REPORT

FINA APPOINTED TASK FORCE

PART 3 – VENUE

1. INTRODUCTION

Part 3 of the Task Force Report covers the venue in Fujairah – United Arab Emirates.

2. FINA RULES RELATED TO VENUE ASPECTS

The FINA Open Water Swimming Rules 2009-2013 (See Appendix 01)

- OWS 3.2.1 In case of hazardous conditions that jeopardize the safety of the swimmers and the officials; in conjunction with the Safety Officer the Chief Referee can stop the race.
- OWS 3.34. The Safety Officer shall provide prior to the competitions to all swimmers a tide/ current chart clearly indicating the time of tide changes on the course and showing the effect of tides or current on a swimmer's progress along the course.
- OWS 3.35. The Safety Officer shall in conjunction with the Medical Officer advise the Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.
- OWS 3.39 The Course Officer shall be responsible to the Management Committee for the correct survey of the course.
- OWS 5.1. World Championships and FINA competitions shall be for Open Water distances, 25 kilometres, 10 kilometres and 5 kilometres, conducted at a venue and course approved by FINA.
- OWS 5.2 The course shall be in water that is subject to only minor currents or tide and may be salt or fresh water.
- OWS 5.3 A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities. In general terms the certification must relate to water purity and to physical safety from other considerations.
- OWS 5.4 The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 1.40 meter.
- OWS 5.5 The water temperature should be a minimum of 16°C. It should be checked the day of the race, 2 hours before the start, in the middle of the course at a depth of 40 cm. This control should be done in the presence of a Commission made up of the following persons present: a Referee, a member of the Organising Committee and one coach from the teams present designated during the Technical Meeting.
- OWS 5.6 All turns/alterations of course shall be clearly indicated.
- OWS 5.7 A clearly marked craft or platform, containing a Turn Judge, shall be positioned at all alterations of course in such a manner as not to obstruct a swimmer's visibility of the turn.

- OWS 5.8 All Feeding Platforms, turning apparatus and Turn Judges craft/platforms shall be securely fixed in position and not be subject to tidal, wind or other movements.
- OWS 5.9 The final approach to the finish shall be clearly defined with markers of a distinctive colour.
- OWS 5.10 The finish shall be clearly defined and marked by a vertical face.

The FINA By Laws 12 (See Appendix 03)

- **BL 12.2 Inspection of Venue(s)**
  The venue(s) in which competitions are to take place must have been approved by the competent authorities for this purpose.
- **BL 12.5 Checking and Guarding of the Venue(s)**
  The venue(s) must be guarded against unauthorised intrusion for an adequate period before the beginning of the championships/ competition, and an efficient security sweep of the venue(s), to search for unauthorised persons or dangerous objects, carried out before competitors, officials and spectators are admitted.

The FINA Medical Rules (See Appendix 04)

- 6.8. At all times, the priority must be to safeguard the health and safety of athletes. The outcome of the competition must never influence such decisions.

The FINA Open Water Swimming Manual (See Appendix 05)

- Course Preparation. The organiser should make sure that the choice of water for an open water swim is suitable for the purpose and that the competitors are not being placed in any danger due to the location or condition of the selected water.
- In accordance with OWS 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 the venue and course is subject to the issue of a certificate of suitability issued by the appropriate local health and safety authority. This must be made available to the FINA OWS Technical Officials and Medical Officer before the event can proceed. Local organizers are encouraged to arrange this authority well in advance of the event and to ensure that the certificate has been issued no sooner than 10 days prior to the event.
- Certification of the length of the course (preferably by GPS) and suitability of the water must be provided to the TOWSC and the Championships Safety Officer.

The FINA Rules and Regulations – FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup 2010-2013 (See Appendix 06)

