

EUROPEAN
AQUATICS

EUROPEAN AQUATICS
OPEN WATER SWIMMING CUP –
LEG 1
PROTARAS – CYPRUS (3rd May
2025)



EUROPEAN
AQUATICS
OPEN WATER
SWIMMING CUP
LEG 1
PROTARAS~2026

INFORMATION BULLETIN

April 18

EUROPEAN AQUATICS
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European Aquatics' President Message



Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome athletes, officials and partners to the 2026 European Aquatics Open Water Cup and to the opening stage of this prestigious series, hosted once again in the beautiful coastal setting of Protaras, Cyprus. This Information Bulletin marks the start of another exciting season in the long-distance swimming calendar.

The European Aquatics Open Water Cup is renowned for its demanding and authentic competition environments, with races held in beautiful natural spaces. Across the challenging 10km distance, athletes are tested not only on endurance and speed, but also on their ability to adapt to changing temperatures, currents and weather conditions — a true measure of open water excellence.

Following Protaras, the 2026 circuit moves to four more outstanding European venues, each offering its own unique character and challenges. From two new hosts in Munich and Tenero, Switzerland, the circuit will travel to familiar spots in Razanac, Croatia before the climax in Barcelona on 3 October. This is indeed a compelling and competitive circuit for Europe's top open water athletes.

I would like to praise the exceptional work and commitment shown by the organisers in preparing this 2026 edition. My sincere thanks go to my friend Alexandros Christoforou, President of the Cyprus Swimming Federation, whose team has once again demonstrated outstanding dedication. Working closely with the Paralimni Deryneia Municipality and key local partners, they have made significant efforts to deliver high-quality facilities, excellent organisation and the warm Cypriot hospitality for which this event has become known.

Following a successful trial last year, we are also proud to introduce the Special Olympics Open Water Cup, delivered in partnership with Special Olympics. The first stop will be held in Protaras (Cyprus) with a an 800-metre distance. All divisions are welcome to participate, continuing our commitment to inclusion across gender, age and ability.

With athletes expected from across Europe, each leg will contribute to a shared ranking system, allowing competitors to accumulate points across multiple events and compete for overall Cup standings.

We are delighted to welcome athletes, teams and supporters to this exciting new initiative and look forward to building on last year's success.

Finally, I wish to thank all officials, volunteers and local supporters whose hard work and enthusiasm are essential to the success of this competition. I look forward to the opening races and to another memorable season of high-level open water swimming.

Antonio Silva
 President, European Aquatics

Host Federation and Organizing Committee's Welcome Messages

Dear Friends,

The Cyprus Swimming Federation, in collaboration with Paralimni – Deryneia Municipality, is happy to invite your national teams to participate in the 1st leg of the 2026 European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup.

The event, which will be hosted for the third time in Cyprus, will take place in Protaras, Cyprus, on 18th of April 2026 and will cover a distance of 10km.

In addition to the Cup, European Aquatics is pleased to announce the organisation of two additional events during this week-end.

On Saturday, 18 April 2026, following the conclusion of the 10 km race, an 800m open water swimming event for **Special Olympics athletes** will take place.

Finally, on Sunday, 19 April 2026, the first edition of the **European Aquatics Masters Tour** will take place. A 3 km race will be organised for all the fans of Open Water Swimming around Europe.



Photographer: Nina Halla

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PROTARAS



Alexandros Christoforou

President, Cyprus Swimming Federation

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Cyprus Swimming Federation, it is my great pleasure to once again welcome Europe's finest open water swimmers to the first leg of the 2026 European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup.

The competition will take place in beautiful Protaras, which successfully hosted last year's event. Known for its calm and clear waters, Protaras offers excellent conditions for open water swimming and provides an environment that meets the highest standards for athletes and teams.

We are honoured that European Aquatics has entrusted us, for a second consecutive year, with hosting this event. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Paralimni–Deryneia Municipality, our co-hosts, for their unwavering support.

