



MEMO TO: **THE PSI COMMUNITY**

FROM: **MS. LAILANI M. VELASCO**
President

DATE: **09 June 2022**

RE: **Lineup at the 19th FINA World Championships – Budapest 2022**

Last 26 May 2022, we announced the official roster for the 19th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. This roster included four (4) swimmers namely, 1) Jasmine P. Alkhalidi, 2) Luke Michael C. Gebbie, 3) Miranda Cristina T. Renner, and 4) Chloe Kennedy Anne D. Isleta. We recognize all the hard work they exerted to qualify, and we believe that they all deserve the roster spots.

However, as we approach the Championships, it is with deep sadness that we inform you that Luke suffered an injury during training last 06 June 2022 resulting in his withdrawal from the Championships. We wish him well and pray for his immediate recovery.

On the matter of the Championships spot he vacated, it was our hope that we may simply substitute him in line with FINA's guidelines found in the Registration, Notification and Entries section of the [Summons](#) of the Championships (excerpt found in Figure 1 under exceptions).



● **FINAL NOMINATIONS (ENTRIES BY NAME)**
TO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE FINA GMS BY 17th May 2022, 23.59 GMT

The Final Nominations is the final deadline to register all Athletes, Team Officials and NF Representatives, that includes all relevant data for the purposes of Accreditation, Visa free entry, travel details and accommodation.

The data must contain the exact number of named competitors, representatives, coaches, official delegates, etc. All requested information must be fully and correctly completed in the FINA GMS. By this date, the NF must also have completed the final room requests (exact number of rooms, dates, etc.) and provide the OC with the complete rooming list in the FINA GMS.

AFTER THIS DEADLINE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REGISTER ANY MORE INDIVIDUALS TO THE EVENT. THE NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS MUST NOT EXCEED THE NUMBERS SUBMITTED IN THE PRELIMINARY ENTRY.

The only exception allowed are:

- Replacement in case of injury or illness, a person's registration can be cancelled and another one added, based on medical certificate
- A swimmer did not have any qualification time A or B and achieve a qualification standard after the registration deadline at one of the competitions which exceptionally received a derogation to be held after the qualification period. The late registration of this Athlete will exceptionally be accepted.

Figure 1. 19th FINA World Championships Summons (Registration, Notification and Entries)



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Unfortunately, since Luke's inclusion in the roster was by virtue of him achieving a Standard Entry Time, should his replacement not fulfill the same standard (i.e., a Universality swimmer), we would be forced by FINA BL 9.3.6.2b to send a maximum of four (4) swimmers, two (2) of them being male and two (2) of them being female (see Figure 2). With three (3) female swimmers in the current roster, this meant that we will be forced to exclude one of them. In fact, we wrote to FINA last 07 June 2022 to seek clarification and, possibly, an exception to this rule so that we may still send the three (3) female swimmers who were already informed of their inclusion in the roster, but FINA emphasized that FINA BL 9.3.6.2 should strictly be followed.

BL 9.3.6.2

- At the World Championships, National Federations may enter swimmers who have not achieved either Standard Entry Time as follows:
 - a) With no swimmers who have achieved the "A" or "B" Standard Entry Time: National Federations may enter up to four (4) swimmers, two (2) men and two (2) women.
 - b) With one (1) or two (2) swimmers who has achieved the "A" or "B" Standard Entry Time: National Federations may enter up to a maximum of four (4) swimmers (two (2) men and two (2) women), and with three (3) swimmers who have achieved the "A" or "B" Standard Entry Time, one (1) additional swimmer provided that both genders are represented.
 - c) The swimmers who have not achieved either Standard Entry Time will only be permitted to enter up to two (2) individual events each.
 - d) An individual entry for a swimmer without an "A" or "B" Standard Entry Time must be in an event where no other swimmer from the National Federation has been entered.

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Figure 2. FINA BL 9.3.6.2

With no other male swimmer who achieved a Standard Entry Time available, the next highest ranked male swimmer was chosen to replace Luke. According to our records, this will have to be Jonathan Sebastian S. Cook with 793 FINA points. We spoke with Jonathan, and, despite the short notice, he has agreed to participate in the Championships.

This still left us with the difficult decision of pulling out one of the female swimmers from the roster. Since Chloe's selection was based on rankings by FINA points (i.e., Universality) and Jasmine and Miranda were selected by virtue of "B" Standard Entry Times they achieved in a FINA Qualifying Event, we had no choice but to pull out Chloe. According to FINA's Summons and our own Selection Criteria, achieving Standard Entry Times takes precedence over rankings by FINA points.

We wish to commiserate with Chloe and perfectly understand her frustration and disappointment about her sudden exclusion from the roster. However, we also want to assure Chloe that PSI exerted its best efforts to still include her in the roster. This is why we wrote FINA to request for an exception. But the reality is that this is a purely technical matter. The system used by FINA to collect entries for competitions, the GMS portal, is already programmed to reject the registration of Chloe since there are already two women registered in the system who meet the Standard Entry Times.

And so, for the second time, we wish to announce that the swimmers listed below will form the delegation that will represent the Philippines at the Championships.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jasmine P. Alkhaldi | "B" Standard Entry Time | W 50m Freestyle |
| 2. Miranda Cristina T. Renner | "B" Standard Entry Time | W 50m Butterfly |
| 3. Jonathan Sebastian S. Cook | 793 FINA points | M 200m Breaststroke |



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We would also like to take this opportunity to address two matters that have been raised in light of this development. First is the inclusion of the 31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games as a Qualifying Event and the extent to which it is included (dates covered), and next is the deadline for nominations which was originally set on 03 May 2022.

On the matter of the 31st SEA Games which was held on 14-19 May 2022, while it is correct that FINA set the qualifying window to last till 15 May 2022, they also indicated that exceptions are possible. Citing a provision from the section on Qualification and Entries of Competitors found in the Summons of the Championships (see Figure 3), it reads as follows:

“Exceptionally, to the extent a qualification event is already scheduled to be held outside of the qualification period (after 15th May), the respective National Federation shall submit in writing a request for extension of such qualification period by 22 February 2022. Such request will be assessed by FINA on a case-by-case basis given the circumstances surrounding such request.”



QUALIFICATION AND ENTRIES OF COMPETITORS

Swimming (BL 9.3.6)

- The Qualification Procedure for the FINA World Championships Budapest 2022 will adopt the already established Qualification Procedure for the FINA World Championships Fukuoka 2022 and be extended as **1 March 2020 - 15 May 2022**.
- Exceptionally, to the extent a qualification event is already scheduled to be held outside of the qualification period (after 15th May), the respective National Federation shall submit in writing a request for extension of such qualification period by 22 February 2022. Such request will be assessed by FINA on a case-by-case basis given the circumstances surrounding such request.
- All FINA-approved qualifying events for Fukuoka 2022 are automatically considered as the qualifying events for Budapest 2022. Applications for additional qualifying events submitted by 31 March 2022 will be considered. Please fill out the corresponding "Application Form" and return it to the FINA Office as soon as possible.

Figure 3. 19th FINA World Championships Summons (Qualification and Entries of Competitors)

This statement is further elaborated in Figure 1, and it reads as follows:

“The only exception allowed are: ... A swimmer did not have any qualification time A or B and achieve a qualification standard after the registration deadline at one of the competitions which exceptionally received a derogation to be held after the qualification period. The late registration of this Athlete will exceptionally be accepted.”

And true enough, the 31st SEA Games is an event that received such an exception from FINA. Unfortunately, this was only communicated to us, like all the other Southeast Asian federations, on 12 May 2022 during the Team Manager’s Meeting of the said event. Of course, all federations welcomed this development given the lack of FINA Qualifying Events that our region has had available due to the global pandemic.