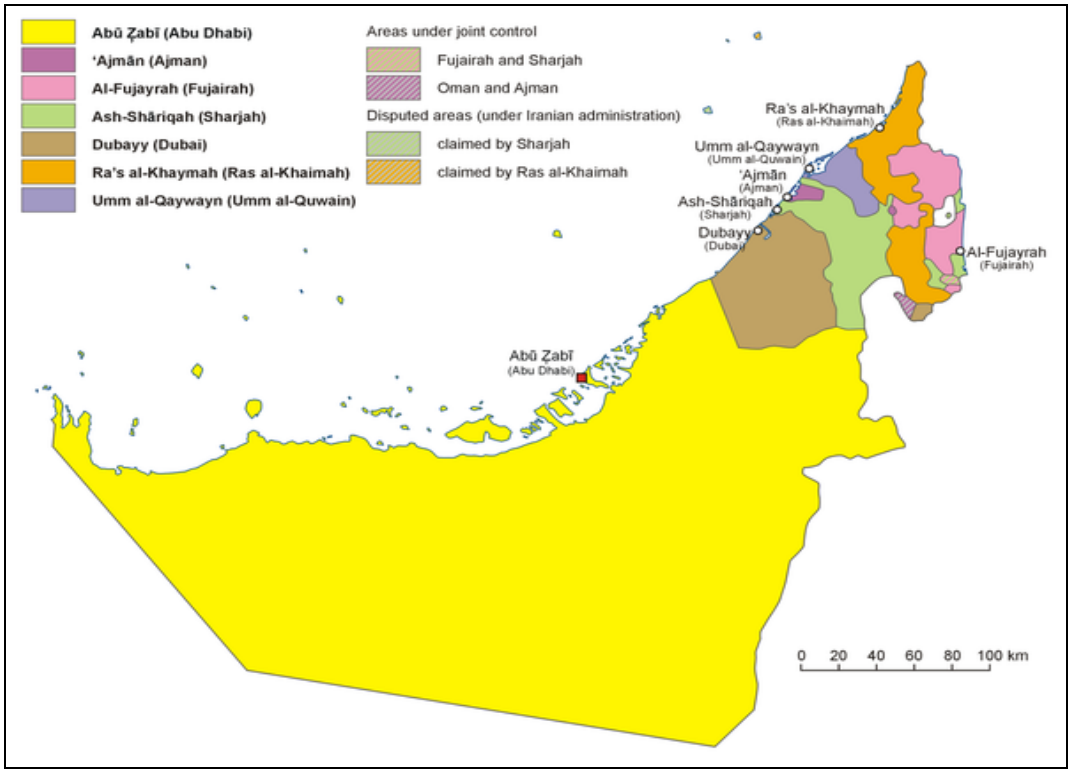
- 4.2. Training venue: free use of a suitable swimming pool or open water training venue shall be made available for three (3) days prior to the Event.

3. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The 2010 FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup took place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The United Arab Emirates is a constitutional federation of seven emirates; Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ras al-Khaimah and Fujairah.

The ruler of an Emirate can make any decisions regarding any aspect of law, although federal laws take precedence.



Map of the UAE with the location of Fujairah on the right.

4. CITY OF FUJAIRAH

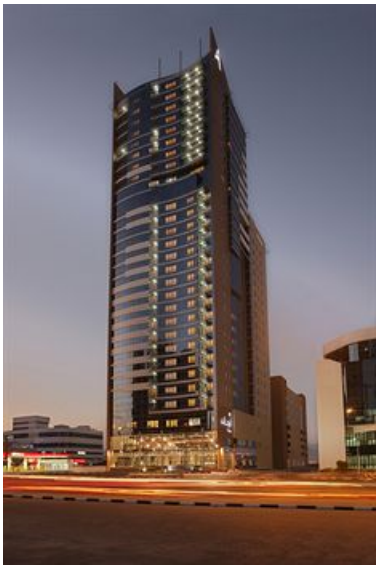
The Capital of the Emirate of Fujairah is the City of Fujairah. Fujairah is located 120 km from Dubai, the best known Emirate of the United Arab Emirates.

Google Map of the City of Fujairah (UAE)

Competitors were accommodated in the newly constructed Nour Arjaan by Rotana Hotel in Fujairah.

The standard of the hotel and the food was outstanding.

The newly constructed Fujairah Hospital is located at some 5.7 km from the venue (driving distance).

