EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

JUNIOR OPEN WATER SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS HUNGARY~2026

INFORMATION BULLETIN

EUROPEAN AQUATICS' PRESIDENT MESSAGE

It's a great pleasure to introduce this Information Bulletin for the 2026 edition of the European Junior Open Water Swimming Championships, which will take place in the picturesque setting of Sukoro, Hungary.

Open water swimming is one of the fastest-growing aquatic sports, combining high technical skill with the unique challenge and beauty of natural environments. Hungary has long been at the forefront of this discipline, producing outstanding athletes such as Kristóf Rasovszky, Olympic Champion and multiple European Champion, Dávid Betlehem, European Champion and World medallist, and Bettina Fábián, European and World medallist, who was recently crowned 2025 Athlete of the Year for Open Water Swimming, underlining Hungary's strength and tradition in this discipline.

The most talented young open water swimmers in Europe from participating delegations will receive a typically warm Hungarian welcome in Sukoro, while also benefiting from optimal conditions to perform at the highest level.

Beyond the competition itself, European Aquatics is dedicated to partnering with the organising team on concrete social responsibility initiatives. The shared goal is to deliver Championships that advance inclusion, sustainability, and environmental awareness, while leaving a meaningful legacy beyond sport.

I would like to warmly thank the Hungarian Swimming Federation, for their dedication and professionalism in committing to the organisation of this championship. I would also like to express a special note of appreciation to Hungary for its strong and continued support of European Aquatics, including its commitment to organise several European Aquatics events in 2026, a clear demonstration of ambition and solidarity.

Within this bulletin you will find all the key facts and practical information required to plan and organise your participation. I would also like to thank the Hungarian authorities, sponsor partners, and all the volunteers, without whose invaluable support our competitions would not be possible.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish all participants in Sukoro the best of luck for the competition.

Antonio Silva
European Aquatics President

HUNGARIAN SWIMMING FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a fabulous start for 2026 and ready for more great things in the upcoming months.

We are also getting ready to welcome you once more in Hungary, this time for the European Junior Open Water Swimming Championships.

I'm hearing your voice when you say, "oh, we go to Hungary for another big event, everything should be fine". Well, we did a lot in the past to satisfy all stakeholders at the international meets we've hosted in recent years. We have an experienced and dedicated core team who never fail to offer their very best in preparing and delivering the events. And I can assure you that none of us approach these championships considering it 'just' a junior meet which may be less challenging than organising a World Championships.

Of course, the two events are not comparable, but the basic principles always hold the same importance for us. And those are, to create the best racing environment, to ensure the proper accommodation for all young athletes and to guarantee that they can focus solely on their performance as all their needs are catered, whether it is transport, food or other amenities.

Our organising team will be here for you – here, in Sukoro, which is once more a new venue we wish to introduce for the open water swimming community.

Lake Velence is another favourite destination for the locals and it kind of opened up for us two years ago when a brand new sport complex was built on its shores. This is the Katalin Kovacs National Kayak Academy, a true pearl next to the lake, with state-of-the-art facilities which includes an Olympic-size pool, your training venue for the event.

Named after a true legend of flatwater kayaking, Katalin Kovacs, 3-times Olympic champion and the most decorated female athlete in the history of the World Championships with no less than 31(!) gold medals, this Academy shall be the venue of the Championships, and we are convinced that you will fall in love with the site at first sight.

We can't wait the moment to greet you once more in Hungary – till then, should you have any questions regarding the event, contact us and my colleagues will be happy to assist you.

Wishing you all the best,

Sandor Wladar

Olympic champion
President, Hungarian Swimming Federation

EVENT CONTACTS

Should you have any questions or queries regarding the information provided in this document please feel free to contact the Hungarian Swimming Federation.

David Szanto	Chief Operating Officer
Email:	david.szanto@musz.hu

Peter Szajer	Event Manager
Email:	peter.szajer@musz.hu

Laszlo Szogi	Accommodation Manager
Email:	laszlo.szogi@musz.hu

European Aquatics Contact General	openwater@europeanaquatics.org
EA Sports Director Apostolos Tsagkarakis	apostolostsagkarakis@europeanaquatics.org
EA Sports Manager Farouk Ben Jeddi	faroukbenjeddi@europeanaquatics.org
EA Sports Coordinator Anna Serova	annaserova@europeanaquatics.org

EVENT KEY DATES & DEADLINES

EVENT AND MEETINGS

19 July, 2026	Earliest arrival
20 – 22 July, 2026	Official Training
22 July, 2026	Team Leaders' Meeting
22 July, 2026	Technical Officials' Meeting
TBC	Coaches' Clinic
23 – 26 July, 2026	Competition
27 July 2026	Last Departures