Building on the success of last year, we are committed to delivering an exceptional experience for athletes, teams, and spectators alike. Cyprus is ready to offer not only a top-level competition but also unforgettable memories.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Protaras for an outstanding celebration of open water swimming!



WELCOME TO PROTARAS



Mr. George Nikolettos

Mayor Paralimni – Deryneia

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Protaras for the first leg of the European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup 2026, an event that once again places our municipality and our country at the heart of European open water swimming.

Protaras, part of the Municipality of Paralimni–Deryneia, is a coastal destination internationally renowned for its crystal-clear waters, natural beauty and hospitality. Its calm sea conditions and well-organised coastal infrastructure create an ideal setting for high-level open water competitions, while its character and landscape offer athletes and visitors a truly memorable experience both in and out of the water.

The Municipality of Paralimni–Deryneia is particularly proud to host this important European event for another year. Our strategic vision is to strengthen the connection between sport, tourism and sustainable development, positioning our area as a reference point for international sporting events. Open water swimming, in particular, reflects the deep relationship of our community with the sea; a relationship that is cultural, economic and deeply rooted in our identity.

We are honoured to work closely with European Aquatics and the Cyprus Swimming Federation in the organisation of this competition and we thank them sincerely for their trust and cooperation. Their confidence confirms that our municipality has the capacity, the experience and the commitment to support events of the highest international standards.

As Mayor, I wish to reaffirm our continuous support for initiatives that promote excellence, fair competition and international friendship through sport. Events such as this not only inspire younger generations but also contribute significantly to the promotion of Cyprus as a leading destination for sports tourism.

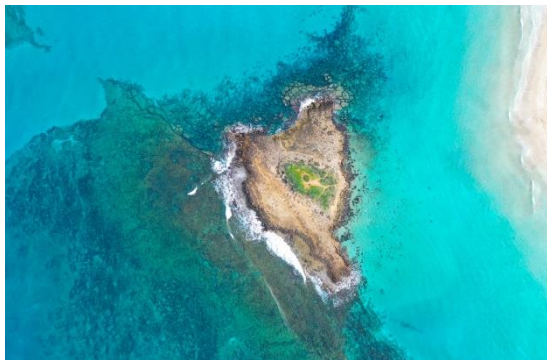
I wish all athletes every success and a safe, rewarding competition, and I hope that your stay in Protaras will be filled with strong performances, positive emotions and lasting memories.

George Nikolettos
Mayor Paralimni - Deryneia Municipality

PROTARAS

Nestled on the southeastern coast of Cyprus, Protaras is a jewel in the Mediterranean that offers a blend of serene natural beauty, thrilling adventures, and vibrant cultural experiences. Renowned for its pristine beaches with golden sands and crystal-clear waters, Protaras is a destination that promises unforgettable memories for travelers of all kinds.

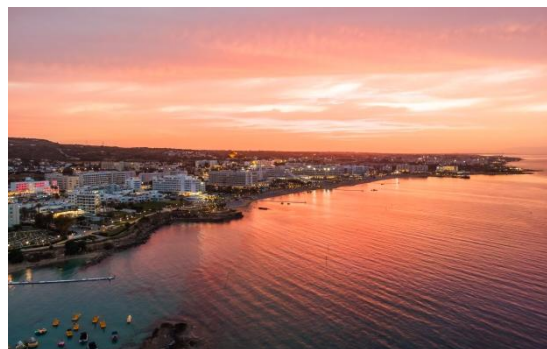
The beaches of Protaras are among the finest in Europe, consistently earning Blue Flag awards for their cleanliness and amenities. Fig Tree Bay, the crown jewel of the region, enchants visitors with its turquoise waters and idyllic surroundings. The shallow, calm sea is perfect for families, while the abundance of water sports ensures endless excitement for thrill-seekers. From jet skiing and paddleboarding to windsurfing and banana boat rides, the options are as diverse as they are exhilarating.



For diving enthusiasts, Protaras offers some of the best underwater experiences in the Mediterranean. The clear waters provide exceptional visibility, revealing a vibrant underwater world of marine life and intriguing rock formations. The iconic Green Bay and the Cyclops Cave are must-visit sites for divers, with opportunities to explore reefs, caves, and even ancient artifacts. Whether you're a seasoned diver or a beginner, the area's professional diving schools provide expert guidance and equipment.

