World Para Swimming
Open Water Cup
2027-2030 Expression of Interest

World Para Swimming
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1 Introduction

World Para Swimming, under the International Paralympic Committee, acts as the international federation for the sport and is based in Bonn, Germany.

Para swimming is practiced internationally by athletes in over 100 countries and has featured in every edition of the Paralympic Games, growing into one of the biggest and most attractive sports. There is a major championship held every year, either World Championships or European Championships, in alternating years. There are multiple Para Swimming World Series events that happen throughout the year to support international competition opportunities and provide a pathway to elite competition.

We are excited to expand the **World Para Swimming Open Water Cup** is becoming a fixed place in the WPS Official Calendar. This event will further expand competition opportunities, showcase athletes' abilities in open water swimming, and strengthen the development of the sport across new formats and environments.

The purpose of the Expression of Interest Application is to initiate the bidding process for the 2027-2030 World Para Swimming Open Water Cup. By completing this application your organisation will have expressed their formal interest in the bid application process. The application requires your organisation to provide general information necessary for World Para Swimming:

- to create a single register of applicant organisations, thus ensuring a transparent exchange of information between the parties;
- to capture comparable information and data required to assess the initial feasibility of the potential bid applicant to meet the requirements; and
- to assess the preliminary guarantees identifying the level of support given by the various partners.

To support nations planning and preparations in the cycle, World Para Swimming are wanting to sign multi year agreements with hosts committing for either the full cycle 2027-2030 or an initial 2 year period 2027 and 2028, with the 4 year commitment the preferred to support the growth of Open Water leading into major events.

Following completion of the Expression of Interest Application, please submit the document to:

World Para Swimming
Attn. Nicole Burns
nicole.burns@worldparaswimming.org

Please answer all questions in detail and attach the relevant documents as requested.

If you have any questions please contact the World Para Swimming Senior Manager, Nicole Burns via email at nicole.burns@worldparaswimming.org

Call date to return the Expression of Interest document: **30 October 2026**

2 Benefits of hosting

2.1 Some benefits for the host nation:

- The World Para Swimming Open Water Cup draws over one hundred people (athletes, team officials, and supporters) into the city, therefore it is an excellent opportunity to promote not only the host city but also the country.
- The World Para Swimming Open Water Cup is a unique opportunity to build a legacy. By introducing open water swimming to Para athletes, nations can foster the development of this new discipline. Just as the World Series drives talent identification, the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup can inspire future athletes and expand the sport's reach.
- Capitalising on the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup, nations can also improve their para swimming national technical official pool
- The opportunity to host the training and development of new technical officials

3 World Para Swimming Open Water Cup Information

3.1 Estimated Participation Numbers

	World Para Swimming Open Water Cup
Total participants	Between 30 and 50 athletes and 20-30 team officials
WPS Officials	Max. 6 (including TD, ITOs and WPS Staff)

3.2 World Para Swimming Open Water Cup Schedule

Activity	**Scheduling**
Arrivals	Between 1-2 days prior to the event start.
Competition day	1 day Competition however one extra day before or after comp. date is needed in case of bad weather.
Departure	Day after event. (Including extra day)

3.3 Minimum Venue Standards

Type	**World Para Swimming Open Water Cup**
1.5km / 3km / 5km	The course shall be in water that is subject to only minor currents or tide and may be salt or fresh water. The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 1.40m. The water temperature should be a minimum of 15 ºC and maximum of 31ºC.

	It should be checked the day of the race, 2 hours before the start in the middle of the course at a depth of 40 cm. The Start of the course must be fully accessible. LOC must meet the minimum safety provisions as outlined in the Technical Requirements document to ensure each athletes safety at the competition. Additional venue information can be found in WPS Rules and Regulations – Appendix: Open Water

4 Next Steps

The first step is putting together an expression of interest application, which includes information such as when and where the proposed competition will take place, a brief description of why you are bidding for the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup.

Then, within a month after the deadline, World Para Swimming will review the applications and World Para Swimming will follow up with the LOCs with any questions.

World Para Swimming will then indicate whether more detailed bid applications are required based on the expressions of interests received. World Para Swimming may then choose preferred bidders to continue further discussions with at this stage. If the bid is accepted contract talks will follow, which include a detailed schedule of work. Final confirmation and announcement should be no later than end of January 2027.

Once all parties are in agreement the contract is signed, the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup planning will begin. World Para Swimming is there every step of the way to help the Organising Committees.

Appendix 1- Expression of Interest Application

What needs to be included

1 Organisation Information
2 Motivation
3 City, Proposed Dates and venue
4 Signature of Host Expression of Interest Application

1 Organisation Information

1.1 Please provide the name, title and contact details for the responsible person from the applicant organisation.
Name of Applicant Organisation
Name of Contact Person
Title of Contact Person
Address
Postal Code
City
Country/Territory
Telephone
Email
Website

1.2 Please provide a description of the mission and objectives of the applicant organisation.

1.3 Please detail the scope and level of experience that the applicant organisation has with organising international sporting events, notably Open Water competitions and in particular sport for athletes with an impairment .

2 Motivation

2.1 Please provide a statement outlining the motivation for which the applicant organisation is seeking to host a World Para Swimming Open Water Cup. What legacy can the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup bring to the host country or region?

3 City, Proposed dates and Venue

3.1 Please indicate the proposed Host City & Country. (if multiple cities over the cycle please indicate all cities being considered)

3.2 Please indicate the proposed Months you wish to be considered for the World Para Swimming Open Water Cup

*Please note in the best interests of the competition pathway World Para Swimming are primarily looking for hosts in January-March and September-December. WPS may request a different hosting date to avoid clashes with other events.

Year	**1st Preferred month**	**2nd Preferred month**
2027		
2028		
2029		
2030		

3.3 Please explain the rationale of why these dates have been selected, approx. water temperature in these months and if there are any other months flexible for hosting.

3.4 Please list any other major events occurring during this time period in the Host City.

* no elite level domestic competition (especially one for athletes with an impairment) should take place in the city hosting the Open Water Cup during the dates scheduled for the event.

3.5 Please provide general information on the proposed competition and training venue(s), including a brief description of the facilities and services available
Venue Name: Venue Address: Facilities to note: Venue 2 Name (if applicable): Venue 2 Address (if applicable): Facilities to note (if applicable):

4 SIGNATURE OF HOST APPLICATION

4.1 The applicant organisation hereby certifies that this Host Expression of interest Application has been completed truly and accurately, to the best of its knowledge.

Signature:	**Title:**
Print Name:	**Organisation Name:**
Place:	**Date:**