

May 1, 2019

CSS: ATHLETES SHARE POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM GUANGZHOU



Designed with the stars of swimming in mind, FINA has been extremely satisfied by the positive reactions of champions invited to take part in the inaugural leg of the FINA Champions Swim Series in Guangzhou, China.

Sarah Sjostrom (SWE) said: *"Thanks FINA for inviting me to compete in the first leg of the Series. It is very interesting that swimming has changed a lot this year. A lot of new competitions are coming up. I managed to win two events today. It is great to be here and to challenge the best swimmers before the World Championships in Gwangju, Korea, in July,"*

"It was great to have the opportunity to compete with the best swimmers more often. Usually we only compete against each other at the World Championships and the Olympic Games. It is very important for the sport of swimming."

Katinka Hosszu (HUN) echoed the founder of the modern Olympic Games with her emphasis on the importance of participation. Hosszu was one of the swimmers who took part in the Mixed 4x100 Medley Relay with teams drawn at random just before the race, another innovation: *"The meaning of the competition is not the victory or results, but the race itself. I competed a lot and I just tried my best. And this new competition may push more swimmers, more stimulus and have more fans, and make swimming more popular and generate more revenue for the sport and the swimmers. The entertainment part of the competition was so good!"*

The FINA Champions Swim Series combined innovations in both sports presentation and format, including a pre-competition draw to decide the relay teams, to deliver a fresh and stimulating experience for spectators, fans and athletes alike: *"I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere with the audience and the breath-taking race,"* said Fu Yuanhui (CHN).

Her comments were echoed by Ben Proud (GBR): *"I think FINA, the swimmers and the audience together can make a successful Champions Swim Series."*

Kliment Kolesnikov (RUS) clearly enjoyed the innovations, too: *"I think the fun part of this new competition was the music and the dance show before and after the events. It made both the swimmers and the fans excited and relaxed."*

Ye Shiwen (CHN) enjoyed the camaraderie among this select group of elite athletes: *"This competition was a great chance to communicate with the best swimmers in the world."*

While Felipe Lima (BRA) can't wait for more: *"I hope I can swim faster in the next leg and wish this kind of competitions were more available."*

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HALFWAY THROUGH THE DWS 2019, CHINA RULES



Team China is the dominant force of the discipline for many decades now and the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series 2019 currently underway is no exception to the rule.

After three legs in Sagami-hara (JPN), Beijing (CHN) and Montreal (CAN) and with another two to go in Kazan and London, Chinese Xie Siyi and Yang Jian among the men, and Wang Han and Zhang Jiaqi in the women's

competition, are atop their respective event ranking.

World champion Xie Siyi is the best in the men's 3m with 52 points in front of teammate and Olympic champion Cao Yuan (48 points) and multiple Olympic medallist Jack Laugher of Great Britain (44 points), while World Cup gold medallist Yang Jian has also collected 52 points to dominate the 10m platform. Great Britain's Tom Daley is second in the 10m ranking despite his victory last weekend in Montreal (46 points).

Olympic winner Shi Tingmao secured the second ranking place so far with 50 points in the springboard event, while DPR Korea Kim Mi Rae is number two in the platform event with 26 points.

Team China is at the top of the rankings of every single synchro event, including the mixed 3m springboard and 10m platform.

Canada is the other nation amongst the top 10 in the Diving World Series 2019 with excellent results achieved throughout the season.

Last weekend's medal table in Montreal unfolded as follows:

CHN - 8G - 3S - 3B = 14

GBR - 1G - 1S - 3B = 4

PRK - 1G - 1S - 1B = 3

CAN - 0G - 2S - 1B = 3

MEX - 0G - 1S - 1B = 2

AUS - 0G - 0S - 2B = 2

RUS - 0G - 0S - 1B = 1

USA - 0G - 0S - 1B = 1

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SWC 2019: 50M-POOL ACTION FROM AUGUST TO NOVEMBER

The calendar of the 2019 FINA Swimming World Cup is now finalised and comprises seven meets distributed in three clusters: in August, immediately after the

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



conclusion of the 18th FINA World Championships in Gwangju (KOR), swimming stars will first visit Tokyo (JPN, August 2-4), then Jinan, in China (August 8-10), and finally Singapore on August 15-17.

After a pause in September, the second cluster will see action in Budapest (HUN), on October 4-6, and then in Berlin (GER) on October 11-13. It is a “return” of the German capital to the circuit – since 2000, Berlin is a traditional, and successful host of a Swimming World Cup leg, having only missed the organisation of an event in 2014, 2015 and 2018.

Berlin’s Secretary of State for Sports, Aleksander Dzembitzki, is particularly happy that once again the sports metropolis Berlin is becoming part of the FINA Swimming World Cup Series: “With the Schwimm- und Sprunghalle im Europasportpark we offer one of the best and one of the fastest pools in Europe and therefore provide excellent conditions for top-class swimming. From now on, the FINA World Cup will again be a fixed event on the German capital’s sports calendar. Swimming fans from Berlin can look forward to great competitions.”

Finally, the World Cup will come to an end during the third cluster of the Series, in Kazan (RUS, November 1-3) and Doha (QAT - November 7-9).

For 2019 (it will be the 31st edition of the World Cup), all the meets will take place in a 50m-pool and will be qualifying events for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo (JPN).

The FINA Swimming World Cup provides a total of over US\$ 2.5 million in prize money to the best athletes, distributed as follows: meet prize money – US\$ 1million; cluster prize money – US\$ 942’000; overall prize money for series winners – US\$ 600’000.

This year’s circuit is also highlighted by an important novelty: the partnership of FINA with natural mineral water supplier NongFu Spring, leader in the Chinese market. This agreement extends to the upcoming four editions of the competition, until 2022. Omega will remain the Official Timekeeper of the Series.

2019 Calendar:

1. Tokyo (JPN) - August 2-4
2. Jinan (CHN) - August 8-10
3. Singapore (SGP) - August 15-17
4. Budapest (HUN) - October 4-6
5. Berlin (GER) - October 11-13
6. Kazan (RUS) - November 1-3
7. Doha (QAT) - November 7-9

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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 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).