Protaras is also an emerging hub for sports tourism. Its excellent weather, with over 340 days of sunshine annually, creates perfect conditions for outdoor activities year-round. Cycling enthusiasts will find scenic routes that weave through the picturesque coastline and lush countryside, while runners and hikers can explore nature trails that lead to breathtaking viewpoints. For athletes seeking training facilities, the region offers modern sports complexes and accommodations tailored to active lifestyles.

Beyond its natural allure, Protaras boasts a rich cultural and gastronomic heritage. The region is dotted with traditional taverns and contemporary restaurants that serve a delightful fusion of Cypriot and international cuisine. Fresh seafood, local cheeses, and wines are highlights of the culinary offerings, providing a true taste of Mediterranean flavors. Visitors can savor meals by the sea while enjoying spectacular sunsets that paint the sky in hues of orange and pink.



The cultural charm of Protaras extends to its historical sites and local traditions. The charming chapel of Prophet Elias, perched at top of a hill, offers panoramic views and a glimpse into the area's spiritual heritage. Seasonal festivals and events celebrate Cypriot customs, music, and dance, allowing visitors to connect with the island's vibrant culture.

Accommodation in Protaras ranges from luxurious beachfront resorts to cozy boutique hotels and self-catering villas, all designed to provide comfort and convenience. Many establishments prioritize sustainability and eco-friendly practices, ensuring that the natural beauty of the area is preserved for generations to come.

Protaras is more than just a destination; it is an experience that captures the essence of Mediterranean living. Whether you're seeking relaxation, adventure, or cultural enrichment, this captivating coastal town invites you to discover its treasures and create memories that will last a lifetime.

European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup

2026 Calendar



Regulations

European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup will be organised under the [European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup Rules](#) and it’s an open event for countries geographically located out of European continent.

In the interest of preserving the environment, and according to the decision taken by the European Aquatics Bureau in Malta (MLT) in March 2018 at the European Aquatics Bureau Meeting, the use of biodegradable cups will be compulsory.

Points and Prizes

Points will be awarded to the athletes as described in [European Open Water Swimming Cup Point System](#)

The best three ranked European athletes, male and female, will receive prize money as follows:

1st	2,500 Euro
2nd	1,500 Euro
3rd	1,000 Euro

Event Info

The event will be organised by Cyprus Swimming Federation in collaboration with the Paralimni – Deryneia Municipality

Event Contacts

HOST Federation

Cyprus Swimming Federation
Address: P.O. Box 23931, 1687
Nicosia, Cyprus
Phone: 00357 22449841
E-mail: koek@logos.cy.net

LOC Contact

Maria Loizidou Kyriacou
E-mail: koek@logos.cy.net

European Aquatics Contact

Email : openwater@europeanaquatics.org

Location

[Fig Tree Bay - Protaras](#)



Key Dates

18/02/2026	<u>Preliminary Entry and Accommodation Form</u>
18/02/2026	50% prepayment for official booking
16/03/2026	<u>Final hotel booking and Travel Form</u>
16/03/2026	Final hotel payment
16/03/2026	<u>Pool Training Requests</u>
16/03/2026	<u>Rooming List</u>
08/04/2026	Final Entries deadline (via EMS)

Registrations and Accreditation

Sports entries and accreditation of team members will be done through European Aquatics EMS. The link will be shared at a later stage.

All team members will receive their accreditations upon arrival to the official hotel. They are mandatory for access to the competition venue and the hotels.

