

BIRKIRKARA ST JOSEPH SPORTS CLUB

SWIMMING BOARD

FESTINA GOZO-MALTA OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMPETITION 2019 REGULATIONS

- 1 Name and Organisation The event shall be known as the Festina Gozo-Malta Open Water Swimming Competition, hereunder referred to as the event, and shall be organized by Birkirkara St. Joseph Sports Club, hereunder referred to as the Organizers, under the auspices of the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta.
- 2 Date, Time, Route and Fee The event shall be held on Saturday, 24th August, 2019, starting at 8.15 a.m. from Hondoq ir-Rummien in Gozo, proceeding on the shortest possible route towards the island of Comino and finishing on the sandy beach at Marfa. The approximate distance is 6.1 kilometres.

The event entry fee is Euros 70 per participant which does not include the escort boat and the transfer from Malta to Gozo.
- 3 Schedule on Race Day

5:45 a.m. Signing in of participating swimmers. Swimmers in Gozo on the day of the event should call the Race Director to confirm their presence.

6.30 a.m. Departure of a boat for non-swimmers from Marfa Quay in Malta to the Mgarr Harbour pontoons in Gozo, where systemisation of Club hired escort boats will be carried out. The escort boats will proceed from Mgarr Harbour towards the race start after systemisation.

7:15 a.m. Departure of a boat for the participating swimmers from Marfa Quay in Malta to the race start at Hondoq ir-Rummien.

8:00 a.m. Roll-call of all participating swimmers.

8.15 a.m. Start of Race from Hondoq ir-Rummien, Gozo.
- 4 Prerequisites To participate in the Festina Gozo-Malta Open Water Swimming Competition 2019 an applicant should:

 - i. submit to the Organizers the Race Entry Form and the Agreement entitled "Events Registration, Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk and Indemnity" issued by Birkirkara St. Joseph Sports Club in respect of events organised by the said Club, duly filled accompanied by the Race Entry Fee and any other fees as the case may be;
 - ii. be over 14 years of age on the day of the event;
 - iii. have read and understood the relevant regulations issued by FINA in connection with Open Water Swimming (<http://www.fina.org/content/open-water-swimming-rules>)
 - iv. attach to the Race Entry Form a recent medical certificate, at least issued during the previous month;

iii. (a) have taken part in any two of the two-kilometre events in the Arena Birkirkara St. Joseph Open Water Swimming Championship 2019, **and** have taken part in the four-kilometre event of the Arena Birkirkara St. Joseph Open Water Swimming Championship 2109 held prior to the Festina Gozo-Malta Open Water Swimming Competition 2019 and register a time of less than one Hour, 40 minutes, or

(b) in the case of applicants residing abroad, attach to the Entry Form a signed letter from either his/her qualified coach, or

his/her club or his/her national federation, stating that the applicant has been training long distance swimming and the number of months he/she has been undergoing such training. (Upon a professional advice the organizers reserve the right to reject such a certificate.)

- 5 Time Limit A time limit of three hours shall be applicable for the event. The Event Time-keeper shall communicate with the Event Judge the moment the prescribed time shall elapse. Swimmers still in the water will be asked to abandon the swim and no official time will be given.
- 6 Closing Date of Applications The official event Entry Forms and the Agreement as mentioned in Para. 4.(i) of these Regulations, including payment and medical certificate, should be forwarded to the organizers by not later than Saturday, 10th August, 2019. Late applications shall carry an additional fee of Euro 20.00. No applications will be accepted after the 17th August, 2019.
- 7 Entry Fee The event's entry fee should be Euro 70.00 and should be accompanied by the official Entry Form and the Agreement as mentioned in Para. 4.(i) of these Regulations. Documents not properly filled will not be considered.
- 8 Escort Boats Throughout the whole event, swimmers should be accompanied by a motor boat, at least 13 feet long, but not longer than 25 feet. Swimmers are to keep as close as possible to their respective escort boat without touching it at any time. Swimmers are to ensure that they provide any safety equipment of their choice in case they would need it in an emergency.
- Swimmers with a gap of more than three metres from the escort boat, shall be given a warning to regularize their position. A second warning for breaching this rule, shall result in an immediate disqualification. (The Yellow/Red Card/Flag system should be applicable).
- The organizers shall provide a number, which will have to be attached to a prominent place on the escort boat, and which should be easily visible to the event referee.
- All escort sea crafts are to abide strictly with the relative Transport Malta Regulations.
- 9 Group Swimming Group swimming shall not be considered as part of the Competition, and is only meant for swimmers who decide to take up the challenge of swimming the channel. Thus group swimmers, although they shall have their finishing times recorded (one time for the whole group), these times shall neither be considered in the race's general classification, nor in the relevant category classification.
- The following conditions are applicable for group swimming:
- I A group should consist of no more than four swimmers;
 - II Each group should have an escort boat in terms of these Regulations;
 - III The group should swim collectively as fast as the slowest swimmer within the group. The finish time for the group will be that of the group's last swimmer crossing the finish gantry.
 - IV The group should swim as close as possible to the escort boat without any swimmer touching the boat, unless deciding to retire from the swim. If any of the swimmers in a group breaches these rules, the whole group shall be disqualified.
- 10 Finish Gantry The event finish shall be at the event's swimming gantry placed by the organizers on the sandy beach at Marfa. Finishing times are recorded the instant swimmers hit the finish electronic board.

- 11 Pre-Event Meeting A meeting for all participating swimmers shall be held on Tuesday, 20th August, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be advised by the organizers. Helpers and boat owners are advised to attend this meeting. During this meeting the event shall be reviewed for the benefit of everyone involved. Applicants who shall be unable to attend to this pre-event meeting, should send their representatives (the persons who will be accompanying them during the event) who should agree to take full responsibility of explaining in detail to the respective applicants, the proceedings of the meeting. Should neither the applicant nor his/her appointed representative be present for this meeting, the relative entry form shall be withdrawn and the entry fee, less 20% administration charges, reimbursed. The organisers will accept no excuse whatsoever for a participating swimmer's or his representative's absence at this meeting. No registered participating swimmers can deputise for another registered participating swimmer at this meeting.
- 12 Trophies Trophies shall be awarded to the first three places in the Male and Female categories, and to the first Male and Female in the other categories as specified in the entry form.
- 13 Swimming Caps Unless provided by the organisers, swimming caps are to be approved at the meeting held by the organizers on the 20th August, 2019. Participants shall not be allowed to wear any blue, black or silver coloured swimming caps. Swimmers turning up for the race without the approved cap shall be disqualified. If swimming caps are provided by the Organisers, it will be compulsory for the participants to wear this caps during the event.
- 14 Wetsuits Swimmers taking part in the Competition shall not be allowed to use wetsuits. However wetsuits may be used by swimmers doing the swim as a challenge in a group.
- 15 Disqualification A boat assigned by the organizers, shall be patrolling and marshalling the event. The Event Referee shall be on board this boat. On breaching of any rules of the event by a participant, this boat shall approach the said participant and a warning shall be conveyed to the swimmer. A second warning (the Yellow/Red Card/Flag system should be applicable) shall result in an immediate disqualification from the event. In such a case, the participant should abandon the swim immediately and board his accompanying boat. If, following a disqualification notice, a swimmer continues the event, the organizers shall not be held responsible for his safety, etc. and the swimmer shall not be allowed to participate the following year.
- 16 Difficulties during the event Should a participant encounter any difficulties during the event, s/he should abandon the swim immediately, board on or be given assistance by the escort boat, and inform the organizers immediately on the mobile telephone numbers issued for such an eventuality.
- 17 Cancellation of Event As from two days prior to the event, arrangements shall be made by the organizers to be forwarded by expert analyses of the weather conditions on the event's route. On the eve of the event, a decision whether the event shall be held or not due to the forecasted weather conditions, shall be taken. Should the organizers be advised to cancel the event, the participants shall be informed accordingly through an SMS and/or on the Club website and/or social media page by not later than 6.00 p.m. Should the event be cancelled, a refund of the payments, less 20% administration charges, shall be reimbursed to the applicants. Full refund of payments forwarded to the Organisers in respect of the hire of an escort boat shall be effected.
- Should the weather conditions be acceptable, but jellyfish are prevalent on the race route, it shall be up to each participating swimmer whether to compete or not. The decision should be solely his/hers and the organizers shall not be held responsible for any eventual mishap. Since a decision to cancel participation due to jellyfish can only be taken just before the event, an applicant shall not be able to claim a refund of the payments made to the

Organizers.

- 18 Advertising Material The only advertising material of a commercial nature allowed to be exhibited during the event, should be that approved by the organizers.
- 19 Interpretation of these Rules The organizers are the sole interpreters of these Rules, and all decisions taken by them or on their behalf shall be final.

Festina Gozo-Malta Open Water Swimming Competition 2019 **RACE ROUTE**





BIRKIRKARA ST JOSEPH SPORTS CLUB

SWIMMING BOARD
Affiliated to the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta
Registered with the SportMalta

FESTINA GOZO-MALTA

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMPETITION 2019

Saturday, 24th August, 2019 at 8.15 a.m. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: Saturday, 10th August, 2019

ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

SURNAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Race Number

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DATE OF BIRTH _____

(Minimum age on day of event: 14 years)

Male

Female

Mobile No.: _____ Emergency Mobile No.: _____

e-mail address: _____

RACE CATEGORIES (Please tick where appropriate)

OPEN (18 years of age and older by Dec 31, 2019)

All official entries automatically qualify

UNDER 17 (Born 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)

MASTERS 'A' (Ages 30 to 40 by Dec 31, 2019)

MASTERS 'B' (Ages 41 to 50 by Dec 31, 2019)

MASTERS 'C' (Aged 51+ by Dec 31, 2019)

PAYMENTS

€

Event Registration Fee: €70.00

Transport Marfa (Malta) – Hondoq ir-Rummien (Gozo)

No. of Persons: _____ @ €7.00 per person

Accompanying Boat @ €90.00

Total: (Please make cheque payable to Birkirkara St. Joseph Sports Club)

GROUP SWIMMING

Swimming in a Group: Yes No

If you ticked **Yes** please enter the names of the swimmers in the group (Max. 4)

DISCLAIMER

I, the undersigned, declare and confirm that I have read and understood the contents and import of this document, and the event Regulations and the Agreement entitled "Events Registration, Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk and Indemnity" issued by Birkirkara St. Joseph Sports Club in respect of events organized by the said Club. I agree to be bound by the regulations of this event. I also declare that the above particulars are complete and correct in every detail.

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____
(Parent's/Guardian's Signature (if under 18 years of age))

Return completed form and remittance to: Tel: 79289391, 99466256
**Birkirkara St. Joseph Sports Club, Administration Office, 179, Bwieraq Street,
Birkirkara BKR1214 – Malta**

FOR OFFICE USE

Received the amount of € _____ by Cash/Cheque No. _____

Issued by _____

Notes: