

## 1. GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

- 1.1.** The 2023 Swimming South Africa (SSA) National Open Water Championships will be held at Marina Martinique, Jeffery's Bay on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023. A compulsory Race Technical Briefing will be held 30 minutes before the start of each event.

## 2. ENTRY PROCEDURES

- 2.1.** Provincial Affiliates will select SSA Registered members who have met the entry criteria to participate. Only times posted in SSA Approved Open Water Swimming events will be considered for entry. Entries must be received on the Hytek Event File. Only athletes who have times on the SSA Database from 1 May 2022 will be considered for entry.
- 2.2.** A signed Indemnity Form for each athlete must be received by SSA by the closing date for entries.
- 2.3.** International competitors must provide a Clearance Certificate from their FINA affiliated Federation granting permission to participate in the South African National Open Water Championships.
- 2.4.** International competitors must provide verified official entry times.
- 2.5.** NO entries will be accepted after the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The closing date for entries and costs are:

	Dates	Fees
1 <sup>st</sup> Closing Date	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	R 100.00 +R20.00 SSA Levy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Closing Date	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	R300.00 +R20.00 SSA Levy
Late Entries	20 <sup>th</sup> February – 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	R1000.00 +R20.00 SSA Levy

- 2.6.** Each Provincial Affiliate will check and summarize entries and forward these along with the indemnity forms, athlete declaration forms and deposit the entry fees into the SSA bank account. The entries will be presented on the entry form and/or Team Manager Data File.

**Bank** ABSA  
**Name of Acc** Swimming South Africa  
**Branch Code** 632005  
**Branch Name** The Zone  
**Account Number** 1003790807  
**Ref** SAOWC – Provincial Affiliate Nam

## 3. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- 3.1** Each Province will be required to supply at least **TWO** registered and trained Technical Officials, one timekeeper and one judge for each event.
- 3.2** Technical Officials must be correctly attired, White shirts and Navy Blue

Trousers/shorts

- 3.3 The names of SSA registered, trained and available officials must accompany the Provincial Affiliate Team entries. **Furthermore, the LOC will provide a link for all Technical Officials who can officiate at the 2023 SANATOWS to complete: this link will open on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and close on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

#### 4. ENTRY CRITERIA

Please take note that the prerequisites for entry to the South African National Open Water Championships by SSA Registered swimmers, are as follows, athletes however will still be subject to selection by their Provincial Affiliate:

##### 4.1. Entry to Women 10km event at Marina Martinique 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

##### Entry to Men 10km event at Marina Martinique 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023:

- 4.1.1. Athletes must have achieved one 10km qualifying time at a **SSA Approved Open Water Swimming** event that is recorded on the SSA Database from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
- 4.1.2. International times at any FINA accredited event will also be recognized.
- 4.1.3. The minimum age for the 10km event at the SA National Open Water Championships competitors is 14 years old. **The age for all competitors will be considered as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December (born in 2009 and earlier) of the year of the competition (FINA Rules).**
- 4.1.4. The event will be an open championship.
- 4.1.5. Athletes must be registered with SSA or a Clearance Certificate from their FINA affiliated Federation granting permission to participate must be presented to SSA.
- 4.1.6. Athletes who have not swum a 10km qualifying time **may not** apply to Swimming South Africa for entry into the 10km event based on their time in the 1500m and the 800m freestyle, unless they are subject to Annexure #1 – Special Conditions of Entry (see attached)
- 4.1.7. A cut off time of 30 minutes after the winner will be implemented (FINA Rules).

##### 4.2. Entry to Women 7,5km event at Marina Martinique 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

##### Entry to Men 7.5km event at Marina Martinique 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023:

- 4.2.1. Athletes must have achieved one 7.5km qualifying time at a **SSA Approved Open Water Swimming** event that is recorded on the SSA Database from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
- 4.2.2. International times at any FINA accredited event will also be recognized.
- 4.2.3. The age for the 7.5km event at the South African National Open Water Championships competitors is 16 and 17 years old. **The age**

**for all competitors will be considered as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December (born in 2006 and 2007) of the year of the competition (FINA Rules).**

- 4.2.4. The event will be an open championship.
- 4.2.5. Athletes must be registered with SSA or a Clearance Certificate from their FINA affiliated Federation granting permission to participate must be presented to SSA.
- 4.2.6. Athletes who have not swum a 7.5km qualifying time **may apply** to Swimming South Africa for entry into the 7.5km event based on their current 3km, 5km or 10km time, unless they are subject to Annexure #1 - Special Conditions of Entry (see attached)
- 4.2.7. A cut off time of 30 minutes after the winner will be implemented (FINA Rules).

