



2014 – 2015 World Open Water Swimming Series

Press Release

July 1, 2014 – Huntington Beach, California, U.S.A.

FINIS, SwimTrek and Ocean Recovery Alliance present a new global open water swimming series called the World Open Water Swimming Series. The 13-race series spans Africa, North America, South America, Asia and Europe and includes some of the world's most innovative, enjoyable, beautiful and signature open water swimming competitions.

Series Events

1. **State Capital Classic** (Wellington, New Zealand) January
2. **aQuellé Midmar Mile** (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) February
3. **Miami Mile** (Miami, Florida, U.S.A.) April
4. **El Cruce** (Cancún, Mexico) May
5. **Henley Mile** (Henley-on-the-Thames, United Kingdom) July
6. **Jax Sheko Challenge** (Hong Kong) July
7. **Hellespont and Dardanelles Swim** (Turkey) August
8. **Aichi Crossing** (Nagoya, Japan) August
9. **Waikiki Roughwater Swim** (Oahu, Hawaii) September
10. **Swim The Island** (Italy), October
11. **The Five** (Hong Kong) October
12. **King and Queen of the Sea** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) December
13. **Stroke for Egypt** (Red Sea, Egypt) December

The World Open Water Swimming Series offers a global network of races that attract swimmers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds from Olympians and professional marathon swimmers to disabled athletes and people who just started the sport.

The World Open Water Swimming Series offers a global ranking system for people of every age group and encourages both race organisations and athletes to be responsible global stewards of the world's open bodies of water.

Patrons

FINIS, SwimTrek, Ocean Recovery Alliance, WOWSA

Contacts

Steven Munatones and Richard Herstone of the World Open Water Swimming Association



Objectives

- Organize a world-class series of international open water swimming competitions
- Encourage participation in the open water swimming races
- Promote open water swimmers of all ages and abilities
- Establish a global ranking system for swimmers of all ages, abilities and background
- Share the proceeds of the series corporate sponsorship among the events

Obligations

- Each race shall maintain its own identity and traditions
- Each race shall maintain its own registration and timing systems
- Each race shall promote the entire series
- Each race shall provide a link and logo of the series on its home page
- Each race shall provide its logos and race information to help WOWSA create and maintain a World Open Water Swimming Series website

Requests

- Each race is encouraged to provide its registration information in its native language and in English
- Each race is encouraged to provide its full race results in an Excel format to WOWSA
- Each race is encouraged to provide the series rankings on its website
- Each race is encouraged to become a WOWSA-sanctioned event
- Each race is encouraged to support all other races on the series
- Each race is encouraged to nominate one representative to sit on the World Open Water Swimming Series board of directors
- Each race is encouraged to brainstorm with all others on the series to help each other and the overall series

Ranking System

- The global ranking system shall be maintained for the following age-group divisions:
 - Under 10 years, 11-12 years, 13-14 years, 15-16 years, 17-18 years, 19-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years, 45-49 years, 50-54 years, 55-59 years, 60-64 years, 65-69 years, 70-74 years, 75-79 years, 80-84 years, 85-89 years, 90-94 years, 95-99 years, 100+ years
- A global ranking system shall be maintained based on 3 parameters: (race record) + (participation in each race) + (category finish position)
- The ranking system shall be calculated based on the points:
 - 250 points shall be given for a new race record (male or female)
 - 25 points shall be given for participation in each race in your own country
 - 100 points shall be given for participation in each race outside your own country
 - | <u>Position</u> | <u>Category Finish</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 st | 100 points |
| 2 nd | 90 points |
| 3 rd | 80 points |
| 4 th | 70 points |
| 5 th | 60 points |
| 6 th | 50 points |



7 th	40 points
8 th	30 points
9 th	20 points
10 th	10 points

Contacts

1. Scott Rice, State Capital Classic (New Zealand)
2. Wayne Riddin, aQuellé Midmar Mile (South Africa)
3. Jonathan Strauss, Miami Mile (Florida, U.S.A.)
4. Rafael Hernández, El Cruce (Mexico)
5. Tom Kean, Henley Mile (United Kingdom)
6. Doug Woodring, Jax Sheko Challenge (Hong Kong)
7. Yutaka Shinozaki, Aichi Crossing (Japan)
8. Simon Murie, Hellespont and Dardanells Swim (Turkey)
9. Kaia Hedlund, Waikiki Roughwater Swim (Hawaii, USA)
10. Matteo Testa, Swim The Island (Italy)
11. Doug Woodring, The Five (Hong Kong)
12. Pedro Rego Monteiro, King and Queen of the Sea (Brazil)
13. Mohamed Marouf, Stroke for Egypt (Red Sea, Egypt)

WOWSA

WOWSA offers race insurance, coaching certification, and annual global awards (World Open Water Swimming Man of the Year, World Open Water Swimming Woman of the Year, World Open Water Swimming Performance of the Year, and World Open Water Offering of the Year) as well as conducts the annual International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame induction ceremonies and annual Global Open Water Swimming Conference.

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