EUROPEAN AQUATICS TECHNICAL DELEGATES AND BUREAU LIAISON

EA Bureau Liaison	Pia Johansen
EA Technical Committee Chair	Andrea Prayer – Tech Delegate for the event
EA Technical Committee Member	Pedro Brandao – Safety Delegate for the event
EA Technical Committee Secretary	Volkan Unutmaz
EA Technical Committee Member	Bénédicte Compois
EA Technical Committee Member	Patricio Sanchez
EA Technical Committee Member	Petros Arestis
EA Technical Committee Member	Tanya Bogomilova
EA Technical Committee Member	Bastian Esefeld

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

23 March, 2026	Preliminary Entry & Prelim. Accommodation Booking (see attached Excel)
6 April, 2026	50% Payment
23 April, 2026	Visa request indication
22 June, 2026	Final Accommodation Booking in Event Management System
1 July, 2026	Travel Details, Rooming list, Pool Training Request Form
13 July, 2026	Final entries & accreditations (link to be provided by EA at a later stage)

THE VENUE

The town of Sukoro lies on the shores of Hungary's second-largest lake, Lake Velence. It is located appr. 50 km from the nation's capital, Budapest.

The event will be held using the facilities of the National Kayak Academy, a state-of-the-art sports complex dedicated to the development of elite athletes. Officially opened in October 2024, the academy serves as a training hub for hundreds of athletes representing numerous sports. Its architecturally distinctive, multisport environment and world-class water sports infrastructure make it a unique center for high-performance sport in Hungary and internationally. You can find the venue here: https://maps.app.goo.gl/zrHCz39UAfnpV2pY9

TRAINING SCHEDULE

The official period of stay for team delegations will be from 19 – 27 July 2026. Pool training will take place at the indoor swimming pool of the National Kayak Academy, which is right next to the competition venue, and the LOC provides open water training opportunities on the lake as well. To help with the work of the LOC, you are kindly requested to fill out the attached Pool Training Request Form (broken down by days and sessions) and send it back to the LOC by 1 July the latest.

Date	Morning Period	Venue	Afternoon Period	Venue
20 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	15h00 – 17h00 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
21 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	15h00 – 17h00 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
22 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	15h00 – 17h00 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
23 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	TBD 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
24 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	TBD 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
25 July	9h00 – 12h00	Swimming Pool	TBD 16h00 – 18h00	Lake Swimming Pool
26 July	9h00 – 11h00	Swimming Pool	---	---

Please note that training schedule may be subject to change by the LOC/European Aquatics.

TECHNICAL / TEAM LEADERS` MEETING

The Team Leaders' Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 22 July at 14h00** at the National Kayak Academy. At least one representative from each National Federation must attend this meeting. Following this event, at 15:30, we will hold the Technical Officials' Meeting at the same venue.

COMPETITION PROGRAMME

DATE	EVENT	TIME
23 July	Boys' 10 km	10h00
	Girls' 10 km	10h05
	Boys' 7,5 km	15h00
	Girls' 7,5 km	15h05
24 July	Boys' 5 km	10h00
	Girls' 5 km	10h05
25 July	Boys' (17-19) Knockout	10h00
	Girls' (17-19) Knockout	11h30
	Boys' (14-16) Knockout	15h00
	Girls' (14-16) Knockout	16h30
26 July	U19 Mixed Relay – 6 km	10h00
	U16 Mixed Relay – 6 km	13h00

Award ceremonies will take place at the competition venue, immediately after the race. All announcements, instructions, and commands during the event will be in English.