#### **4.3 Entry to 5km event at Marina Martinique, Jeffrey's Bay 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

- 4.2.1 Athletes must have achieved one 5km qualifying time at a **SSA Approved Open Water Swimming event** that is recorded on the SSA Database from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
- 4.2.2 International times at any FINA accredited event will also be recognized.
- 4.2.3 The minimum age for the 5km event at the SA National Open Water Championships competitors is 14 years old. **The age for all competitors will be considered as at the 31<sup>st</sup>December (born in 2009 and earlier) of the year of the competition (FINA Rules).**
- 4.2.4 The first three placed swimmers in the 2009 – 2007 (14 – 16) and 2006 – 2005 (17 – 18) year age group will be awarded South African National Youth Medals.
- 4.2.5 There will be a multi-disability category
- 4.2.6 Athletes must be registered with SSA or a Clearance Certificate from their FINA affiliated Federation granting permission to participate must be presented to SSA.
- 4.2.7 Athletes who have not swum a 5km qualifying time **may** apply to Swimming South Africa for entry into the 5km event based on their 3km, 7.5km or 10km time.
- 4.2.8 A cut off time of 15 minutes after the winner will be implemented (FINA Rules).

#### **4.4 Entry to 3km event at Marina Martinique, Jeffrey's Bay on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

- 4.4.1 Athletes must have achieved one 3km qualifying time at a **SSA**

**Approved Open Water Swimming** event that is recorded on the SSA Database from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

4.4.2 Athletes must be registered with SSA or a Clearance Certificate from their FINA affiliated Federation granting permission to participate must be presented to SSA.

4.4.3 The following age groups for Men and Women will be recognized:

**The age for all competitors will be considered as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year of the competition (FINA Rules).** The following categories will be awarded Medals:

4.4.3.1 YOB 2009 - 2010

4.4.3.2 YOB 2007 - 2008

4.4.3.3 YOB 2005 - 2006

4.4.3.4 YOB 1994 – 2004

4.4.3.5 YOB 1983 – 1993

4.4.3.6 YOB 1972 - 1982

4.4.3.7 YOB 1971 and earlier

4.4.4 There will be a multi-disability category

4.4.5 A cut off time of 15 minutes after the winner of the respective category will be implemented.

#### **4.5 3km Application Process for pool times**

4.5.1 Athletes who have not swum a 3km event to achieve an entry time in the qualifying period but who have electronically timed 800m and 1500m verifiable pool standards may apply to Swimming South Africa for entry into the **Open 3km events only**.

4.5.2 Applications must include the relevant meet information for the claimed performance (date, location, name of meet and where results can be found) and the contact details for the athlete's home coach

4.5.3 Applications must be submitted via the athletes Provincial Affiliate to the Swimming South Africa **Competitions Manager, Mrs. Daphne Bird by 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for 3km event consideration.**

4.5.4 Applications will be reviewed, and athletes will be notified **by 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023** of the outcome of their application.

#### 4.6 Entry to Relay – 4 x 1.5km event at Marina Martinique, Jeffrey's Bay on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023:

- 4.6.1 Team event consists of 4 swimmers, 2 males & 2 females.
- 4.6.2 **Two** Team's per Provincial Affiliate per event.
- 4.6.3 Swimmers must already be entered into the individual Open Water events of the championship to be eligible to swim for a team and may only swim in one team event

