



## GRIGORY STETSYUK: KAZAN IS BECOMING RUSSIA'S SWIMMING MECCA

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A press conference was held the day before the kickoff of the Russian Swimming Championships (25m) featuring members of the All-Russian Swimming Federation.

The Russian Swimming Championships (25m) will be held in Kazan on November 8-12. With one day to go, President of the All-Russian Swimming Federation Vladimir Salnikov, 1st Vice-President of the All-Russian Swimming Federation Grigory Stetsyuk and 1st Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of Tatarstan Khalil Shaikhutdinov attended today a press conference to share their thoughts on the upcoming national swimming event.

"Kazan is very honoured to play host to the Russian Swimming Championships. We are thankful for a trust granted to us. The number of people enrolled to practice swimming at the Aquatics Palace is constantly growing. Due to such championships, this sport gains more and more fans. On January 1, 2015, we open a multi-sports school where swimming, diving and synchro swimming will be taught," Shaikhutdinov said.

The Republic of Tatarstan will be represented by 29 athletes, including Yana Martynova, Alexander Krasnykh, Irina Prikhodko, Ernest Maksumov, and Ekaterina Ivashova.

"We hope that they will show a good performance and end up on the podium. We've provided them with all facilities they need. We have enough experience of organising such tournaments that's why I hope that the competitions will be staged to a high standard. Russia's top athletes entered to compete that's why it will be a real treat for spectators," said Tatarstan's First Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

He also added that all spectators will receive free admission to the event.

President of the All-Russian Swimming Championships Vladimir Salnikov stated that the Russian Swimming Championships serve as a qualifying opportunity for the FINA World Championships (25m), which are due to be held this December in Qatar, and its participants will do everything possible to earn a spot on the national team.

"The Aquatics Palace is very important for us since it is a sports venue that has already been tested by us. It also hosted other events, including the Universiade where the Russian national team did extremely well. They showcased excellent results that's why I hope that at these Championships, which serve as a qualifier for the World Championships, athletes will perform successfully as well. As for the selection itself, the qualifying standards are very strict," Salnikov said to participants of the press conference.

The FINA World Championships will be held from July 24 to August 16, 2015, and the Russian national team is already gearing up for this tournament.

"We are carrying out a methodical preparation for the World Championships, which are due to be held in Kazan, and are closely cooperating with the Championships Organising Committee. An open water swimming route has recently been approved. A methodical preparatory work is underway to ensure that the Championships are staged successfully. I'm confident that we will have top podium spots at the Championships in Kazan," said the President of the All-Russian Swimming Federation.

First Vice-President of the All-Russian Swimming Federation, Grigory Stetsyuk, expressed content with how much attention is paid to the development of aquatic sports in Kazan and also revealed plans of the athlete eligibility committee that will extend its work because of the bad weather.

"Kazan is becoming Russia's Mecca and not just because there are a lot of sports venues here and not just because the 2015 FINA World Championships will be held here but also because of a great number of young Tatarstan athletes who are now part of the national team," Stetsyuk said.

"The weather prevented us from gathering a certain amount of athletes in time. Most members of the Russian national team will have their flights at 9pm instead of the morning. One of the leaders of the roster, Danila Izotov, took a car and is now driving to Kazan together with his coach. Athletes from 48

regions out of 60 were approved by the eligibility committee, 377 athletes applied. The work is underway, and the eligibility committee proceeds it's work. I hope that our team will do well at the championships," Stetsyuk concluded.

The Russian Swimming Championships are organised by the Sport Ministry of Russia, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of Tatarstan, Executive Directorate for Sports Projects, All-Russian Swimming Federation and Swimming Federation of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The team of Kazan volunteers assists in staging the national swimming event. For six full days, 60 volunteers will be performing volunteer duties in such functional areas as Competition Programme, Press Service, Event Services, Doping Control, Transportation and Volunteer Management.

Press Office of Organising Committee for 16th FINA World Championships



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