That same evening, our coaches at the SEA Games, including myself, communicated this welcome development to ALL the athletes during an official team meeting, the first we had for the competition.



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This would hopefully inspire them to do better since many of them were not able to swim in any FINA Qualifying Event despite their interest. All swimmers will then have an equal shot at establishing a Standard Entry Time.

And since the FINA website is not updated and has technical limitations to reflect the complete results and date of the 31st SEA Games, we asked FINA to verify to us that the entire 31st SEA Games held on 14-19 May 2022 is indeed considered as a Qualifying Event (see Figure 4).

We understand that the FINA website only indicated 14-15 May 2022 as inclusive dates for the 31st SEA Games but, again, that is only a technical issue. If you notice the list of FINA Qualifying Events for the Championships, at least four (4) other events were granted the same exception and were held way past the 15 May 2022 deadline but reflect in the FINA website as having been held solely on 15 May 2022. These events are as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Australian National Championships (50m) | 17-22 May 2022 |
| 2. Mare Nostrum - 39th Meeting International de Natation de Monte Carlo 2022 | 21-22 May 2022 |
| 3. Mare Nostrum - Trofeu Internacional Ciutat de Barcelona 2022 | 25-26 May 2022 |
| 4. Mare Nostrum - Meeting International de Canet-en-Roussillon 2022 | 28-29 May 2022 |

We hope this finally clarifies all doubt that the entire 31st SEA Games held on 14-19 May 2022 is a FINA Qualifying Event. PSI will always abide by and adhere to the rules and regulations set by FINA. It is also technically impossible for PSI to enter in the GMS swimmers who did not achieve a Standard Entry Time in a FINA Qualifying Event as having achieved such. Everything has been programmed by FINA accordingly.

On the other hand, on the matter of the extension of the 03 May 2022 deadline for nominations, it is important to note the spirit of setting the deadline at the said date. The selection committee reviewed the Qualifying Events in the FINA Calendar and decided that there are actually no other events that our swimmers who may vie for a slot at the Championships would and could participate in given that most, if not all, of these swimmers are already slated to participate at the 31st SEA Games. Between 03 May to 15 May 2022, the Qualifying Events are all held in places that are not easily accessible to our swimmers. Furthermore, we want them to turn their focus on the 31st SEA Games with practically ten (10) days separating the 03 May 2022 deadline and the 31st SEA Games.

This all changed when we later learned on 12 May 2022 that the 31st SEA Games was approved by FINA as a Qualifying Event. Unfortunately, some of our swimmers did not send in nominations by 03 May 2022 because they did not meet the Selection Criteria and/or had little to no opportunity of participating in a FINA Qualifying Event. In the interest of giving equal opportunity to all our swimmers, we agreed to this exception to include the 31st SEA Games as part of the basis for selection to the Championships. Nevertheless, this is still consistent with the Summons and our Selection Criteria.

RE: HI

Dear Lani,

I have just replied to you regarding the letter.

Regarding the SEA Games, this is a technical issue as the event was approved as an exception outside of the official qualification period. This is the reason why we cannot put the correct dates for the moment. It will be corrected later.

Thank you for your comprehension.

Kind regards,



Figure 4. Correspondence with FINA



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To end, we truly understand the outrage that Chloe and some of you may feel. But it would have equally been an outrage had we chosen not to consider the 31st SEA Games and turned a blind eye to three (3) of our swimmers who achieved “B” Standard Entry Times at the said competition.

We cannot, in good faith, discount their achievements given that they also worked hard for it. Other federations in Southeast Asia made sure to capitalize on the inclusion of the 31st SEA Games as a Qualifying Event. We would be remiss not to do the same and grab this rare opportunity.

Finally, we thank everyone for your patience and understanding. We also want to assure everyone that what we do in PSI is always guided by FINA rules and regulations.



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