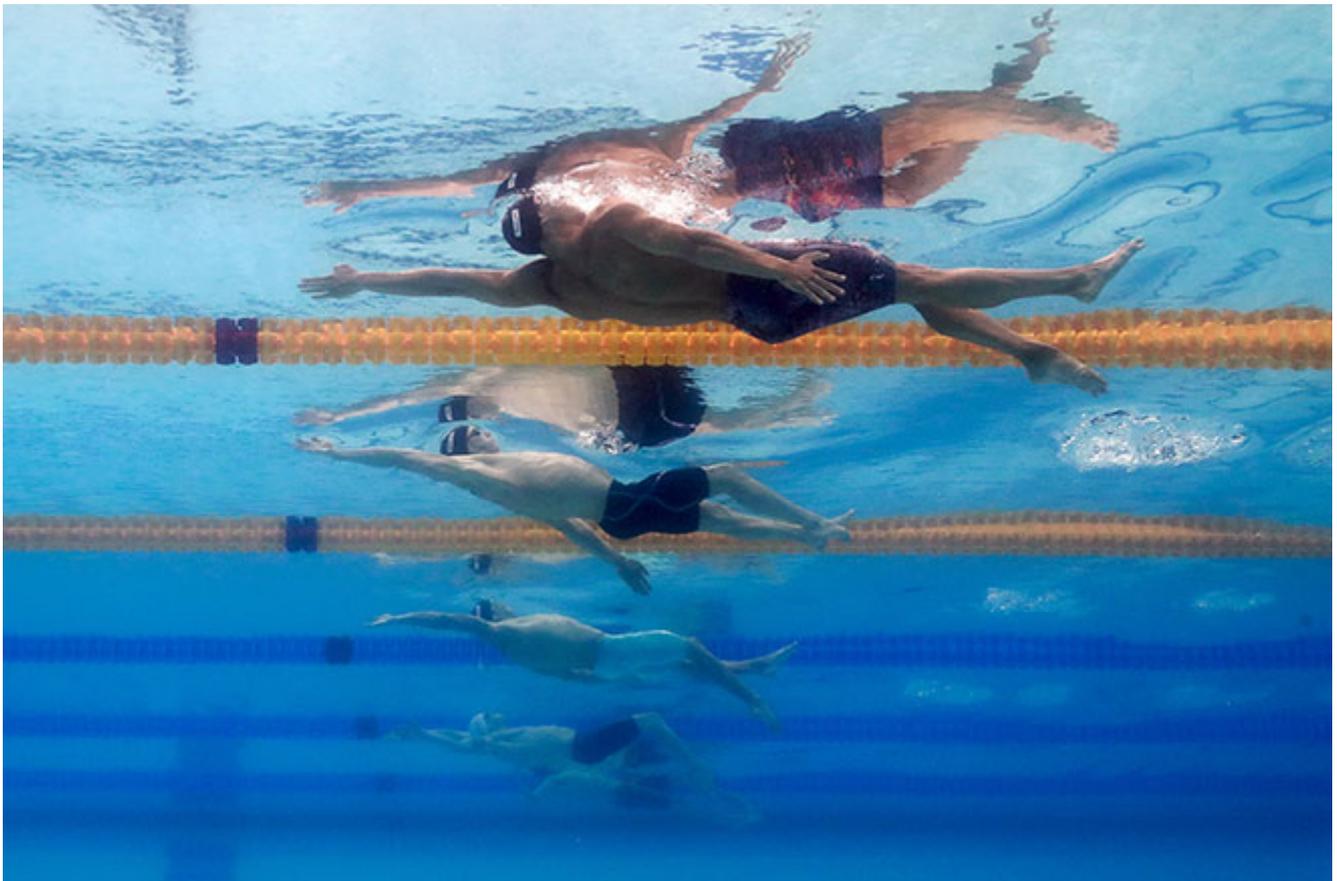


March 20, 2019

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FINA'S NEWEST SWIMMING COMPETITION TO LAUNCH NEXT MONTH



Next month, from April 27-28, the first meet of the first ever edition of the FINA Champions Swim Series will inaugurate the three-leg 2019 circuit in Guangzhou, China.

As entry lists are being carefully put together on an invite-only basis, many big swimming names have confirmed their participation and a warm welcome was received for the new top-notch Series so far.

Elite athletes from the five continents are ready to compete in thrilling races, not only setting the pace for the 2019 season, but also defining (or reconfirming) the world hierarchy before two important rendezvous, the 2019 FINA World Championships in Gwangju (KOR) and the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo (JPN).

The second leg will be held in Budapest (HUN) from May 11-12, while the third and last meet will be staged in Indianapolis (USA) from May 31-June 1.

These three partners in Asia, Europe and America responded “present” when asked by FINA to support this innovative concept, which will lead to the improvement of Swimming’s image and exposure around the globe.

From the organisers’ side, Guangzhou, Budapest and Indianapolis will largely benefit from this additional opportunity to enhance their position of sports cities on the world map. The three Organisers are doing their utmost to provide optimal condition for all Series’ participants. They are solid and long-time FINA partners and they couldn’t miss this opportunity to make history in the sport of Swimming. FINA is carefully following the respective preparations for the event, and is quite confident and optimistic for an excellent outcome.

