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HONG KONG TO HOST FINAL LEG OF SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2016



Please consider that the following text does not include Tokyo leg results, currently undergo

The end of the 2016 circuit of the **FINA/airweave Swimming World Cup 2016** is fast approaching, with Day 2 of the Tokyo leg currently undergo and one more meet to be held in Hong Kong (HKG) this weekend from October 29-30.

Years after years, the prestigious Series in 25m-pool continues to feature top elite sporting performances providing a unique opportunity to the best racers of the world to compete in a high-profile environment, in attractive locations and top-level facilities.

From Hungary's Katinka Hosszu, overall winner of the past World Cup Series since 2012 and well on her way to achieve the same feat this time, to South Africa's butterfly king and Olympic multi-time medallist Chad Le Clos and Denmark's sprinter Jeanette Ottesen, the World Cup witnesses an incredible show over a three-month period (August to October).

This year's edition's leader of the men's operations is Vladimir Morozov of Russia, who accumulated 514 points (*not counting Tokyo leg*) partly thank to his World Record established in the inaugural leg in Paris-Chartres, which he beat in Berlin the following week in the 100m IM (50.30). The Russian then consistently won all 100m IM races of the season.

Le Clos and Germany's Philip Heintz are behind him with 429 and 253 points respectively. Dangerously following Heintz comes Japan's Daiya Seto who has proven to be one of the fiercest competitors of the 2016 Series by winning the 200/400m IM consistently in Dubai, Doha and Singapore as well as the 200m fly in the past two legs (also won the 200m IM & 200m fly races in Tokyo on Day 1).

Olympic and World champion Hosszu leads the women's overall standing with 921 points, giving no chance to anyone to overtake and assuring her the Cluster #3 victory too. This should be Hosszu's fifth consecutive overall win of the FINA/Airweave Swimming World Cup making her the most successful female swimmer of all time in this event.

Ottesen (354) and Jamaica's Alia Atkinson* (343, *photo above*) are battling hard for the second and third rank. Atkinson has clinched gold in most of the 50/100m breast since the first leg, equally her own World Record in Paris-Chartes and edging it in Singapore again, while Ottesen remained unbeaten in the 50/100m free, expect in Beijing where national swimmer Zhu Menghui took the gold at stake in 24.00.

**Atkinson established a new World Record in the 50m breast in 28.64 in Tokyo, improving the previous global mark by Jessica Hardy (USA, 28.80)*

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MSWC 2016: Italy is the big winner of the 2016 season



(February-October).

With a final race held in Honk Kong on October 15, the world's open water elite completed the 2016 circuit of the **FINA/HOSA Marathon Swimming World Cup** on a high.

Simone Ruffini and Rachele Bruni both from Italy are respectively the winners of the overall competition, after seven races in Patagonies-Viedma (ARG), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Balatonfured (HUN), Lac St Jean (CAN), Lac Megantic (CAN), Chun'An (CHN), Hong Kong (HKG) over a period of seven months

Despite missing the two Canadian races, Ruffini managed to earn 94 points (18, 16, 20, 20, 20). He is followed in second position by Andreas Waschburger (GER), counting 90 points.

As the most consistent swimmers in the competition, they respectively claimed 3 golds for Ruffini, 1 silver & 1 bronze and 1 gold, two silvers and 1 bronze for Waschburger. USA's veteran Charles "Chip" Peterson steps on the last podium space with 66 point after only missing the Abu Dhabi race.

In the women's field, Rio 2016 bronze medallist Poliana Okimoto from Brazil comes just behind Bruni achieving 74 points against 86 for the Italian ace. Germany with Angela Maurer also secures the third rank with 61 points. At 41 years old, Maurer only missed the Balatonfured event in June.

The highlight of the 2016 edition was definitely China's first ever gold medal in this event with young athlete Xin Xin who triumphed at home in Chun'An (CHN).

Rankings: **MEN & WOMEN**

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Water Polo World League 2017 dates announced

FINA is pleased to reveal the dates of the European tournaments of the **FINA Water Polo World League 2017**, which is set to kick-off next month, as well as the groups' composition.

Both the men and women's competition will be disputed in six European rounds, with the two first rounds still played in 2016, before the Intercontinental Tournament

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



selects the best teams to join the European ones for the Super Final (*dates and cities TBC*)

The women's teams will first play on 29 November and 20 December. Next year's rounds will take place on 24 January, 21 February, 28 March and 18 April. The European cities who will host these games will be announced soon.

The men's teams will battle it out on November 11 and December 6, while the remaining four rounds will take place on January 1, February 14, March 14 and April 11.

MEN

Group A: Romania, Germany, Slovakia, Serbia

Group B: Netherlands, Croatia, Greece, France

Group C: Georgia, Italy, Russia.

WOMEN

Group A: Russia, Greece, Netherlands

Group B: Italy, Hungary, France

The three best teams of the European tournament will be joined by four non-European teams from Intercontinental Tournament as well as the host country for the Super Final. The rule applies to both the men's and women's event.

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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 Synchronised 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 207 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

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