#### 4.7 QUALIFYING TIMES

Event	A Qualifying Time	B Qualifying Time
10 km Men	2 hours 20 minutes	2 hours 25 minutes
10 km Women	2 hours 30 minutes	2 hours 35 minutes
7.5 km Men	1 hour 43 minutes	1 hour 48 minutes
7.5 km Women	1 hour 50 minutes	1 hour 55 minutes
5 km Men	1 hour 10 minutes	1 hour 13 minutes
5 km Women	1 hour 20 minutes	1 hour 23 minutes
5 km Men Multi Disability	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 35 minutes
5 km Woman Multi Disability	1 hour 40 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes
3 km Men	45 minutes	46 minutes
3 km Women	48 minutes	49 minutes
3 km Men Multi Disability	55 minutes	57 minutes
3 km Woman Multi Disability	60 minutes	1 hour 2 minutes
3 km Master's Men (31 & over)	49 minutes	50 minutes
3 km Master's Women (31 & over)	51 minutes	52 minutes

**TIMETABLE FOR EVENTS**

<b>10, 11, 12 March 2023 at Marina Martinique, Jeffrey's Bay</b>		
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
Event 1: 10 km Women	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00
Event 2: 7.5 km Women	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00
Event 3: 3 km Men	Registration	12h30
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	13h00
	Race Start	13h30
Event 4: 3 km Men Multi Disability	Registration	12h30
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	13h00
	Race Start	13h30

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>		
Event 5: 10km Men	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00
Event 6: 7.5km Men	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00
Event 7: 3km Women	Registration	12h30
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	13h00
	Race Start	13h30
Event 8: 3km Women Multi Disability	Registration	12h30
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	13h00
	Race Start	13h30
Event 9: 4 x 1.5km Mixed Relay	Registration	14h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	14h30
	Race Start	15h00

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2023		
Event 10: 5 km Women	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00
Event 11: 5 km Women Multi Disability	Registration	07h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	08h30
	Race Start	09h00

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2023		
Event 12: 5 km Men	Registration	09h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	10h30
	Race Start	11h00
Event 13: 5 km Men Multi Disability	Registration	09h00
	Compulsory Technical Briefing	10h30
	Race Start	11h00

## 5 REGISTRATIONS

- 5.2 Registrations close thirty (30) minutes before the advertised start of each event on each day.
- 5.3 All competitors are to:
- 5.3.1 Register and ensure that they have already signed the **Indemnity Form:**  
and
  - 5.3.2 Leave both left and right shoulder, upper arms and hands free from grease, as their competitor number will be written on these areas. Care should be taken when applying grease to ensure that the competitor number remains legible.

## 6 NUMBERING

- 6.1 The numbering of athletes is to appear on the arms, upper backs and hands of the competitors.
- 6.2 On the arms the numbers will be arranged vertically.
- 6.3 On the back and the hands, the numbers will be arranged horizontally.
- 6.4 The numbering on the arms and back are made with an ink template:

100mm high x 60mm wide.

- 6.5 The numbering on the hands can be done with an ink template: 50mm high x 30mm wide.
- 6.6 For athletes with a darker skin and or a full body swimsuit a white marker pen will be required.
- 6.7 **The LOC will provide a video link with Numbering Directions and / Requirements** etc.

## 7 PRE-RACE COMPULSORY TECHNICAL BRIEFING

- 7.2 There will be a compulsory technical briefing for all competitors in each event to be held on site at the competition venue at the times listed.
- 7.3 Coaches must be present at the briefing to receive instructions from the Referee concerning the course, water conditions and any other pertinent matters.
- 7.4 The Course Officer at the briefing will provide full directions of the course.
- 7.5 The **Event Chief Referee will present a comprehensive pre-race briefing** including water sample details, course details, anticipated temperature – air and water, general rules, rules specific to event etc. for every event.

## 8 RACE RULES

- 8.1 The SSA National Open Water Championships Bye Laws will apply and be always maintained.
- 8.2 Course Marshals will observe athletes and any infraction of the Rules will be reported to the Referee.
- 8.3 A warning may be issued during the event, but non-observance of the Rules could lead to disqualification.

### 8.4 Athletes' Starting Instructions

- 8.4.1 At one (1) minute intervals from five (5) minutes before the Start of the event, athletes will receive a warning that the start is imminent.
- 8.4.2 Athletes may take up their pre-determined starting positions (if allocated) at the five (5) minute warning.
- 8.4.3 Please be advised that a dive start may be used subject to the number of entries and approval of the referee and SSA.
- 8.4.4 The Referee will signal to the athletes that the Start is imminent by



a raised flag and short blasts on a whistle.

