



WORLD
AQUATICS

SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026

RULES & REGULATIONS

In force as from 21 July 2026

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1. GENERAL CONCEPT

The World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2026 (the “SWC 2026”) will bring together top swimmers for an action-packed three-city series of short course racing. This year, the series follows a unique Silk Road route, connecting three iconic cities across Central Asia and the Caucasus. Over three consecutive weeks, each stop will feature three days of thrilling competition in a 25m pool.

The series will begin in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 1-3 October, continue in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 8-10 October, and conclude in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 15-17 October. By traversing cities along the historic Silk Road, the SWC 2026 will showcase world-class swimming while celebrating the rich cultural heritage and growing sporting significance of the region.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document serves to supplement the World Aquatics Competition Regulations by specifying additional rules, regulations and technical components that are specific to the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2026 (the “Event”). Unless specified otherwise, all technical components referenced in this document can be found in the Competition Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, if any conflict arises between these additional rules and regulations and the Competition Regulations, the Competition Regulations shall prevail.

3. RULES

The Event will be held under the World Aquatics Rules and Regulations in force on 1 October 2026.

Swimwear and Advertising

All competitors of the SWC 2026 shall abide by the relevant World Aquatics Competition Regulations relating to swimwear and advertising – [World Aquatics Competition Regulations, Part One Rules Applicable to All Aquatic Sports, 7. Swimwear and Wearables, and 8. Advertising Identification.](#)

Doping Control

The doping control will be coordinated by International Testing Agency (ITA) during the SWC 2026.

- World Records and World Junior Records

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, any Athlete equalling or breaking a World Record or World Junior Record in Swimming, shall be tested immediately after the race, or at the latest, 24 hours after the race. If not selected for doping control after the race, it is the sole responsibility of the athlete(s) to come to the doping control station to request being tested. This test will be covered by the Local Organising Committee.

- Continental or National Record

Should an Athlete equal or break a continental or a national record, it is the sole responsibility of the athlete(s) to check whether the rules of their Continental Organisation or Member Federations require a negative doping control in order to recognise the record. If this is required, the athlete must go to the doping control station to request a doping control test. This test will have to be paid by the athlete or their Member Federation.

4. PROGRAMME & COMPETITION FORMAT

Each stop will be staged over three (3) days with heats in the morning session and finals in the evening session. Upon closing of the sport entries, depending on the total number of entries, each morning heats session may be split into two sessions with the fastest three (3) heats of each event being swum followed by the remaining heats in the session two. The format of the heats' sessions will be announced during each Technical Meeting.

Where possible, heats will be held using up to ten (10) lanes, Finals will also be held using ten (10) lanes and the three-day competition programme will be as outlined below.

All events will be swum with heats and finals, except the 400m Freestyle and 400m Individual Medley which will be staged as timed finals with the slowest heats(s) during the morning session and the fastest heat during the Finals session. The 800m and 1500m Freestyle will be staged as timed finals held during the morning session, except at the final stop in Astana, where the 800m Freestyle will be held as a timed final with the slowest heat(s) in the morning session and the fastest heat during the Finals session.

Individual Events – Men's and Women's

	50m	100m	200m	400m	800m	1500m
Freestyle	.	.	.	.	Women's Baku & Astana Men's Tashkent & Astana	Women's Tashkent & Astana Men's Baku & Astana
Backstroke	.	.	.			
Breaststroke	.	.	.			
Butterfly	.	.	.			
Individual Medley		.	.	.		

Competition Schedule (Morning Sessions) - Baku (AZE) – 1-3 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Freestyle	W	400m	Individual Medley	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	400m	Freestyle	M	50m	Backstroke	W	100m	Butterfly
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Freestyle	M	50m	Butterfly
M	200m	Backstroke	M	200m	Individual Medley	W	200m	Backstroke
W	200m	Butterfly	W	100m	Backstroke	M	100m	Backstroke
M	100m	Butterfly	M	50m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	200m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Butterfly	M	200m	Breaststroke
M	100m	Breaststroke	M	100m	Freestyle	W	100m	Freestyle
W	50m	Freestyle	W	100m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Freestyle
M	50m	Freestyle	M	200m	Butterfly	W	200m	Individual Medley
W	100m	Individual Medley	M	1500m	Freestyle	W	800m	Freestyle
M	100m	Individual Medley						