Event Schedule*

15.04.2026	Arrivals	
	18:30-20:00	Training at the Paralimni Swimming Pool (25m)
16.04.2026	Arrivals	
	08:30-10:00	Training at the Paralimni Swimming Pool (25m) Group A
	10:05-11:35	Training at the Paralimni Swimming Pool (25m) Group B
	15:00-17:00	Training at Competition Venue
17.04.2026	09:00-11:00	Training at competition venue
	11:30-12:30	Team Leaders' Meeting
	14:00-15:00	Special Olympics Team Leaders' Meeting
	15:00-16:00	Technical Officials' Meeting
	16:00-17:30	Training at competition venue
	18:00-19:00	Opening Ceremony
	20:00	Official Dinner

* Training schedule subject to updates, according to [Pool Training Request forms](#)

* Lanes 1 and 2 will be available for Special Olympics athletes if needed.

* For the swimming pool training sessions, the buses will depart from the hotels 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the session and depart from the swimming pool 15 minutes after the end of the session.

Competition Programme

SATURDAY 18/4/2026	06:00h	Technical Officials' Meeting
	06:00h	Warm up and Registration – OWS Cup
	07:30h	Last briefing – OWS Cup
	07:45h	Swimmers' presentation – OWS Cup
	08:00h	Men's competition – OWS Cup
	08:10h	Women's competition – OWS Cup
	10:00h	Warm up and Registration – Special Olympics
	10:40h	Last briefing – Special Olympics
	10:50h	Swimmers' presentation – Special Olympics
	11:00h	Special Olympics competition – Special Olympics
	12:00h	Awards Ceremony (OWS Cup TBC and Special Olympics).

*According to Preliminary Entries Women and Men competition shall be scheduled / organised separately, and OWS Cup competition schedule shall be re-scheduled.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will take place at the competition area and will be open for all officials and athletes to attend. Transport will be organised.

Pool Training Info

The Paralimni outdoor swimming pool 25m (5 lanes) will be available for training as per schedule above.

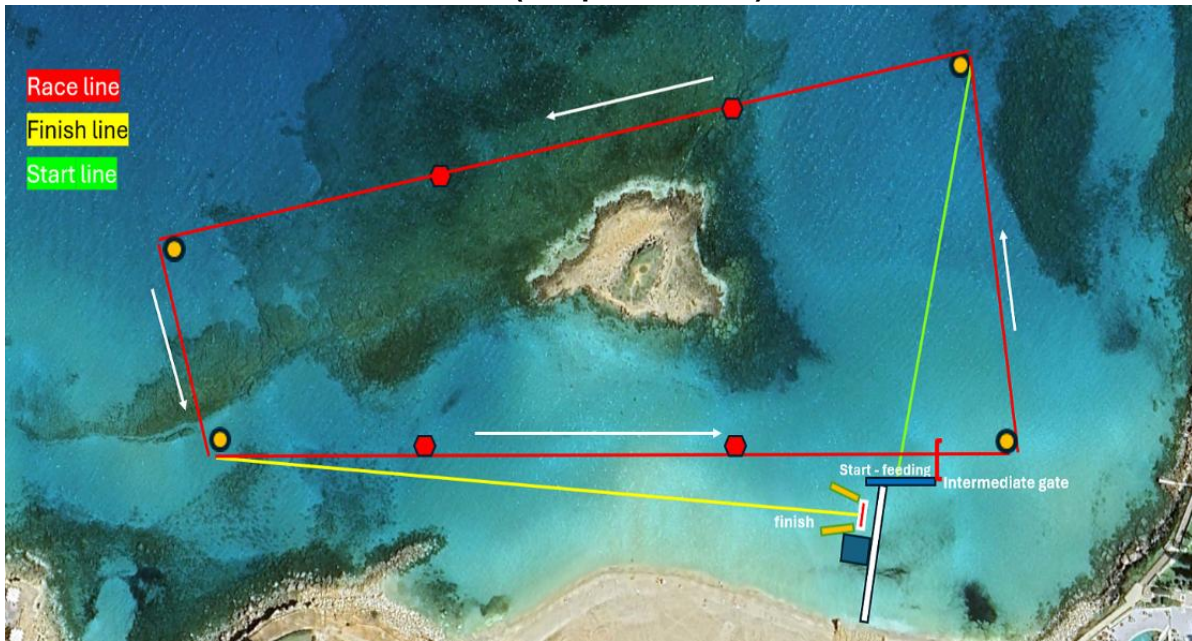
A shuttle bus will be available for the transportation free of charge – approximately 15 minutes' drive from the hotels.