- 8.4.5 When satisfied that all is in order, the Referee will point the flag at the Starter indicating that the competition may commence.
- 8.4.6 The Starter, on signal of the Referee, will raise a distinctive flag to the vertical position.
- 8.4.7 The Starter shall simultaneously bring the flag holding arm down, with the arm straight and activate an audible signal (pistol shot/air horn).
- 8.4.8 If, in the opinion of the Referee, unfair advantage has been gained at the start the competition shall be stopped and restarted.
- 8.4.9 The method of recall will be by repeated whistle blasts and resounding of the starting device.

## 8.5 Race Finish

- 8.5.1 The cut-off time limit after the first athlete in each competition has finished shall be advised at the pre-race briefing.
- 8.5.2 In general, the cut-off time limit is fifteen minutes (15) after the 1st placed finisher for the 3km & 5km events and thirty minutes (30) after the 1<sup>st</sup> placed finisher for the 10km event.
- 8.5.3 The referee has the authority to stop the race for safety reasons.
- 8.5.4 The referee can withdraw an athlete from the water if he believes that the athlete will not complete the distance or will not finish within the prescribed cut-off time.
- 8.5.5 If an athlete withdraws or fails to complete the designated course, for any reason, he/she must personally report to the Medical Personnel for examination.
- 8.5.6 After release from the Medical Area, he/she must personally report to the Chief Recorder to have his/her competitor number recorded. This requirement is mandatory - please do not leave the area without reporting to the Recorders.
- 8.5.7 For all 3km, 5km, 7,5km & 10km events, safety / security craft will be in attendance and individual escort craft are not permitted.

## 8.6 Feeding – 10km & 7,5km Event

- 8.6.1 For the open 10km race and the 7,5km race, all entrants are responsible for organizing their own handlers.
- 8.6.2 A pontoon/feeding area will be provided for the feeding of athletes during this event. This pontoon will be the only place on the course where an athlete may be fed. Each athlete is allowed **1 (one) handler**, who will be required to check in with the athlete at the

time of registration. **No additional personal will be permitted into this area.**

- 8.6.3 Once registered, the handler will be given an event specific wristband. **Failure to display this wristband will mean that the handler will be denied access onto the pontoon/feeding area.**
- 8.6.4 The pontoon/feeding area will be restricted to the participant's handler of the 10km and 7,5km events and **NO public will be permitted into this restricted area.**

## 8.7 Team Relay Event

- 8.7.1 Each swimmer shall complete a lap of 1.5 km.
- 8.7.2 Swimmers may swim in any sequence but may only swim once.
- 8.7.3 All the teams will start together.
- 8.7.4 Starting order will be by random draw.
- 8.7.5 There will be a changeover zone of a minimum of 5m in width.
- 8.7.6 Changeover shall be made with the following swimmer in the water in their starting position holding the platform.
- 8.7.7 Contact on the relay changeover must be visible. The touch, between the swimmers making the changeover, should be made above the water anywhere between the elbow and the hand.
- 8.7.8 Swimmers may enter the changeover zone when the previous swimmer is approaching the zone and leave the water immediately at the conclusion of their lap.
- 8.7.9 Swimmers shall all wear team caps of the same color and style

## 9 RESULTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 9.1 Medals will be awarded to **1st, 2nd, 3rd place** for all events.
- 9.2 Once all competitors in that event have completed the course, official results will be posted on the Swimming South Africa website as soon as practical following the completion of each race.
- 9.3 A Medal Presentation will be held at the venue once the results have been ratified and published. Podium finishers are requested to wear their Affiliate attire for the presentation.
- 9.4 **NO SPECTATORS and GENERAL PUBLIC** in competition area.

**Disclaimer:**

Swimming South Africa and any other event Organizer's will not be held liable for any costs and expenses incurred by any person following cancellation of an event outlined in this Event Information Notice. The limitation of liability includes but is not limited to any costs and expenses incurred by any members, participants, coaches, and administrative personal or medical staff of Provincial Affiliates or individual swimming clubs in respect of the cancellation of the event. Swimming South Africa reserves the right to amend the above entry conditions as required.

**Attachments: Annexure #1 – Special Conditions of Entry**