Competition Schedule (Evening Sessions) - Baku (AZE) – 1-3 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Freestyle	W	400m	Individual Medley	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	400m	Freestyle	M	50m	Backstroke	W	100m	Butterfly
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Freestyle	M	50m	Butterfly
M	200m	Backstroke	M	200m	Individual Medley	W	200m	Backstroke
W	200m	Butterfly	W	100m	Backstroke	M	100m	Backstroke
M	100m	Butterfly	M	50m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	200m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Butterfly	M	200m	Breaststroke
M	100m	Breaststroke	M	100m	Freestyle	W	100m	Freestyle
W	50m	Freestyle	W	100m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Freestyle
M	50m	Freestyle	M	200m	Butterfly	W	200m	Individual Medley
W	100m	Individual Medley						
M	100m	Individual Medley						

Competition Schedule (Morning Sessions) - Tashkent (UZB) – 8-10 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Freestyle	W	400m	Individual Medley	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	400m	Freestyle	M	50m	Backstroke	W	100m	Butterfly
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Freestyle	M	50m	Butterfly
M	200m	Backstroke	M	200m	Individual Medley	W	200m	Backstroke
W	200m	Butterfly	W	100m	Backstroke	M	100m	Backstroke
M	100m	Butterfly	M	50m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	200m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Butterfly	M	200m	Breaststroke
M	100m	Breaststroke	M	100m	Freestyle	W	100m	Freestyle
W	50m	Freestyle	W	100m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Freestyle
M	50m	Freestyle	M	200m	Butterfly	W	200m	Individual Medley
W	100m	Individual Medley	M	800m	Freestyle	W	1500m	Freestyle
M	100m	Individual Medley						

Competition Schedule (Evening Sessions) - Tashkent (UZB) – 8-10 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Freestyle	W	400m	Individual Medley	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	400m	Freestyle	M	50m	Backstroke	W	100m	Butterfly
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Freestyle	M	50m	Butterfly
M	200m	Backstroke	M	200m	Individual Medley	W	200m	Backstroke
W	200m	Butterfly	W	100m	Backstroke	M	100m	Backstroke
M	100m	Butterfly	M	50m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	200m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Butterfly	M	200m	Breaststroke
M	100m	Breaststroke	M	100m	Freestyle	W	100m	Freestyle
W	50m	Freestyle	W	100m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Freestyle
M	50m	Freestyle	M	200m	Butterfly	W	200m	Individual Medley
W	100m	Individual Medley						
M	100m	Individual Medley						

Competition Schedule (Morning Sessions) - Astana (KAZ) – 15 – 17 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Individual Medley	W	400m	Freestyle	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	100m	Freestyle	M	50m	Freestyle	W	100m	Freestyle
W	50m	Butterfly	W	100m	Individual Medley	M	50m	Butterfly
M	50m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Breaststroke	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	200m	Freestyle	W	200m	Backstroke	M	200m	Freestyle
M	200m	Butterfly	M	100m	Butterfly	W	200m	Butterfly
W	100m	Breaststroke	W	100m	Butterfly	M	100m	Breaststroke
M	100m	Backstroke	M	200m	Backstroke	W	100m	Backstroke
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Breaststroke	M	50m	Backstroke
M	200m	Individual Medley	M	100m	Individual Medley	W	200m	Individual Medley
W	1500m	Freestyle	W	50m	Freestyle	M	800m	Freestyle
M	1500m	Freestyle	M	400m	Freestyle	W	800m	Freestyle

Competition Schedule (Evening Sessions) - Astana (KAZ) – 15 – 17 October 2026

Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
W	400m	Individual Medley	W	400m	Freestyle	M	400m	Individual Medley
M	100m	Freestyle	M	50m	Freestyle	W	800m	Freestyle
W	50m	Butterfly	W	100m	Individual Medley	M	800m	Freestyle
M	50m	Breaststroke	M	200m	Breaststroke	W	100m	Freestyle
W	200m	Freestyle	W	200m	Backstroke	M	50m	Butterfly
M	200m	Butterfly	M	100m	Butterfly	W	50m	Breaststroke
W	100m	Breaststroke	W	100m	Butterfly	M	200m	Freestyle
M	100m	Backstroke	M	200m	Backstroke	W	200m	Butterfly
W	50m	Backstroke	W	200m	Breaststroke	M	100m	Breaststroke
M	200m	Individual Medley	M	100m	Individual Medley	W	100m	Backstroke
			W	50m	Freestyle	M	50m	Backstroke
			M	400m	Freestyle	W	200m	Individual Medley

Competition schedules may be subject to change.

5. PARTICIPATION, ENTRIES

Entry Process & Registration:

- World Aquatics Member Federations

All World Aquatics Member Federations' registration and entries will take place through the World Aquatics General Management System (GMS) via <https://data.worldaquatics.com>. Each Member Federation will access the system to complete their registrations of athletes and officials before the designated deadline for each stop.

