



Press release

PR19-12

LEN News

European Championships to feature mixed relay events

Luxembourg (pps) European Swimming Championships will feature two additional events in the future. Following a recommendation by the Technical Swimming Committee, the Bureau of the European Swimming Federation (LEN) has decided to include mixed relay events in the programme. A mixed relay team will consist of two male and two female swimmers who can start in whatever order. Thus, titles in the mixed 4x100m freestyle as well as the mixed 4x100m medley relays will additionally be awarded in long course events. The programme at European Short Course Championships will be extended with two mixed 4x50m relay events. These mixed events will celebrate their première at the 2012 European Short Course Championships in Chartres (FRA) on November 22-25. The first mixed 4x100m relay events in long course are scheduled for the 2014 European Championships in Berlin (planned to take place on August 13-24). Thus a total of 42 titles will be awarded at long course Championships in the future; the programme at short course Championships will comprise 40 events. For the time being official European Records will not be listed in these disciplines.

In the future: Short Course Europeans to alternate with World Short Course Championships

As of 2013, the European Short Course Championships will be carried out every two years, alternating with the FINA World Short Course Championships, in order to better coordinate these major events on the international swimming calendar. After the 2013 European Championships (to take place on December 12-15) the next European Short Course Championships will be organised in 2015.

Pre-Olympic European Championships in Debrecen and Eindhoven

On the way to the Olympic Games (July 27-August 12) the upcoming European Championships in three different disciplines will be exciting previews for the season's highlight in London. The organizers of the European Swimming Championships (May 21-27) in Debrecen (HUN) have already received preliminary entries from a record-number of 45 LEN Member Federations. Apart from hosts Hungary, France and Italy have announced the participation of highly competitive teams. In Debrecen, among others, swimmers from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Norway will fight to qualify for the Olympic Games.



**Ligue Européenne
de Natation**

74 Grand-Rue
L - 1660 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 27 44 91 64
Fax: +352 27 44 91 64 28
E-mail: lenoffice@len.eu
www.len.eu



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After the Water Polo European Championships in January, Eindhoven (NED) will host its second European competition this year. To begin with, the “Pieter van den Hoogenband Zwemstadion” will welcome the Diving elite from May 15-20. The team event will now be an integral part of the European Diving Championship program for the first time. Then, from May 23-27, the European Championships in Synchronized Swimming will be carried out in Eindhoven. The 2012 European Championships in Open Water Swimming are scheduled to take place in Piombino (ITA) on September 12-16.

2012 European Open Water Swimming Cup with four legs

The 2012 European Open Water Swimming Cup kicks off with a 10km race in Eilat (ISR) on May 18 and comprises a total of four legs. The second leg will take place in Antalya (TUR) on June 2 (5km), followed by Hoorn (NED) on August 4. The fourth leg of this year’s European Cup will be carried out together with the 2012 European Open Water Swimming Championships (September 12-16) in Piombino (ITA) on September 12 (10km).

LEN offers a total prize money of €14,000 for the overall winners. Last year the two German athletes Hendrik Rijkens and Ines Hahn won the overall European Cup ranking.

Champions League Quarter Finals in two groups in the future

As of next year the Quarter Finals of the Water Polo Champions League will be carried out in a group phase with the eight qualified teams seeded in two groups of four each. This is a proposal of the Technical Water Polo Committee which will be discussed with representatives of the LEN Member Federations during the upcoming European Swimming Championships in Debrecen on May 26. As a consequence of this, the top European Water Polo clubs would have the chance to play four additional matches at the highest level. The first two teams of each preliminary group qualify directly for the quarter finals. The “Final Four” of the Champions League will then be carried out next year from May 30 to June 1. The “Final Four” of the Women’s Champions Cup is scheduled to take place on April 26-27, 2013.



Three Diving Europeans in Germany



In the next few years the German Swimming Federation (DSV) will host three successive European Diving Championships with the first of the title events to take place in Rostock on the Baltic Sea in 2013 (provisionally scheduled on February 19-24). A year later the Diving Europeans will be carried out together with the European Championships in Swimming,



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Open Water Swimming and Synchronized Swimming in the German capital of Berlin. In 2015, Rostock will again host European Diving Championships – separately this time.

Half of all synchro duets from LEN Federations

At the qualification tournament for the Olympic Games held at the London “Aquatic Centre”, two of the three remaining tickets for the team event went to European teams. Olympic and World Champion Russia prevailed over Olympic silver medalist Spain as well as Japan. Continental representatives including World runner-up China, Canada, Australia, and Egypt had already qualified for the tournament. Host Great Britain is of course qualified as well.

Thus, no less than 12 synchro duets from LEN Member Federations will compete at the London Olympic Games. Apart from Russia, Spain, and Great Britain, who qualified via the team event - Italy, Greece, France, the Czech Republic, as well as the Ukraine and the Netherlands have also secured a spot for the Olympic event. In a second round, Israel, Austria, and Hungary were also able to qualify. A total of 24 synchro duets are eligible.

European Synchronised Swimming Champions Cup with a “Highlight Routine”

Apart from the traditional events, Duet, Team, and Free Combination, the biennial European Synchronised Swimming Champions Cup could soon include the “Synchro Highlight Routine”. This is an acrobatic event performed by eight to twelve competitors. The length of the routine is two minutes (plus or minus 15 seconds). This proposal by the Technical Synchronised Swimming Committee has yet to be approved by the LEN Bureau.

A new date for the Masters Championships

The seventh edition of the European Masters Water Polo Championships have been confirmed for June 24-29, 2013. The event will take place in Budapest (HUN) at the Alfred Hajos Swimming Centre on Margaret Island on the Danube. The swimming complex will also host the 31st European Water Polo Championships a year later.



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DEBRECEN / EINDHOVEN - MEDIA ACCREDITATION - NOW OPEN

Journalists interested in covering the
European Swimming Championships in Debrecen
are invited to register online at:

<http://len.accreditationsystem.info/debrecen2012/indice.asp>

Deadline for media accreditation in Debrecen: **May 11, 2012.**

Contact email address for media requests: media@swimdebrecen2012.com

Accommodation: logistics@swimdebrecen2012.com

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Journalists interested in covering the
European Diving Championships in Eindhoven
are invited to register online at:

<http://len.accreditationsystem.info/eindhoven2012-diving/indice.asp>

Deadline for media accreditation in Eindhoven: **May 5, 2012.**

Contact email address for media requests: niels.cannegieter@knzb.nl

Accommodation: hotels@ecdiving2012.com

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Journalists interested in covering the
European Synchro Championships in Eindhoven
are invited to register online at:

<http://len.accreditationsystem.info/eindhoven2012-synchro/indice.asp>

Deadline for media accreditation in Eindhoven: **May 13, 2012.**

Contact email address for media requests: niels.cannegieter@knzb.nl

Accommodation: hotels@ecsynchronisedswimming.com

25 April, 2012

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de Natation

74 Grand-Rue
L - 1660 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 27 44 91 64
Fax: +352 27 44 91 64 28
E-mail: lenoffice@len.eu
www.len.eu

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