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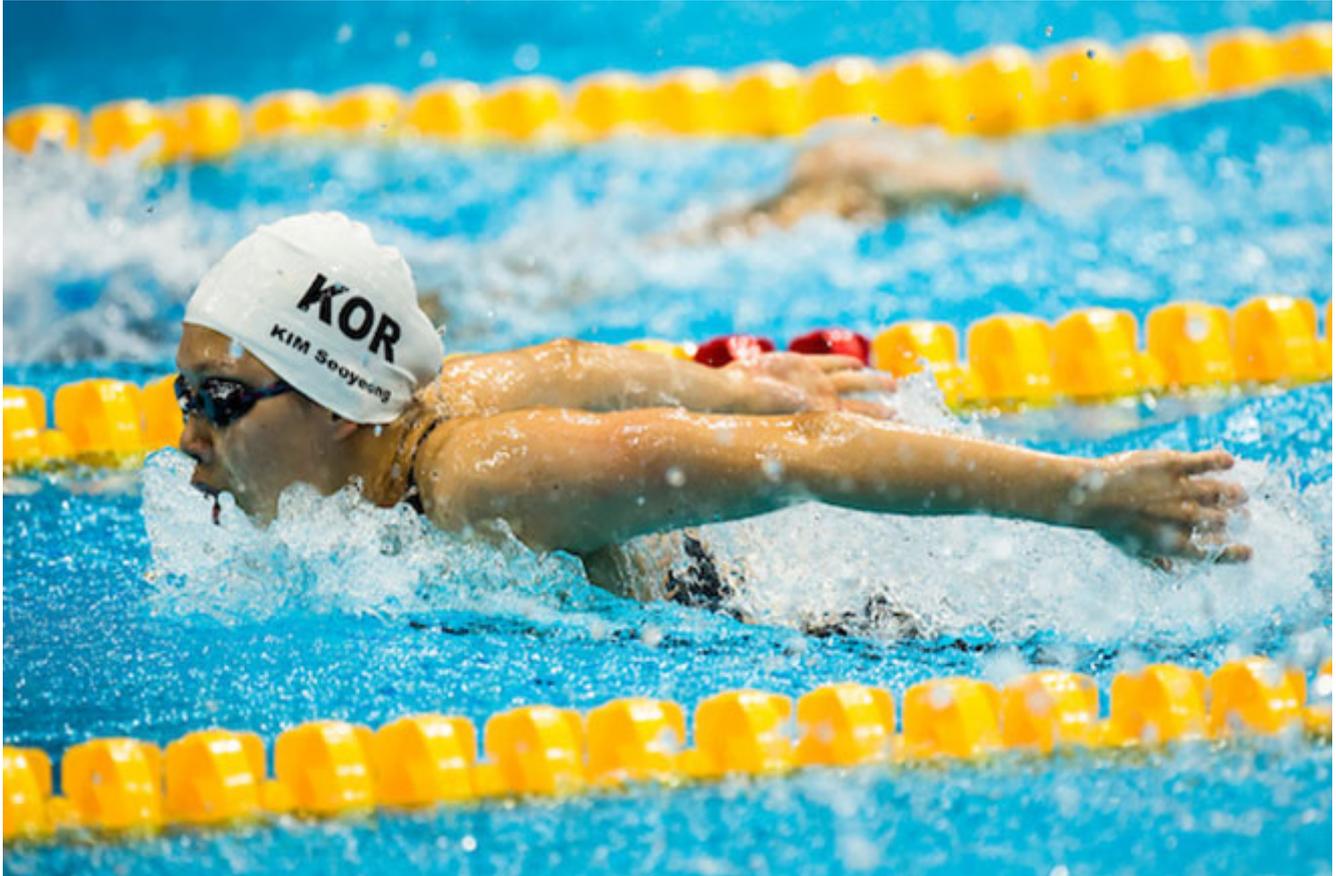
# NEWSLETTER

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June 19, 2019

## FINAL COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR GWANGJU 2019



The 18th FINA World Championships, in Gwangju, Korea, is less than a month away (July 12-28) and final venue and organisation preparations are being completed.

The modern village, that will be divided into three separate zones, is set to welcome the aquatic elite athletes as well as the officials and the international media covering the championships, while sports venues are also in the last stages of preparation to host FINA's six disciplines.

A total of five venues will be in operation in Gwangju and Yeosu: The Gwangju's Nambu University (swimming, water polo, diving) is the first venue in the nation to adopt a state-of-the-art operation system to provide the best water quality for the athletes and is on the path to become one of Asia's most user friendly swimming facilities. The temporary water polo field will be built on a football pitch adjacent to the University. After the competition, the football field will be restored to its initial purpose.