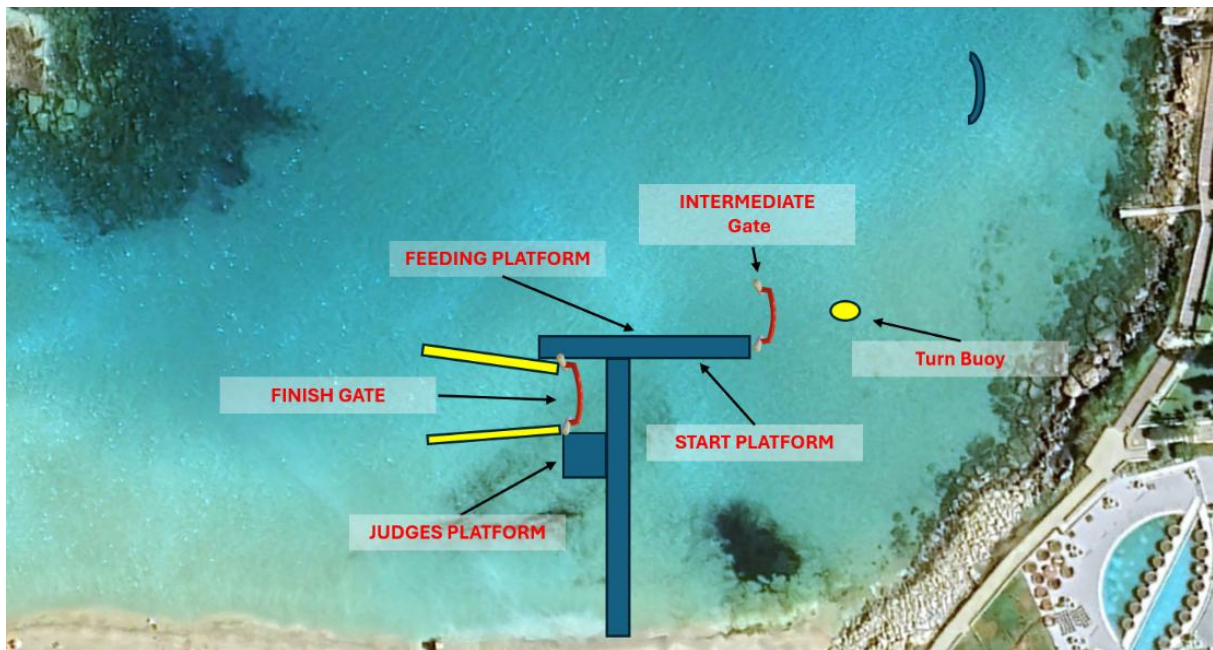
Location : [Paralimni outdoor swimming pool](#)

Venue and Course Info

RACE (6 Laps of 1666m)



Location : Fig Tree Bay - Protaras



Accommodation and Booking

VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL ****

(Location : 8 minutes' walk from the venue)



Vrissaki Beach Hotel is a luxurious 4-star hotel in Protaras. Amenities include spa, gym, bars & restaurants, pools, jacuzzi and massage.

It is positioned on the main beach of Protaras and along the Protaras board walk.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €220.00

FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €205.00

FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT PERSON €190.00

PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL***

(Location : 5 minutes' walk from the venue)



Protaras Plaza is a 3-star stylish hotel positioned in the center of Protaras, just a few minutes' walk from souvenir shops, bars and restaurants.

Fig Tree Bay is nearby for fancy watersports, seafront sunbathing and swimming.

Hotel amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, bars and restaurants.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €200.00

FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €180.00

FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €170.00

KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL***

(Location : 10 minutes' walk from the venue)



Kapetanio Bay Hotel is a 3-star hotel located in Protaras, a tourist point on the Eastern Coast of Cyprus. This area offers an amazing "resort-like" experience with famous beaches, bars and restaurants at a walking distance from the Hotel. Fig Tree Bay beach, the infamous spot recognised as one of the top 25 beaches in the world is just a 2 stop distance by bus.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €190.00

FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €170.00

FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €160.00

Hotel rooms will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

The hotels are not available for direct booking.