FINA is conscious of the Aquatics attractiveness in the ever growing and challenging current sports environment. FINA's disciplines generate a huge interest from the spectators on site, but also from fans, remotely connected worldwide. This is due to the fascination for our Stars, who are constantly giving their best to raise the level in their respective disciplines.

FINA is already recognising the athletes effort, by providing financial support to their participation in our major events, by regularly improving the prize money for the best, and by paying a fair tribute to their performance through our annual "FINA World Aquatics Gala – Soirée des Etoiles".

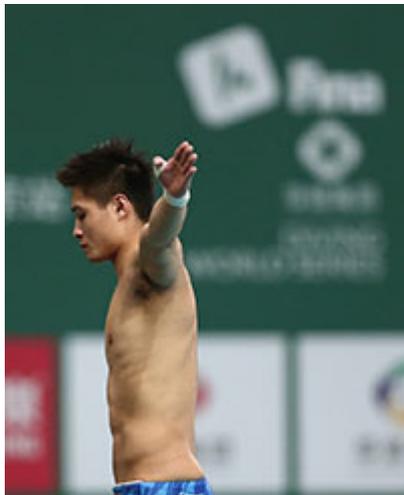
The new Champions Swim Series is FINA's latest innovation to jump into an even more spectacular way to display and present our events. This is the philosophy behind the creation of the event which focuses on the sports presentation with ultimate aim to attract the top-stars of our sports in a competition where "sport" and "entertainment" are the key words.

With a new competition format – only four athletes per race, taking part in a final-only race -, an unprecedented level of prize money and very attractive conditions for participation, this circuit will surely create a milestone in the Swimming calendar and will very soon become an unmissable competition for our athletes.

[...]

[More on fina.org](https://www.fina.org)

CHINESE STARS LEAD DIVING WORLD SERIES 2019 RANKINGS



Cao Yuan / Xie Siyi, Yang Jian / Wang Han, Shi Tingmao and Zhang Jiaqi of China are currently leading the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series 2019 ranking with 34 or 36 points after two Asian legs in Sagami-hara (JPN) and Beijing (CHN) on March 1-3 and March 7-9 respectively.

Team China has proved its complete dominance of the event by securing all gold medals at stake in the first two meets of the year but also securing the second position of the men's 10m event with Chen Aisen (28 points). Canada's Meaghan Benfeito however holds the second place in the women's 10m with 30 points.

Great Britain Jack Laugher and Thomas Daley have also been off a flying start at this

year's Series as they rank third in the men's 3m and men's 10m with 28 points respectively.

In addition to capturing the first rank of the men and women's synchronised events, China is also the best in both the mixed events with 54 points each time.

Pairs from Mexico and Russia respectively rank second in the men's 3m and 10m respectively with 48 points, while Australia and DPR Korea are currently second in the same events (women) with 45 points and 48 points.

Check out the [results](#) and [full ranking](#) on FINA website and on FINA mobile app.

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FOURTEEN TEAMS TO MAKE A SPLASH AT FIRST EUROPA CUP FINALS

While both the men and women's FINA Water Polo World League Intercontinental-Cups are set to kick-off in Perth, Australia, next week from March 26-31, the European teams have just completed their last round of preliminaries after battling it out in the pool since November 2018.

Eight men teams and six women teams have qualified to take part in the first ever edition of the FINA / LEN Water Polo World League Europa-Cup Finals, to be held in Turin (ITA, women) from March 29-31 and Zagreb (CRO, men) from April 5-7 respectively.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In the men's tournament, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia were the leaders of their respective groups after playing six Game Days across Europe. The final ranking was as follows:

- **GROUP A:** 1. Hungary 17 pts; Russia 12 pts; Germany 7 pts; Malta 0
- **GROUP B:** 1. Spain 15 pts; Greece 15 pts; ; Netherlands 6 pts; Ukraine 0
- **GROUP C:** 1. Italy 10 pts; Montenegro 8 pts; France 0
- **GROUP D:** 1. Croatia 10 pts; Serbia 8 pts; Romania 0

Russia, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Greece and the Netherlands were the best feminine squads as the final ranking after ten Game Days was as follows:

- **GROUP A:** 1. Russia 17pts; Spain 13pts; Greece 6pts; Israel 0
- **GROUP B:** 1. Italy 15pts; Hungary 11pts; Netherlands 10pts; France 0

The Europa Cup Finals are a unique opportunity for Europe's best teams to take part in an European-only high level tournament and to secure a berth to the FINA Water Polo World League Super Final which will be staged in June 2018 in Budapest (HUN, women) and Belgrade (SRB, men). The three best teams of each tournament will earn a spot to the Super Finals.

The following non-European teams are taking part in the women's Intercontinental Cup in Perth:

- **GROUP A:** New Zealand, USA, China, Japan
- **GROUP B:** Canada, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Australia

While the men's teams taking part in the Perth event are:

- **GROUP A:** Canada, Japan, South Africa, Australia
- **GROUP B:** Kazakhstan, China, Argentina, New Zealand

Daily games reports will be published on [FINA website](#), while all results and rankings will be accessible on the FINA mobile app or [FINA website](#).

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Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)

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

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).

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