While Gwangju's strengths lie in the quality of the venues, an efficient transportation plan, suitable accommodation, excellent TV production and good promotion plan, the local Organising Committee is assuring that the city is ready to welcome FINA showcase, the third in Asia after Fukuoka (JPN, 2001) and Shanghai (CHN, 2011).

Confident of an excellent outcome next July, FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione said:

*"The Gwangju proposal was quite attractive and we knew Korea had an enormous potential to organise a major event of this calibre. Your country has hosted the summer and winter Olympic Games, as well as many other international events, and this accumulated experience is a precious asset to ensure a successful organisation of the FINA World Championships. The Gwangju bid was quite solid and we have received those guarantees from both the city of Gwangju, but also from the Government of Korea."*

President Maglione added:

*“The event will generate a lot of interest from the youth and children all around the country. Many of today’s stars have initiated and are excelling in aquatic sports after watching their heroes on the TV screens during their childhood. I am sure that some future Korean stars will say, in some years from now, that it all started by following their idols at these FINA World Championships in Gwangju.”*

Take a look at the competition schedule on [FINA website](#) and follow the action this summer on [FINAtv](#).

[More on fina.org](#)

## BUDAPEST HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FIRST ARTISTIC SWIMMING SUPER FINAL



The third edition of the [FINA Artistic Swimming World Series](#) concluded in Budapest, Hungary, on Sunday June 16. After eight legs around the world, the Series terminated with the Super Final which gathered the circuit’s best athletes based on the ranking, offering an attractive and rewarding prize money.

The Ukrainian girls largely dominated the Super Final and earned seven gold medals out of the 10 titles at stake. The remaining victories went to Russia (two) and Spain (one).

On the occasion, two-time male World champion Aleksandr Maltsev of Russia clinched two gold medals in the mixed duet technical and free routines. Entering a very successful season, Maltsev shared his dream for the World Championships with FINA.

*“There is no secret in success at all. Each time, when we compete, we set ourselves the goal to perform such a way, as we have decided previously, as we have imagined. There are always certain circumstances: tiredness, lack of concentration, unexpected things, that can set our performance back.”*

*“Whenever we win, we always have the idea in mind to perform our programme at the highest possible level and perfection. Since the last World Championships I have changed my partner (Mayya Gurbanberdieva), it is our 8th performance with Mayya. This is the tenth and last time I have performed this programme. For the World Championships we have created a totally new programme. That is why it was important to do this programme as close to perfection as it could be. To our greatest pleasure this was the highest score we have ever got for this programme and I am really proud of it. I hope our next programme will be even better and of higher level.”*

*“I am already two times World champion and my goal is to win in the next World Championships in South Korea in both disciplines (technical and free) three weeks from now. We would be extremely happy if we could do that with the new programme showing an impeccable performance. When you win it, it is always a great pleasure and satisfaction, although you always have in your mind how you could do it even better, how to correct or improve minor mistakes.”*

*“This discipline is already an organic part of the World and European Championships and the World Series. I really hope, that after showing our programme at the next World Championships, it will be included in the Olympic programme in 2024, as the mixed pair is really spectacular and enjoyable for the audience. We are working hard on including this mixed pair programme into the already accepted disciplines and break the dominance of female programmes. This way, more boys will be inspired to take on this sport and the artistic swimming will also get some momentum by raising its popularity.”*

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## UPSETTING START FOR HUNGARY AS CANADA WINS – THE STORM SAVES SERBIA

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Canada stunned the Hungarians on the opening day of the FINA Men's Water Polo World League Super Final in Belgrade, Serbia, on June 18.

Though the Magyars rested their biggest stars, still, this defeat counts as an upset against the determined North Americans.

In the opening match, Croatia netted 20 goals to down Kazakhstan, later Spain defeated Japan with ease too.

The last match was extended well into the night as a thunderstorm hit the venue and the play had to be suspended in the game between host Serbia and Australia. The Aussies had a great start but after being 5-4 before the lightning, they lost the 'post-storm' part 3-8.

The Canadians have been transformed into a finely built team under the guidance of Italy's legendary player and coach Pino Porzio and they just showed that on the first day as they managed to earn a historical first-ever win over Hungary. They jumped to a 1-5 lead in the first half but the Magyars put everything together to climb back and after 4-7 they could equalise at 9-9. Still, Canada had the last laugh, a goal 90 seconds before the end and a second stopped Hungarian penalty soon, to gain a well-deserved victory.

Read the detailed game reports on [FINA website](#).

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The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide.

Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in



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25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