For Federations booking their accommodation outside of the indicated hotel network, they may be subject to a daily fee per person, which will be allocated to cover various event operational costs and venue facilities usage.

For hotel reservations please return the “Preliminary Entry and Accommodation Form” by **18 of February 2026**.

The reservations will be confirmed officially only after receiving the duly signed and stamped form, and payment of the 50% deposit of the total amount due.

Reservations will be finalized upon receipt of the balance due and “Final hotel booking and Travel Form” by **16th March 2026**.

Payments

Please submit payments to the following account:

Name: CYPRUS SWIMMING FEDERATION
Bank: Bank of Cyprus
IBAN: CY02 0020 0195 0000 3570 0983 4929
SWIFT BIC: BCYPCY2N
Subject: LEG 1 - OPEN WATER 2026

Cancellation and Refunding Rules

Cancellations made prior to **16th March 2026** will not be penalized.

Cancellation requests between **16th March 2026 and 3rd April 2026**, will have 50% penalty of the total booking cost.

There will be no refunds for cancellations made after **3rd April 2026**.

Official Airport and Transfers

Larnaca International Airport “Glafcos Clerides” (LCA) is located 66 km from Protaras - approximately 50 minutes’ drive.

The Organizing Committee will provide free of charge transfer to and from Larnaca airport to hotels, transfer to the training pool and competition venue from hotels, for those who book accommodation through the Cyprus Swimming Federation.

Appendixes

PRELIMINARY ENTRY AND ACCOMMODATION FORM

Please fill and return this form not later than the 18th of February 2026
by email to koek@logos.cy.net & openwater@europeanaquatics.org

CONTACT DETAILS (please fill in with capital letters in English)

Federation name		CODE	
Contact person			
Address			
Phone Number			
E-mail			

TEAM DELEGATIONS

Female Swimmers	Male Swimmers	Female Support Staff	Male Support Staff	Total

HOTEL RESERVATION

[VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL ****](#) [PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL***](#) [KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL ***](#)

Please select your choices

1st choice		2nd choice	
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Check-in Date	Check-out Date	Qty. Single	Qty. Double	Qty. Triple

(50% prepayment for official booking must be paid until 18/2/2026)

National Federation:

President or General Secretary of Federation:

Date:

Signature and Stamp:

FINAL HOTEL BOOKING AND TRAVEL FORM

Please fill and return this form not later than the **16th of March 2026**
 by email to koek@logos.cy.net & openwater@europeanaquatics.org

CONTACT DETAILS (please fill in with capital letters in English)

Federation name		CODE	
Contact person			
Address			
Phone Number			
E-mail			

TEAM DELEGATIONS

Female Swimmers	Male Swimmers	Female Support Staff	Male Support Staff	Total

FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

	Pax	Airport From	Airport To	Flight No	Time
Arrival					
Departure					

HOTEL RESERVATION

[VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL ****](#) [PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL ***](#) [KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL ***](#)

Please select your choices

1st choice		2nd choice	
------------------------------	--	------------------------------	--

Check-in Date	Check-out Date	Qty. Single	Qty. Double	Qty. Triple

(Final payment for official booking must be paid until 16/3/2026)

National Federation:

President or General Secretary of Federation:

Date:

Signature and Stamp:

POOL TRAINING REQUEST FORM

Please send this form to koek@logos.cy.net and openwater@europeanaquatics.org

by 16 March 2026

All information should be typed, or printed legibly, not handwritten

FED		Country Code			
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National Federation	
Email Address	
Contact Person	
Phone No.	

Please mark YES or NO on the session(s) below you'd like to request and write down the number of athletes from your team that will attend per session.

Day	Request	Session Morning number of athletes	Session Afternoon number of athletes
15 April	NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>		
16 April	NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>		
17 April	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>		

Date:

Signature and Stamp:

