

NEWS *from* WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION, INC.

JOE GROSSMAN
SECRETARY
408 N. LANCASTER AVE.
MARGATE, N. J., U.S.A.



BULLETIN #1

SPRING, 1964

Greetings!

There are two important items certain to be of interest to all devotees of professional marathon swimming: (1) the dates of the 1964 marathon swims, and (2) announcement that the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation, beginning this year, will crown the world's champion male and female professional marathon swimmer each year.

Here is all the information presently available concerning the 1964 swims:

Capri-Naples, Italy -- July 13
Atlantic City, N.J., USA -- July 21
Lake St. John, Roberval, Que., Canada -- August 8
Lake Ontario, Toronto, Ont., Canada -- August 20-21

We have no definite information concerning the dates of the Three Rivers, Lake Ohrid or Suez Canal swims, if indeed they are to be held this year. At last word, all three are planned. Information will be passed along as soon as it is received at Federation headquarters.

Mr. George Duthie, manager of the Sports Department of the Canadian National Exhibition, has informed us that the Lake Ontario Swim this year will be a 32-mile cross-Lake event. The swim will begin at 6 p.m. August 20 at Port Dalhousie Beach, St. Catharines, and will end next day on the waterfront at the Exhibition. Prizes this year will total \$17,500 (an increase of \$2,500) and the first prize is increased from last year's \$6,000 to a new high of \$7,000. Second prize will be \$3,000; third, \$2,000; fourth, \$1,500; fifth, \$1,000; sixth, \$600; seventh, \$400; women's first place, \$1,500 added; second woman, \$500 added.

Club Aquatique of Roberval announces some changes in the prize schedule for the Lake St. John Swim, too. First prize will be \$3,500; second, \$2,000; third, \$1,400; fourth, \$1,000; fifth, \$700; sixth, \$500; seventh, \$300; first woman finisher, \$500 added. Each swimmer who completes the 24-mile cross-lake course will receive \$200.

The prize schedule in the Atlantic City swim will be the same as last year (first, \$5,000; second, \$2,000; third, \$1,000; fourth, \$800; fifth, \$500; sixth, \$300; seventh, \$200; first woman, \$500 added; second woman, \$400 added). Director Jim Toomey has arranged the course this year so that all swimmers should be able to catch favorable tides at both ends of Absecon Island and, since this should result in a quicker race, expects to start the event later in the morning than usual, depending, of course, on the weather situation that day.

Club Aquatique at Roberval informs us that the Northumberland Swim has been scheduled for August 1, and further information will be forthcoming as soon as it is received. The annual 10-mile Three Rivers swim is scheduled for August 15 or 16 at present. More details when the date is definite.

.....

The Federation has worked out a plan for selecting the world's champion male and female professional marathon swimmer each year by means of a competitive scoring system worked out and approved by the officials of the Federation. Here's how it will work:

Every professional marathon swimmer who participates in every recognized swim held anywhere in the world during each calendar year will be scored on the basis of (1) finish, (2) distance, and (3) records set, if any. All swims, not only those which are members of the Federation, will be included, and all swimmers, not only those who are members of the Federation, will be scored and be eligible for the titles of male and female "Professional Marathon Swimmer of the Year". Awards will be announced later.

In the first point category, men and women will be scored separately, but on the same basis. Points will be awarded for first through 25th places on this schedule: 1st place, 500 points; second, 350; third, 250; fourth, 150; fifth, 125; sixth, 100; seventh, 95; eighth, 90; ninth, 85; 10th, 80; 11th, 75; 12th, 70; 13th, 65; 14th, 60; 15th, 55; 16th, 50; 17th, 45; 18th, 40; 19th, 35; 20th, 30; 21st, 25; 22nd, 20; 23rd, 15; 24th, 10; 25th, five.

Distance points will be awarded on the basis of 10 points per mile. Every swimmer completing a 38-mile swim will receive 380 points, a 26-mile swim, 260 points; a 10-mile swim, 100 points, etc. It is presently planned to give points for the distances completed by swimmers who do not finish a given race. If they complete six miles, they will receive 60 points, etc.

Bonus points will be awarded at the rate of 100 points to a swimmer who establishes a new record on an established course. If a race is being conducted for the first time, or over a new course at an old location (such as this year's Lake Ontario Swim) no bonus points will be given the winner. Only when an existing record is broken will such points be awarded.

Since one important function of the Federation is to give every possible advantage to swims which are members of the Federation, the following regulation has been added. It will be necessary for swimmers wishing to be eligible for the titles of male and female "Swimmer of the Year" to compete in more than half the events held during any one year and they MUST compete in the three Federation-affiliated swims in Santa Fe, Argentina; Atlantic City, N.J., and Lake St. John, Roberval, Canada. However, any of the Federation swim committees may waive the necessity of competing in their swim as a condition of eligibility for the championships if they wish. In years in which 10 swims are held, swimmers must enter at least six including the three Federation swims. When nine swims are held, swimmers must compete in five; when eight are held, swimmers must complete in five; when seven are held, swimmers must compete in four, always including the three Federation swims unless one or more of the three waive that condition on their own volition. The Federation will keep all swimmers informed of the conditions regarding this regulation. As the number of swims change from year to year, the regulation will change accordingly as the officials of the Federation adjust the requirements.