

INFORMATION BULLETIN

VERSION 1.0 – DECEMBER 2025



WORLD AQUATICS OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP

SOMABAY 2026

MARCH 27-28, 2026



Somabay
Hurghada, Egypt

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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

On behalf of the entire World Aquatics family, I invite you to experience the thrilling competition of the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cup 2026 series.

This year, the world's premier open water swimmers will compete across spectacular venues: Somabay, Egypt (27-28 March); Ibiza, Spain (24-25 April); Golfo Aranci (1-2 May); and Setubal, Portugal (20-21 June).

The crystal-clear waters of Somabay, Egypt, have become a top destination for elite open water racers. Following standout editions in 2023 and 2024 as part of the Egypt Aquatics Festival and last year's Open Water Swimming World Cup opener, this stunning Red Sea setting launches the 2026 season.


The second stop brings us to Ibiza, where athletes will race in the pure waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Spain has staged an impressive 51 World Aquatics events, and this marks Ibiza's second consecutive time hosting the sport's elite competitors.

From Ibiza, the tour moves to Golfo Aranci, Italy, a distinguished destination for open water swimming – a Sardinian seaside village that most recently held the sport's 2025 World Cup Final.

Renowned for staging key events such as the Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifiers in 2012 and 2016, and the Open Water Swimming World Cup for the past three years, Setubal's open ocean waters offer a familiar and rigorous stage for this year's World Cup Final.

With dedicated support from organising committees, local authorities, officials, and volunteers, you are in safe hands in these great cities.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the host cities and sponsors for their steadfast trust and commitment to making 2026 a remarkable year for open water swimming. To all athletes, I wish you success throughout this eagerly awaited racing series.



Captain Husain Al Musallam

World Aquatics President

2. MESSAGE FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES



On behalf of the Egyptian Swimming Federations, it is with great pleasure to announce that we are hosting the Open Water Swimming World Cup in one of Egypt's most prominent destinations, Somabay, Hurghada, for the fourth year around.

Our vision has always been to expose great athletes performing at their best and encouraging younger generations to aspire to greatness. For the fourth year we are building such a vision with respectable entities that are especially promoting a positive impact on the Egyptian swimming industry.

I would like to extend my regards to everyone that shares our passion regarding the sport as we aim to create more opportunities for players to improve their abilities and excel. We are proud of our players' achievements and the success as we are grateful to our local partners and sponsors who share our vision and help us organise quality tournaments and events.

I wish the best of luck to all the competing athletes and I look forward to your continued participation in our upcoming competitions.

ENG. Yasser Idris

Egyptian Swimming Federation President

MESSAGE FROM THE OC's PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all the athletes, coaches, and officials to THE WORLD AQUATICS OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026 in the stunning coastal city of SOMABAY, Egypt.

We are thrilled to host some of the world's finest open water swimmers and showcase Egypt's hospitality, rich culture, and natural beauty to a global audience.

We are proud to be hosting THE WORLD AQUATICS OPEN WATER SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026 for the third year.

Let this event be a testament to the power of sport to bring participants from all over the world together, inspire greatness, and create unforgettable memories together.

I wish all the athletes the best of luck in the first stop of 2026 and hope you all have a magnificent experience in SOMABAY and in EGYPT.



Ezz Nour,

CEO of MINDSET

MESSAGE FROM THE DESTINATION HOST



On behalf of Somabay team we honored to be part of prominent sports events that directly serves Somabay as a destination & Sports Tourism. Such events allow us to collaborate with strong entities and federations, namely Ministry of Sports & Youth along with the World Aquatics Federation WAF and Egyptian Swimming Federation ESF. Promoting sports has always been an integral part of Somabay's strategy, wherein we are keen on creating an enduringly positive impact on the Egyptian sports industry to put Egypt on the global map of hosting major international sporting events. Mega sport events such as the Olympics and World Cups can be a catalyst for tourism development if successfully leveraged in terms of destination branding, infrastructure development and other economic and social benefits.

