

24th December 2004

URGENT & IMPORTANT

By Fax / E-mail / Post

TO: All Member and Affiliated Clubs

Dear Clubs,

**RE: 29th International New Year Winter Swimming
Life Saving Championships**

I refer to the recent enquiry from our member clubs in relation to the captioned meet. We note that the Hong Kong Life Saving Society will organize the captioned event on 1st January 2005 at Middle Bay and Repulse Bay. We hereby write to inform you that the captioned event was not an authorized meet despite the name of the event includes 'Life Saving'.

Being an affiliated member of the FINA, this Association has the obligation to inform you that we are the sole National Sports Association governing Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Synchronized Swimming, Open Water Swimming and Masters Swimming in Hong Kong.

If the captioned event belongs to any of the above-mentioned sports in whatever name used by the Organizer, and the fact that it is open to the public and involves an international invitation, prior sanction must be sought from this Association before we can allow our swimmers to take part.

According to the FINA, General Rule 4.1, "Unauthorised Relations and Misbehavior" states:

"No Affiliated member shall have any kind of relationship with a **non-affiliated** or suspended body"

and General Rule 4.3 states:

“The holding of demonstrations and/or exhibitions, clinics, training, competitions, etc., with **non-affiliated** or suspended bodies is not permissible.”

Therefore, being a registered member of this Association, you are not allowed to participate in any unauthorized competitions as defined by this Association. Here we explicitly notify you that the captioned event is an unauthorized open water event and registered swimmers are not allowed to participate.

Failing to comply with this rule is subject to disciplinary action imposed by the Association as it thinks fit. Please be informed that according to FINA, violating the above-mentioned rules “shall be suspended by the affiliated Member for a minimum period of one year, up to a maximum period of two years”.

Your kind attention to this matter is appreciated. Should you have any enquiry, please feel free to contact the ASA office at 2572 894.

Yours sincerely,

Ronnie Wong
Hon. Secretary

c.c. President / Vice- President / Hon. Treasurer / Asst. Hon. Sec.
Executive Committee Members / Discipline Chairmen and Hon. Sec.
National Swimming Coach