



International Swimming Authority Awards U.S. World's Largest Competitive Meet

Stanford and Bay Area to Host 2006 Masters World Championships

PALO ALTO, CA., March 16, 2004 ---- More than 6,000 world-class adult athletes from 50 countries will converge upon the Bay Area in August 2006, to compete in the world's largest competitive aquatic meet.

La Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA), the international governing body for aquatic sports, has awarded the XI FINA World Masters Swimming Championships to the United States for only the second time in history. The last time the event took place in North America, was when Montreal played host in 1994.

FINA, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, awarded the competition based on the bid made by United States Aquatic Sports (USAS). United States Masters Swimming (USMS), part of USAS, and its local Bay Area organizing committee, Pacific Masters Swimming, will organize and host the event.

The two weeklong aquatic championships will take place at the Stanford University Avery Aquatic Center and include competition in swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming. The open water competition will be held at Lake Del Valle.

"Stanford's Avery Aquatic Center is a tremendous venue for this event," says Michael Moore, chair of the local organizing committee. "For the first time in the World Championships, the venue set-up will allow participants from each sport to see, cheer, and support athletes from the other disciplines." Moore also noted that Northern California is a great destination for aquatic competitors from all over the world. "We expect at least 6000 competitors to come and enjoy the competition, the weather and the extraordinary venues."

Jim Miller, M.D., President of USMS added, "'This is an incredible opportunity to showcase our sport and the amazing people that make it up. And we're confident that the local organizing committee, Pacific Masters, Stanford University and the Northern California community will work together to make this a memorable event.'"

Members of the 2006 Local Organizing Committee include: Barry Fastbender, Pacific Masters; Anne Cribbs, BASOC, Nancy Ridout, Pacific Masters; Jody Smith, Stanford Avery Aquatic Complex; Michael Moore, Pacific Masters Swimming; Andy Burke, USA Water Polo; Don Kane, Synchro Swimming USA; Carol MacPherson, Rinconada Masters, Karla Helder, U.S. Diving; Andrew Morris, USA Water Polo and Burnham Matthews, Security.

The committee is supported by Stanford University, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, BASOC, San Jose Sports Authority, San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau and San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Richard Quick, five-time Olympic Swimming coach and member of the 2006 Local Organizing Committee said, "I'm thrilled to death that FINA has recognized Stanford University and the Stanford facilities as an outstanding place to hold this prestigious event. We are honored by this selection."

Pacific Masters Swimming is a regional arm of United States Masters Swimming, providing organized workouts, competitions, clinics and workshops for adults 18 and over. Programs are open to all adult swimmers (fitness, triathlete, competitive, non-competitive) who are dedicated to improving their fitness through swimming. Pacific is organized with over 100 workout groups and teams in Northern California and Nevada. Membership numbers over 10,000, with individual members ranging in age from 18 to over 90.