Building on the success of the World Aquatics Festival Somabay 2023 and the World Aquatics Open Water World Cup 2024/2025, we are proud to be hosting the World Aquatics Open Water Swimming World Cup 2026. We wish all athletes the best of luck and look forward to being part of an integral impact by dedicating this year's prize money to the victorious athletes.

Can't wait to meet & welcome our athletes & spectators from all over the world to experience one of a kind World Cups at Somabay.

Ibrahim El Missiri,

Group Chief Executive Officer

3. INTRODUCTION

Somabay is a prime touristic destination in Egypt, ideally situated on the eastern shores of Egypt on the Red Sea coast just 20 minutes by car from Hurghada International Airport. The ten million square meters, self-contained community of Somabay is surrounded with three sides of the sea. The resort location exposes some of the most beautiful sandy beaches of the Red Sea and panoramic views of desert mountains, where sun-drenched activities take infinite elevating forms. Home to 5 luxury resort hotels and a significant portfolio of residential properties, Somabay has successfully developed a wide array of facilities and amenities, catering to different market needs and a range of target segments.



4. EVENT CONTACTS

Should you have any questions or queries regarding the information provided in this document please feel free to contact the LOC at waf@mindset-eg.com

Name & Last Name, Role: Ezz Nour, Head of the Organising Committee

Email: waf@mindset-eg.com

Name & Last Name, Role: Ignasi Vendrell, Sport Manager - World Aquatics

Email : ignasi.vendrell@worldaquatics.com

5. CALENDAR

LEG	DATE	LOCATION
#1	MARCH 27-28	SOMABAY (EGY)
#2	APRIL 24-25	IBIZA (ESP)
#3	MAY 01-02	GOLFO ARANCI (ITA)
#4	JUNE 20-21	SETUBAL (POR)

6. EVENT KEY DATES

FEB 27	ACCOMMODATION DEADLINE - Submission of accommodation forms
FEB 27	REGISTRATION DEADLINE – Final Nomination, Visa, Travel Details
MAR 13	SPORT ENTRIES DEADLINE
MAR 23-26	OFFICIAL TRAINING
MAR 26	TEAM LEADERS MEETING – 17h at The Cascades Hotel
MAR 27	COMPETITION – Men's 10km & Women's 10km
MAR 28	COMPETITION – Mixed 4X1500m Team Relay