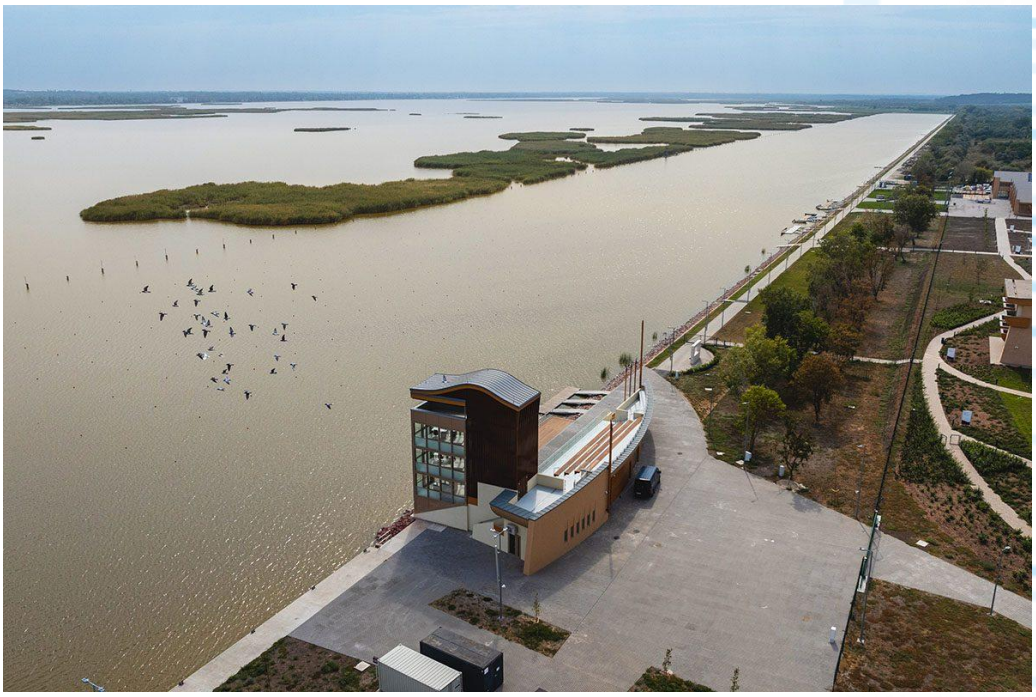
EVENT REGULATIONS

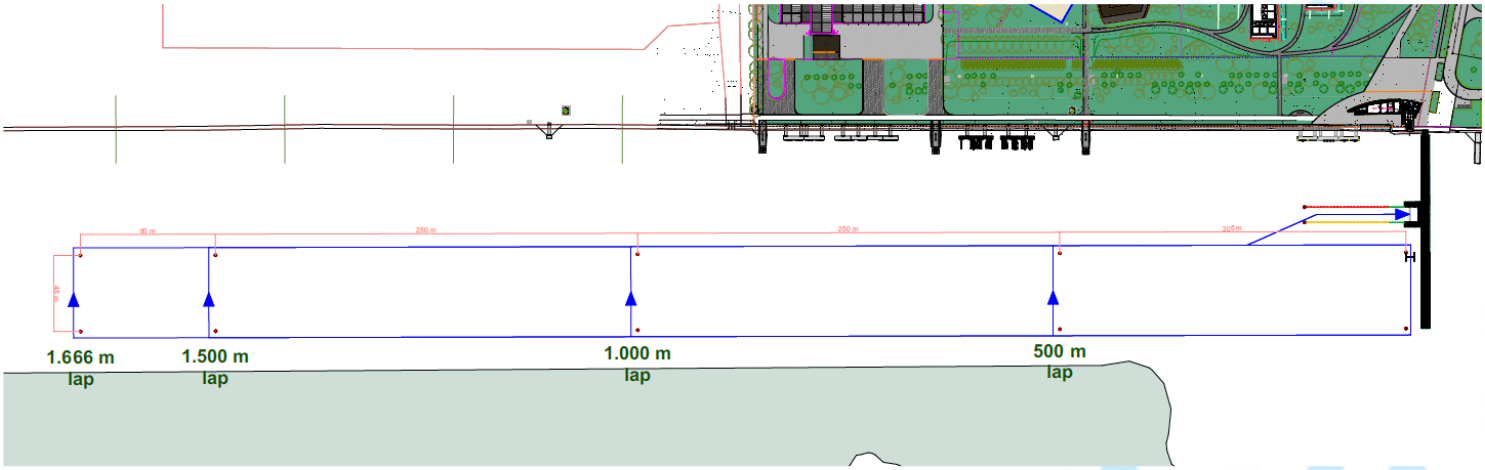
All events will be conducted according to latest World Aquatics and European Juniors Open Water Championships Rules:

European-Aquatics-Junior-Open-Water-Swimming-Championships-Sept-2025.pdf

COURSE INFORMATION

The Competition will be organized on the rowing course of the lake, with basically no currents nor waves to be expected. The rectangular shaped course will be marked with 4 main buoys, and each lap will have: 5k – 1.66m (3 laps); 7.5k - 1.5k (5 laps); 10k – 1.66k (6 laps); 6k Mixed Relay - 1.5k each lap; 3k Knockout – 1.5k + 1k + 0.5k.





LOGISTICS, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

The Hungarian Swimming Federation will organize accommodation to all participating athletes and team officials of that event. Both Official Event hotels lie on the shores of Lake Velence, close to the town of Sukoro. The LOC will provide free transportation for the participants from and to Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport, as well as a shuttle service on training and competition days running between the official hotels and the venue provided the LOC receives exact travel information before the deadline of 1 July.

