**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA SWIMMING FEDERATION (ABSF)**

**PRESENTS**

**27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1.4K | 2.6K | 5K**

**SUNDAY, 24 November, 2013**

**Fort James Beach**

**St. John’s, Antigua**

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federations invites you to come and experience the National Open Water Swim Championships and swim with Antigua’s finest swimmers. This even is to be held at Fort James Beach, St. John’s Antigua on Sunday, 24 November 2013.

**Age Groups**: *Individual Events* 8 and under, 9-10yrs, 11-12yrs, 13-14yrs, 15-16, 17-18yrs, 19-24yrs, 25-34yrs, 35-44yrs, 45 and over

**Host:** Antigua and Barbuda Swim Federation (ABSF)

**Date:** Sunday, 24 November, 2013

**Time:** 11:30am

**Venue**:             600m linear course demarked by 2 large turn buoys in the Bay of Fort James Beach. The course is marked by buoys and mooring lines. Spectators can view the length of the course walking along the seaside bay.

**Distances:**1.4 kilometers, 2.6 kilometers and 5 kilometers (measured by GPS)

**Eligibility:**        Swimmers need not be affiliated with a club or swimming federation. The swimmer’s medical history, physical condition and training must be commensurate with the rigors of open water swimming competition.

**Format:**             Timed Final. The 1.4, 2.6 and 5 kilometer events will be swum simultaneously. Swimmers will not be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Specifically, snorkels, fins and wetsuits are not allowed. Goggles, a maximum of two (2) caps, nose clip and earplugs may be used.

**Entries:**              Registration forms can be requested by visiting [www.swimantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.swimantiguabarbuda.com) or by calling (268) 783-6163. All swim teams are asked to submit their as a group by the deadline below.

**Entry Fee:**ECD$50.00. Swim teams are to pay as a group during final registration on event day.

**Entry Deadline:**  **Wednesday 20 November, 2013**

**Check-In:**Swimmers should check in at least one hour prior to the start of their event for number marking and pre-event briefing.  Participants who do not attend the pre-event briefing will not be allowed to swim.

**Numbering & Caps:**  Swimmers will be assigned a participant number which event officials will mark on the swimmer’s back, arm and hand at check-in. Each distance will have a designated cap color.  Swimmers will receive the colored cap(s) at check-in. The appropriate colored cap must wear be worn at all times during the swim.

**Warm Up:**There will be a designated warm up area.

**Start:**                   All events will start on the sand.

**Finish:**                 All events will finish on the sand. Event time limits will be enforced by event Official (ABACA Sports Timing).

**Awards:**             The Awards Ceremony will be held on the beach and will begin 30 minutes after the completion of the last event. Medals will be given to the top 3 finishers (male and female) in each age category for each event. Trophies will be presented to the swimmers (male and female) posting the overall fastest finish time for each distance.

**Briefings:**          There will be a Pre-Race briefing 15 minutes prior to the start of each event.

**Officials:** Each club participating **is required to** **provide 2 officials for each session** of the meet. These names should be submitted along with entries to allow a schedule of officials to be made.

**Rules**:

1. This event will be conducted over distances of 1.4, 2.6 and 5 kilometers at the Fort James Beach on NOVEMBER 24, 2013 commencing at 11:30am. The events will be swum simultaneously.
2. Competitors are required to be present **30 minutes before the start of the race**.
3. All Swimmers are required to be in good physical fitness for the competition.
4. Swimmers will enter the water from the beach area.
   1. One kilometer swimmers will swim one circuit or two (2) laps of the beach for a total distance of 1,400 meters and complete the race by crossing a finish line on the sand.
   2. Two-kilometer swimmers will swim two circuits or four (4) laps of the course for a total distance of 2,600 meters and complete the race by crossing a finish line on the sand.
   3. Five-kilometer swimmers will swim four circuits or eight (8) laps of the course for a total distance of 5,000 meters and complete the race by crossing a finish line on the sand.
5. For the safety of the competitors, no coach boats will be allowed. If warning is ignored, the officials may order the swimmers to leave the water.
6. At the starting and finishing points of the race, the use of the swimming caps provided by the organizers is obligatory. The use of goggles, earplugs and substances to protect the skin will be permitted.
7. Any swimmer using flippers or an object which allows him to float will be disqualified. The same penalty will apply to any illicit means used to obstruct a competitor or to any swimmer accompanied by another person swimming beside him to urge him on.
8. Any coach, guide or person responsible for the swimmer who fails to comply with the regulations in any way will be suspended or banded from participation in the race. This may also result in the disqualification of the swimmer.
9. Buoys will be placed at intermittent levels along the course. On arrival at the finish, there will be 2 buoys placed with lane going for the final touch.
10. The signal to start the race will be given simultaneously for all swimmers. The swimmers will assume their start positions as decided upon by the Meet Officials.
11. When he/she arrives at the finish, the swimmer should submit the number given to him/her at the starting point. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
12. The swimmers age on December 31, 2012 determines the age group in which he/she is eligible to swim. Swimmers will compete in the following age groups: 8 and under, 9-10yrs, 11-12yrs, 13-14yrs, 15-16, 17-18yrs, 19-24yrs, 25-34yrs, 35-44yrs, 45 and over.
13. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be given for 1st to 3rd place by age group and sex. Trophies to 1st male and female overall.
14. Any cases omitted in these rules will be judged by the organizers of the competition and will be as binding as the present rules

**Contact:** Event Coordinator, Carl Joseph (783-6163)

**Dated**: 05 November, 2013

Diagram of course

600m

100m

Beach Finish/Start