7. OFFICIAL SCHEDULE AND COMPETITION PROGRAMME

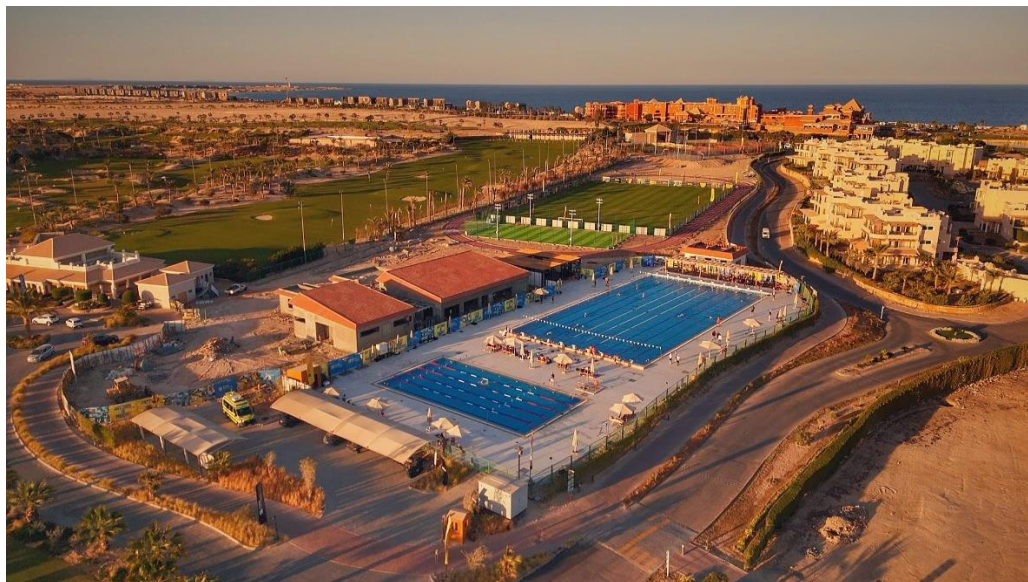
Competition Schedule

Friday 27 March 2026:
10:00 – Men 10km
13:00 – Women 10km

Saturday 28 March 2026
12:00 – Mixed 4x1500 Relay

Training Schedule – Pool

Pool training will take place at the **Somabay Arena's Pools** (50m and 25m):



National Federations will be requested to send their training preferences by using this [FORM](#), prior to the registration deadline by the **27 February 2026**.

	50m Pool		25m pool	
23 Mar	2 lanes	7:00-13:00 16:00-20:00	5 lanes	07:00 – 20:00
24 Mar	2 lanes	7:00-13:00 16:00-20:00	5 lanes	07:00 – 20:00
25 Mar	2 lanes	7:00-13:00 16:00-20:00	5 lanes	07:00 – 20:00
26 Mar	2 lanes	7:00-13:00 16:00-20:00	5 lanes	07:00 – 20:00
27 Mar	2 lanes	16:00-18:00	5 lanes	16:00-20:00

Training Schedule – Competition Venue

Training at the competition venue will take place from the 24 to the 26 March from 10:00 to 13:00.

8. PARTICIPANTS

Entries will be accepted only from National World Aquatics Member Federations which must also register a team official for each respective competitor. A team official can be responsible for up to two (2) competitors only. The team official is responsible for representing their competitor(s) at the Team Leaders Meeting, and feeding the competitor during the event(s). **A competitor without a coach present will not be allowed to start the race** unless World Aquatics has been previously informed.

Please contact World Aquatics at ignasi.vendrell@worldaquatics.com in case you cannot bring a team official onsite.

9. ENTRY PROCESS

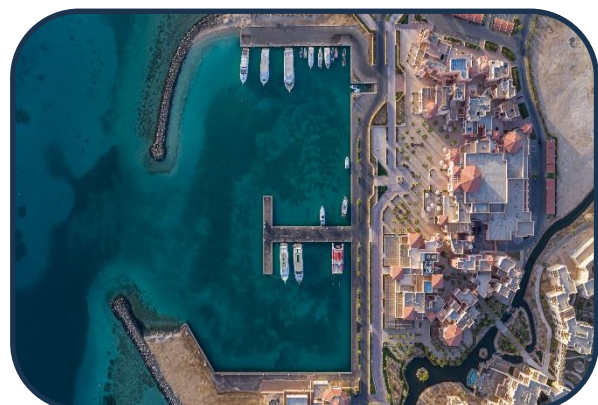
All National Federation registrations and sport entries must be done through the World Aquatics General Management System (GMS) via <https://data.worldaquatics.com/> Each National Federation must complete their registrations before the designated deadlines.

10. TEAM LEADERS MEETING

The Team Leaders Meeting will take place on **Thursday, 26 March at 17:00 at The Cascades Hotel**. At least one representative from each National Federation must attend this meeting.

11. VENUE & COURSE INFORMATION

The main competition venue will be at the Somabay's Marina, Hurghada.



Course Information

The Men and Women 10km events will be organised on a 1,66km course, competitors will have to complete 6 laps.

The Mixed 4x1500 relay event will be organised in the same course as the 10km but a shorter lap of 1500m.

Exact venue layout and competition courses will be shared closer to the competition date.

12. RULES

Please note that all the events in the World Cup will be conducted according to latest World Aquatics Competition Regulations, in force at the time event.

World Aquatics Competition Regulations can be found [here](#).

13. ACCREDITATIONS & EVENT INFORMATION DESK

Accreditation

The Local Organising Committee will provide all competitors and Team Staff with an official Accreditation. Only accredited people will be allowed to access certain venue areas. All accredited people are requested to always carry their Accreditation with them and to show them upon request.

Accreditation can be collected at the Information Desk in the official hotel. Team Officials will be required to present photographic identification for all team members.

Information Desk

The official hotel will have an Information Desk where all the information related to the competition will be provided.

14. POINT SYSTEM & PRIZE MONEY

Point system and prize money distribution is explained within the 2026 Additional Rules & Regulations that can be found [here](#).

15. MEDICAL

All Medical Support will be delivered by the local health authorities and in articulation with the World Aquatics Medical and Safety Officers, as well as World Aquatics Rules and Procedures.

16. VISA INFORMATION & TRANSPORTATION

Visa Information

The Local Organising Committee will assist approved participating teams and their delegations by issuing visa invitation letters required for the visa application process and that are registered by the **27th of February 2026**. However, Mindset and the LOC do not provide any guarantee or assurance that a visa will be granted. The decision to approve or reject any visa application lies solely with the relevant embassy or immigration authorities. All participants remain fully responsible for submitting their applications on time and complying with the immigration requirements of the host country.

Nationals of the countries **listed below** may be issued with an e-Visa upon application on the Egypt e-Visa Portal <https://visa2egypt.gov.eg>

- Albania
- Australia
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Holy See
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea, Republic of
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)
- United States of America

Listed below are the countries/passport holders, non-visa required, and visa required:

UPON - ARRIVAL		PRE - ARRIVAL		
• Australia	• United Kingdom	• Afghanistan	• Liberia	• Sierra Leone
• Canada	• United States of America	• Algeria	• Libya	• Somalia
• Croatia	• Kingdom Saudi Arabia	• Bosnia	• Mali	• Sudan
• European Union	• Kingdom Bahrain	• Burundi	• Mauritania	• Syria
• Georgia	• Kingdom Jordan	• Chad	• Moldova	• Thailand
• Japan	• Kuwait	• Congo	• Morocco	• Tunisia
• Macedonia	• Oman	• Cyprus	• Niger	• Turkey
• New Zealand	• Qatar	• Eritrea	• Nigeria	
• Norway	• United Arab Emirates	• Ethiopia	• Pakistan	
• Republic of Korea		• Ghana	• Palestine	
• Russian Federation		• Iraq	• Peoples Republic of China	
• Serbia		• Kosovo	• Philippines	
• Ukraine		• Lebanon	• Rowanda	

Note: countries with UPON-ARRIVAL visa are obligated to pay USD 25 only cash per person upon arrival to the airport. (Price is subject to change according to government regulations).

Transportation

- The Official Airport is the Hurghada International Airport. Pick-up and drop-off will be available from the airport to hotel. Cairo Airport transportation may be an option, but this must be individually agreed and fixed with the OC.
- All necessary transportation subject to the event and training schedule is provided free of charge.
- Transportation not subject to the event and training schedule will be of extra charge.
- Internal shuttles will be available for all participants according to competition and training schedules.

17.ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

THE KAKTUS HOTEL AS THE OFFICIAL PARTNER HOTEL

 MINDSET

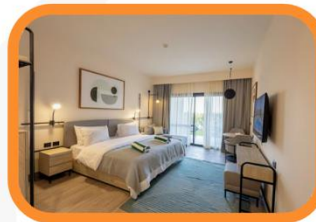
 SOMABAY

THE KAKTUS HOTEL

The Kaktus Somabay is a modern, relaxed resort and co-working hub offering comfortable rooms with balconies or terraces, an outdoor pool, on-site dining, a gym, and free Wi-Fi, perfect for guests seeking a mix of leisure and productivity. Guests can also access nearby beach and resort facilities via shuttle.

AMENITIES

- Parking
- Airport Pick Up Service
- Restaurant & Café
- Bar
- Co-Working / Meeting Spaces
- Fitness Room / Gym
- Golf Course
- 24-Hour Reception
- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Shuttle Access to Beach
- Diving/Snorkeling
- Business Center
- Currency Exchange
- Luggage Storage
- Wake Up Call
- Free Wi-Fi
- Housekeeping



Accommodation Package:

- Rates:
 - Double Room: 220 Eur per person-per night
 - Single Room: 260 Eur per person – per night
- All prices are per person, on a full-board basis (3 meals included). Inclusive of VAR and applicable taxes.
- All extra charges are to be paid directly at the hotel.
- FINAL BOOKING & PAYMENT DEADLINE: **27 February 2026**. In order to book your accommodation please send the accommodation form completed at waf@mindset-eg.com
- Accommodation form can be found [here](#).

Bank Details:

- COUNTRY CODE: EGY
 - Account Holder: MIND SET
 - Name Of Bank: Credit Agricole Egypt
 - Bank Address: EL SHEIKH ZAYED BRANCH
 - SWIFT CODE: **AGRIEGCXXXX**
 - IBAN Account Number:
 - **EUR Credit Agricole Egypt**
 - **EG020036000100011019780028883**
- DISCLAIMER: Amounts to be transferred in NET without any deductions and including transaction fees.

IMPORTANT: Rooms at The Kaktus Hotel will be allocated by the OC on a first-come, first-served basis. If the official hotel reaches full capacity, the OC will secure accommodation at an alternative hotel of the same category and price range.

18. CANCELLATION POLICY

Any cancellation after registration deadline of 27 February 2026 will be subject to pay full amount.

Any new bookings received after registration deadline 27 February 2026 will be subject to availability and 50% extra fee of charge

19. ANTI-DOPING

Urine and blood samples will be collected during the competition for the purpose of doping controls. The doping controls will be done in accordance with the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules and the World Anti-Doping International Standards, which can be consulted [here](#). The operations will be supervised and coordinated by the International Testing Agency (ITA).

The list of prohibited substances can be consulted [here](#). For reminder, all athletes are strictly responsible for any prohibited substance found in their sample and it is particularly important for them to check any medication they take against the prohibited list. Additionally, all athlete support personnel are responsible to be knowledgeable about anti-doping regulations and procedures.

Mandatory Anti-Doping education course prior to participation:

Athlete

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, any athlete participating in World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course "[International-Level Athletes Education Program](#)" or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).^{*} Any athlete who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to compete and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

Team Official: Coach, Head Coach, Chef de Mission, Team Leader, or Support Staff

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, anyone registered as a team official—including coach, head coach, chef de mission, team leader, support staff—for World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course "[Coaches of High Performance Education Program](#)" or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).^{*} Anyone who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to participate and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

Team Official: Doctor, Medical Professional, Massage Therapist, or Physiotherapist

As per the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, anyone registered as a team official—including doctor, medical professional, massage therapist, physiotherapist—for World Aquatics Events must, prior to participation, have successfully completed the eLearning Anti-Doping Education course "[ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program](#)" or a course developed by their respective NADO and recognised by the AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit).^{*} Anyone who has not met this requirement will not be eligible to participate and thus will not have their accreditation activated.

*** AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit) Recognised NADO Education Programs**

Please refer to the list of anti-doping education programs from National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) whose certifications are recognised by the AQIU [here](#). These certifications will be accepted as fulfilling the mandatory anti-doping education requirements for all World Aquatics competitions.

Steps to Complete the ADEL Certification

Please follow these instructions in order to complete the ADEL course:

Step 1:

Access the eLearning course webpage [here](#).

Step 2:

Click on "Register here" and follow the steps to register an account.

Step 3:

Sign in to the new account just created.

Step 4:

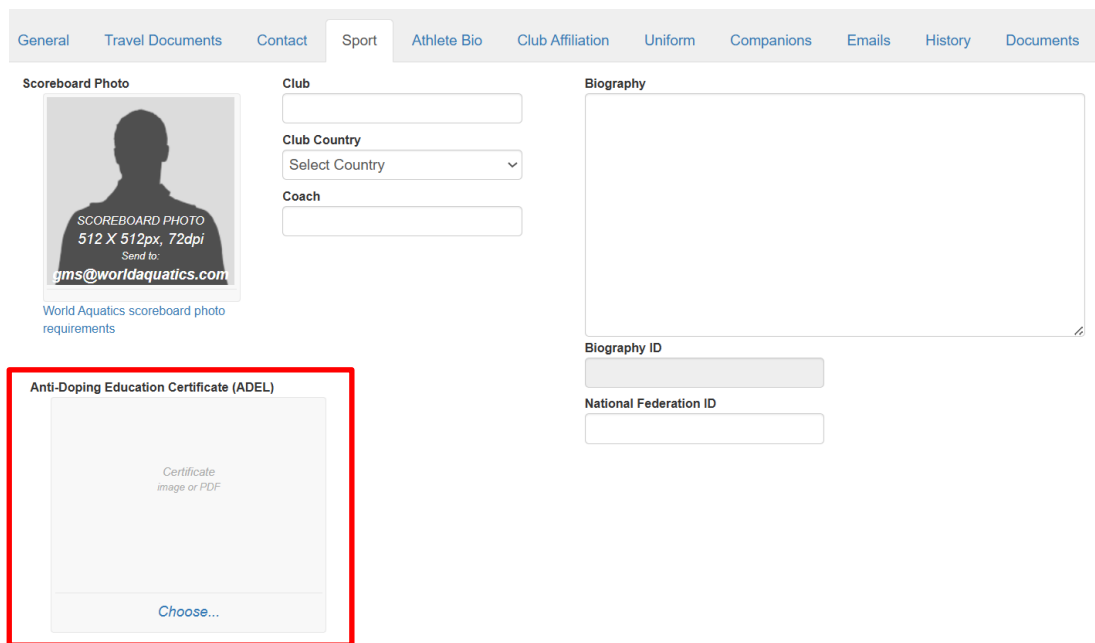
Based on the category, select the course **"International-Level Athletes Education Program"**, **"Coaches of High-Performance Education Program"** or **"ADEL for Medical Professional's Education Program"** and complete the course to obtain at least 80% at the final exam at the end of the course. You can do the course again if you do not achieve 80% the first time. The athletes' course is available in twenty-three languages, the coaches' course in seventeen languages, and the medical professionals' course is offered in three languages. Each course takes up to 2-3 hours to complete. The courses can also be accessed through the **"ADEL by WADA"** mobile application.

Step 5:

Once the course has been successfully completed, download the certificate of completion, and send it to your World Aquatics Member. The ADEL guidelines to download the certificate can be found [here](#). In case of any queries that may arise regarding downloading the certificate, you may also reach out to ADEL Helpdesk at [here](#).

Step 6:

The World Aquatics Member must upload the certificate of completion of each athlete on their respective GMS profile [here](#) (in the Sport tab).



The screenshot shows the 'Sport' tab of a GMS profile. The 'Anti-Doping Education Certificate (ADEL)' field is highlighted with a red box. The field contains a placeholder image and the text 'Certificate image or PDF' and 'Choose...'. Other fields visible include 'Scoreboard Photo', 'Club', 'Club Country', 'Coach', 'Biography', 'Biography ID', and 'National Federation ID'.

Note: In order to avoid any issues, Members should not wait until their teams are finalised to inform their athletes and team officials about this requirement. Rather, they should ask all athletes and team officials who could potentially participate in the event to complete the course immediately.

Athletes and team officials are encouraged to renew their certifications every four years to stay up to date with the latest anti-doping regulations and procedures.

For any questions regarding this requirement, please contact info@aquaticsintegrity.com

20. EVENT INSIDER APP

The **World Aquatics Event Insider App** will be used to publish all information related to the OWS World Cup 2026. Please make sure you access by using the QR code and password below. Make sure you activate push notifications within your device in order to receive latest updates and publications.



**For direct event information,
please download the Events
Insider app and insert this
password:**

OWSWC_2026

 **WORLD
AQUATICS**



WORLD AQUATICS
OPEN WATER SWIMMING
WORLD CUP

SOMABAY 2026

Organised by



EGY



SOMABAY



MARCH 27-28, 2026

 **Somabay**
Hurghada, Egypt