For competition days, based on the experience from previous editions, the LOC provides the option for team members to have lunch at the venue instead of the hotel. This means you may opt to have only half board on the chosen days in the hotel and eat lunch at the Academy's facilities (the competition venue). However, this must be indicated on the attached preliminary accommodation booking form, broken down by days and number of persons. Please note that there should be no duplications (i.e. lunch at *both* the hotel and the venue); you must choose in advance if some team members would prefer to have their lunch on site. The LOC can only guarantee this option if the information is submitted before the preliminary accommodation booking **deadline of 23 March!**

OFFICIAL HOTELS & RATES

VELENCE RESORT & SPA ★★★★

Distance from Budapest Airport	70 km (55-60 minutes by bus)
Distance from Competition venue	4.5 km (10 minutes by bus)

ROOM TYPE	Price (full board) per person/per night
Single	310 €
Twin	240 €

VITAL HOTEL NAUTIS GARDONY ★★★

Distance from Budapest Airport	75 km (60-65 minutes by bus)
Distance from Competition venue	9 km (18 minutes by bus)

ROOM TYPE	Price (full board) per person/per night
Single	270 €
Twin	205 €

Please note that rooms will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

PAYMENT DATES

6 April	**50% Payment (upon receipt of invoice)**
23 June	**Final Payment**

Payment details will be indicated on the invoice. You may pay via bank transfer or through the direct payment link provided by the LOC's Travel & Accommodation partner.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

There will be no refunds for cancellations made after 23 June 2026.

ENTRY PROCESS

PRELIMINARY ENTRY

Preliminary entries shall be submitted together with the preliminary accommodation booking and the on-site lunch requests through the attached form. Deadline to send it back to the LOC (laszlo.szogi@musz.hu) and openwater@europeanaquatics.org is 23 March.

FINAL ENTRIES & ACCREDITATIONS

European Aquatics will send to the respective Federations the link to enter European Aquatics EMS System for Final Sport Entries and Accreditations (link to be provided at a later stage). Feel free to contact openwater@europeanaquatics.org for any additional question. Deadline to submit this information is 13 July.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

All visitors to Hungary should have a valid visa for their entry and stay in the country. The Hungarian Swimming Federation will do its utmost to facilitate an entry visa to Hungary for all participants. In case you need a visa, please contact the LOC at david.szanto@musz.hu **at least 3 months** before the start of the event (of course, no full list of team members needed at this point, however you have to indicate your intention so that the authorities can prepare in time).

For additional information on whether a Visa is needed for entry into Hungary please visit https://konzinfo.mfa.gov.hu/en/visa-free-travel-hungary. Please note that application for Visa may take up to 15 days or more depending on various criteria.

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS' INSURANCE & RESPONSIBILITY

The Insurance of the participants is the responsibility of the respective Federations.

All athletes are under the responsibility of their respective Team Leaders throughout the entire duration of the event. Team Leaders are responsible for the supervision of their athletes at all times, including outside the competition venue and when using public transportation or moving between official locations.

EA INTEGRITY & ATHLETE PROTECTION

What is integrity?

Safe, respectful, and fair environment for all: athletes, team staff, officials, staff and volunteers.

- Safeguarding & protection from abuse/harassment
- Ethical behaviour & respect
- Prevention of doping & competition manipulation

Report concerns- EA Integrity Hotline:

The EA Integrity Hotline is the official way to report any integrity concerns you see, hear about or experience.

Email: **mc@cavaliero-cambreleng.com** (Marc Cavaliero, EA Integrity Officer)

What to include:

- Nature of the wrongdoing (doping, abuse, corruption, manipulation…)
- Person/organization involved & details
- Incident description + supporting documents (if applicable)

Remember: "Speak up, we are here to help!"
Your wellbeing and integrity matter - together we protect our sport and people.

EUROPEAN AQUATICS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

European Aquatics (EA) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) are committed to delivering a responsible and sustainable event, recognising the importance of environmental protection, water conservation and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with the European Aquatics Strategy, ASR principles and the EA Sustainable Chart, the event will aim to implement key sustainability actions, including sustainable mobility, efficient use of water and energy, waste reduction, elimination of single-use plastics and responsible food and beverage practices.

Athletes, teams, volunteers, and spectators will be actively engaged in sustainable behaviours, with monitoring and reporting, ensuring transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

More information can be found HERE

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN IN HUNGARY!