



World Aquatics, Honor Organization, Switzerland, 1994



[Organization Website](#)

Videos: [Talk 1](#) [Swim 1](#) [Swim 2](#)

World Aquatics (was formerly called Fédération internationale de natation (FINA). Their President, Robert Helmick, in the late 1980s authorized a special commission to study open water swimming and determine its place in the FINA family of aquatic sports. A subsequent FINA President, Mustafa Lafaoui, established a Technical Open Water Swimming Committee (TOWSC) to formalize open water swimming rules, conduct World Championships in the 5 km, 10 km and 25 km distances and to help support efforts to add a marathon swimming event to the Olympic Games. These efforts came to fruition with the addition of the Olympic 10 km Marathon Swim at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. All together these steps, later adding team competitions, formalized all marathon Majors under one global organizing committee.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)