- International Club Swimmers

The Event will be open to the international club swimmers to enter. International Club registration and entries will be handled by the World Aquatics Office.

Club swimmers and their accompanying persons (coach/trainer) must contact the Office via email (swc@worldaquatics.com) to complete their registration and event entries by the designated deadline for each stop.

To be eligible, club swimmers must have achieved the applicable qualifying standard time and provide proof of performance, as well as confirmation of their affiliation with their respective Member Federation.

Qualifying Standard Time for International Club Swimmers

Women			Men	
LCM (50m)	SCM (25m)		SCM (25m)	LCM (50m)
27.02	26.44	50m Freestyle	23.03	23.81
58.96	57.62	100m Freestyle	50.96	52.52
02:08.49	02:05.63	200m Freestyle	01:52.45	01:55.92
04:31.94	04:27.63	400m Freestyle	04:01.46	04:07.31
09:19.26	09:11.23	800m Freestyle	08:22.50	08:29.31
17:49.97	17:27.19	1500m Freestyle	16:06.44	16:20.13
30.40	28.84	50m Backstroke	25.40	27.05
01:05.71	01:02.51	100m Backstroke	55.22	58.44
02:21.66	02:16.43	200m Backstroke	02:01.83	02:07.26
33.42	32.83	50m Breaststroke	28.53	29.56
01:12.67	01:10.60	100m Breaststroke	01:02.36	01:04.93
02:38.57	02:34.22	200m Breaststroke	02:17.18	02:21.62
28.22	27.95	50m Butterfly	24.38	25.29
01:03.37	01:02.38	100m Butterfly	54.51	56.06
02:20.42	02:20.03	200m Butterfly	02:03.01	02:06.44
	01:04.83	100m Individual Medley	57.57	
02:23.77	02:20.60	200m Individual Medley	02:05.24	02:09.38
05:07.62	05:01.53	400m Individual Medley	04:30.46	04:39.20

Registration and entries are subject to the approval of World Aquatics. Upon approval, a registration fee of USD 150 must be paid for the registration to be considered complete. Please note that all registration fees are non-refundable, regardless of whether the registration or entries are subsequently approved or rejected, or the athlete withdraws their event(s) or does not participate.

International club participation is limited to a maximum of 100 swimmers. Each international club swimmer may enter a maximum of five (5) events.

- Host Member Federation Club Swimmers

The Event is open to entries from domestic clubs affiliated with the respective Host Member Federation. Participation by domestic club swimmers at each Stop of the Event is limited to a maximum of 300 swimmers, with each swimmer permitted to enter up to three (3) events. A dedicated set of qualifying standard times may be established for club swimmers representing the host Member Federation.

Registration and event entries for domestic club swimmers shall be administered by the respective Host Member Federation, subject to the oversight of World Aquatics.

- Entry times

The entry times will only be accepted if they have been completed within the maximum qualifying period of fifteen (15) months prior to the entry deadline. No times outside of this qualifying period will be accepted. For the SWC 2026 edition, times in both 25m-pool and 50m-pool will be accepted.

Times achieved during each of the first two stops of the 2026 Swimming World Cup will be considered for athletes competing in subsequent stop(s).

Technical Meeting:

The Technical Meeting will be held on the day before the first day of competition of the stop, which shall be chaired by the World Aquatics Technical Delegate. This will be the only opportunity for last minute entry changes (any withdrawals, but additional entries only for duly entered members of national teams - no additions for club swimmers)

It is mandatory for one representative of each Member Federation and International Club to take part in the Technical Meeting. The competitors should be made aware of their responsibilities in attending the SWC 2026 and be represented at the Technical Meeting. Failing to do so will result in a fine of 100 Swiss Francs (World Aquatics Competition Regulations).

Withdrawals and Positive Check-In:

- Withdrawals for the first session of heats are due by the close of business of the Technical Meeting.

- Withdrawals for each subsequent session of heats are due one (1) hour prior to the start of finals the evening before.

- Withdrawals for each session of finals are due no later than thirty (30) minutes upon conclusion of the heats on that day.

Did Not Swim (DNS)” athletes will be fined according to World Aquatics Competition Regulations.

A positive check-in for timed final races should be made no later than the conclusion of the finals’ session on the day prior to the event in order to avoid open lanes in these events.

6. SCORING SYSTEM

The total score that an athlete can earn from an event is the sum of points inversely related to the position at the finals with additional points based on performance. For scoring performance, the valid World Aquatics Points system is used. The World Aquatics Points system is based on the previous year's World Record in each event.

For every individual event, points are awarded to the finalists:

Position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Points	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1

The following additional points are awarded based on performances in the finals:

Up to	<...	999	989	979	969	959	949	939	929	919	909	899	889	879	869	859
Starting from	<...	990	980	970	960	950	940	930	920	910	900	890	880	870	860	850
Points	<...	9.9	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.1	9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5
Up to	849	839	829	819	809	799	789	779	769	759	749	739	729	719	709	...>
Starting from	840	830	820	810	800	790	780	770	760	750	740	730	720	710	700	...>
Points	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	7	...>

For example, an athlete who placed 3rd in the Women's 200m Breaststroke with a time of 2:15.26 (which totals 940 points based on the 2025 World Aquatics Points) will earn a total score of 15.4, a sum of 6 points for the 3rd place position and 9.4 points based on the performance.

The World Aquatics Points SCM 2026 will be used for scoring in the SWC 2026.

7. PRIZE MONEY

By stop:

There is no limit to the number of individual events each athlete can compete in per stop but only the best three (3) results (sum of points for position and performance) are counted in the score for the stop.

Ranking position at stop	Total	Ranking Position at stop	Total
1	US\$ 12'000	11	US\$ 4'900
2	US\$ 10'000	12	US\$ 4'800
3	US\$ 8'000	13	US\$ 4'700
4	US\$ 6'000	14	US\$ 4'600
5	US\$ 5'500	15	US\$ 4'500
6	US\$ 5'400	16	US\$ 4'400
7	US\$ 5'300	17	US\$ 4'300
8	US\$ 5'200	18	US\$ 4'200
9	US\$ 5'100	19	US\$ 4'100
10	US\$ 5'000	20	US\$ 4'000

If there is a tie, the athlete with a higher World Aquatics Points achieved at the Stop wins.

Overall Winner:

The Overall Ranking will be defined based on the position of the athletes after completion of the series. The scoring and respective ranking is calculated based on the results from all the stops completed by an athlete (with the limit of their best three events at each city). Overall Prize Money will be distributed to the top eight (8) athletes of each gender.

Overall Ranking	Total	Overall Ranking	Total
1	US\$ 100'000	5	US\$ 14'000
2	US\$ 70'000	6	US\$ 12'000
3	US\$ 30'000	7	US\$ 11'000
4	US\$ 15'000	8	US\$ 10'000

If there is a tie, the athlete with a higher World Aquatics Points achieved in the Series wins.

Additional prize money

- US\$ 10'000 for:

- World Records – World Records will receive an additional \$10,000; and
- The Crown(s)

A swimmer who wins the same event at all three stops of the series will receive an additional prize bonus. For example, a swimmer who competes in and wins the 100m Freestyle at all three stops will be entitled to the Crown bonus of \$10,000. In the Men's and Women's 800m and 1500m Freestyle events, a swimmer who wins the same event across the series – at two of the three stops – will earn the Crown bonus. In addition, any swimmer who achieves a Crown will be eligible for a Double Crown Prize of \$15'000 at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) - Beijing 2026, awarded for winning the same event in Beijing.

- US\$ 2'500 for:

a. The Crown Buster(s)

At the final stop of the series in Astana, Kazakhstan, additional prize money of \$2'500 will be awarded to a swimmer who wins an event for the first time in the series, provided that the win by that athlete in that event prohibits another swimmer from earning a Crown. For example, if Swimmer A wins the Men's 100m Backstroke in Baku and Tashkent, and Swimmer B wins the same event in Astana, then Swimmer B would earn \$2'500, and Swimmer A would not earn any prize money for the Crown.

- In the event of a tie between the swimmer who won the same event at the two previous stops and another swimmer(s), only the Crown winner will be recognised and awarded.

- In the event of a tie between swimmers who win an event for the first time in the series, thereby preventing a previous winner from winning the Crown, each such swimmer will receive the Crown Buster prize money.

All Prize Money will be paid to the respective Member Federation only after receiving all laboratory doping control test results.

8. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Technical Officials:

World Aquatics and the Host will appoint/approve the Technical Officials for all roles required as per the Competition Regulations and the Technical Officials Pathway & Appointments Rules. All appointed officials must be approved by World Aquatics Referees and Officials Committee (ROC) and the Technical Swimming Committee (TSC). Referees and starters must be on valid World Aquatics Swimming Officials Lists. World Aquatics may invite additional international technical officials from outside the Host as part of the global officials' pathway.

Technical Officials Workshop:

For each stop, the technical delegate and the TSC referee will deliver on the day prior to day 1 a session in a form of seminar or workshop for the development of the technical officials and judges.



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SWIMMING WORLD CUP
TORONTO 2025

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