journey of an Olympian with Ryan Pini sharing expertise and inspiring stories. The event combined competition and learning, reflecting World Aquatics' goal of keeping the global aquatics community united and healthy.



QUOTES

"I'm proud to contribute to the Singapore 2025 Masters Education Programme, helping athletes of all ages benefit from expert knowledge, and showing what's possible when experience meets opportunity"

Ryan Pini

"I love combining my professional expertise and coaching skills with my passion for aquatics to help people stay healthy and enjoy the water for a lifetime...I am excited about the World Aquatics Masters Education platform. The platform gives aging participants opportunities to learn, allowing them to stay healthy and keep swimming during their lifetime."

Nadine Day

World Aquatics Masters Chairperson, Physiotherapist and swim coach



ARTICLES



CONCLUSION

In 2025, World Aquatics consolidated the strong progress achieved in previous years across Development and Athletes' Services, with a clear focus on measurable impact, innovation, and long-term sustainability.

Development programmes further strengthened the capacity of Member Federations through expanded new education pathways for coaches and technical officials, enhanced technical support, and targeted initiatives promoting youth engagement and inclusion. The integration of digital learning tools and increased continental collaboration contributed to building a more resilient and self-sustaining global aquatics ecosystem.

On the Athletes' Services side, the holistic framework introduced in 2024 continued to evolve. Injury prevention, career transition, mental health resources, strengthened medical oversight, and dedicated attention to women's health remained central priorities. At major events, Athlete Lounges, workshops, and community outreach initiatives reinforced athlete engagement and amplified their voice within the global aquatics and sport movement.

Looking ahead to 2026, World Aquatics is determined to take the next step, expanding applied research in performance and well-being, scaling grassroots impact, and delivering more personalised athlete support services. These ambitions set the stage for transformative progress and a new phase of sustainable growth for aquatics worldwide.

TEAM PRESENTATION

At World Aquatics, the Development and Athletes' Services Department is guided by a clear vision defined by the **President and the Bureau of World Aquatics**: to place athletes, members, and the global aquatics community at the heart of everything we do.

This vision is implemented by **Morgane Gaultier**, Director of Development and Athletes' Services, who leads the team in delivering high-quality programmes and initiatives for athletes, members, and stakeholders across the global aquatics community.

In 2025, Morgane oversaw a diverse and highly collaborative team structure designed to support the full aquatic ecosystem.

The Development unit is led by **Vita Balsyte**, Development Senior Manager, who managed a team organised around four key pillars: Athletes, Athletes' Entourage, Membership and Community:

- Within the Athletes pillar, **Melissa Caballero** coordinated the team, working closely with **Bence Biczó** on the management of the World Aquatics Scholarships and the Stipendium Hungaricum programme. In addition, a major milestone in 2025 was the opening of the World Aquatics Training Centre in Bahrain. The Scholarship programme at this centre is managed locally by **Yusuf Ali**, with **Johanna Gustafsdottir** appointed as our first on-site coach.
- The Athletes' Entourage pillar focused on strengthening the people surrounding athletes. **Heli Maija Koukkari** joined to lead global coaches' development, while **Marie Gex-Fabry** began the year working on Technical Officials programmes before transitioning mid-year to take over Membership programmes. At the same time, **Liam McLin** led the development of our new E-Learning Platform CORAL, working closely with **Filip Kokotovic** to bring this strategic project to life.
- For the Membership pillar, **William Salvi** initially managed members' programmes at the start of the year, before Marie took over during the second half.
- William then fully transitioned to the Community pillar, where he now focuses exclusively on supporting and expanding community-driven initiatives across the world. This pillar was initially led entirely by Vita.

The team works closely with **James Gibson** and **Felipe Perrone**, who collaborate on swimming and water polo development programmes. Their expertise plays a key role in supporting the worldwide growth and professionalisation of these two disciplines.

Alongside Development, the Athletes' Services unit is led by **Jessica Kees**, who oversees the implementation and delivery of targeted programmes designed to support athletes throughout their careers.

Medical and Scientific Activities unit is managed by **Johan Lefebvre**, our Medical Manager, who oversees research projects as well as the medical and scientific conferences organised or attended by World Aquatics.

In addition, **Nikolaus Schoenfeldt** leads the Masters unit programmes and, for the first time in 2025, introduced dedicated workshops for Masters participants, further enhancing their experience and engagement.

Finally, the team was delighted to welcome two athletes' interns in 2025 with **Emily Rogers** and **Nefeli Giannopoulou**, who contributed to a variety of projects throughout the year and collaborated across different World Aquatics departments, bringing valuable athlete perspectives into our daily work.

Together, the Development and Athletes' Services Department form a highly committed and collaborative team delivering impactful programmes worldwide. Through their collective efforts, they provide significant support to members, athletes, coaches, technical officials, and the wider aquatics community, strengthening development pathways, expanding opportunities, and contributing to the continuous growth of aquatic sports globally.