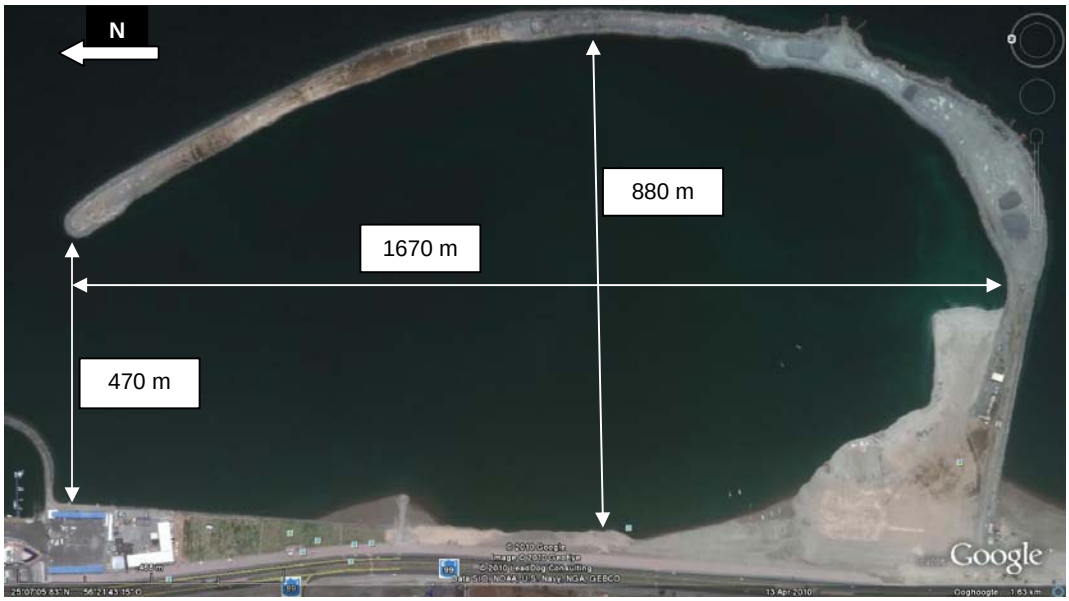


The Nour Arjaan by Rotana Hotel

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE RACE VENUE IN FUJAIRAH

The race was organised in a recently built lagoon (called the banana lagoon) in the city of Fujairah.

The lagoon is 1670 m long and 880 m wide at its widest point. The lagoon has an opening in the North to the open sea.

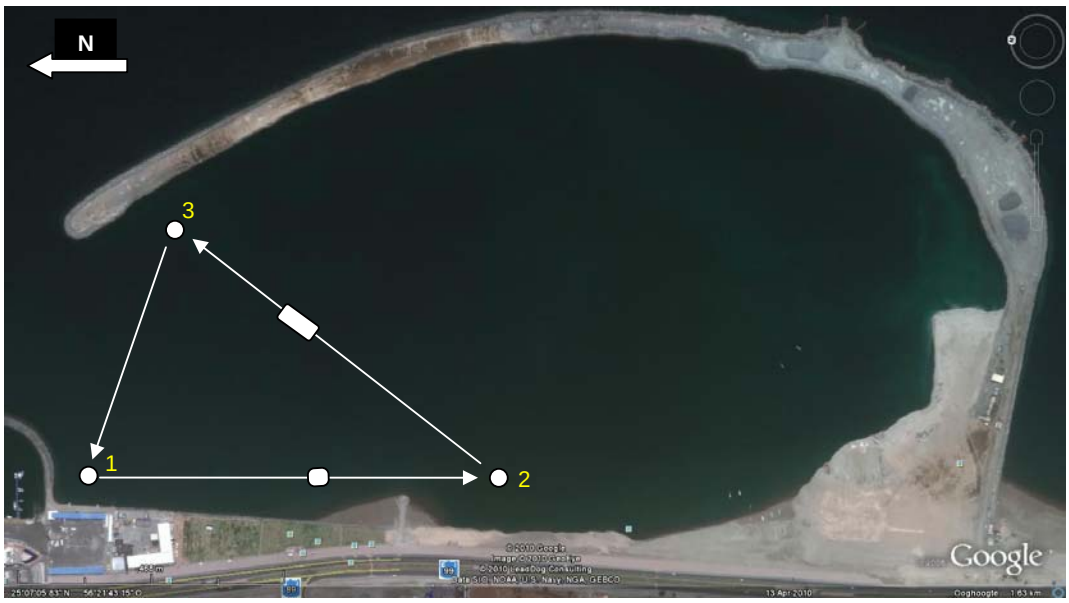


The Banana Lagoon in Fujairah.

The venue is adjacent to The Fujairah International Marine Club having a secured and guarded entry, buildings, jetty's, parking spaces, meeting rooms and a protected harbour where yachts, safety and security boats are moored.

The Fujairah International Marine Club.

6. THE COURSE



The course in Fujairah

The course was set as a triangle, as seen in the picture above. Start and finish were near the Fujairah International Marine club.

There were two feeding pontoons, the first was covered and located in front of the beach, between buoy 1 and 2 and catered for 20 people. The second was not covered and located in front of the rocky side between buoys 2 and 3 and catered for forty people.

On the day of the Fujairah event the water was reported as being calm with some tidal movement experienced during the race.

The Task Force visited and inspected the venue from the starting area and by boat at the meeting in Fujairah 14 January 2011. Some officials at the event of 23 October 2010 attended and pointed out the position of the race course, the feeding pontoons and the lifeguard stations on the shores around the course.

The venue from the start zone

7. MAP PROVIDED BY THE UAE

The Course map provided by the UAE Swimming Federation is given hereunder.

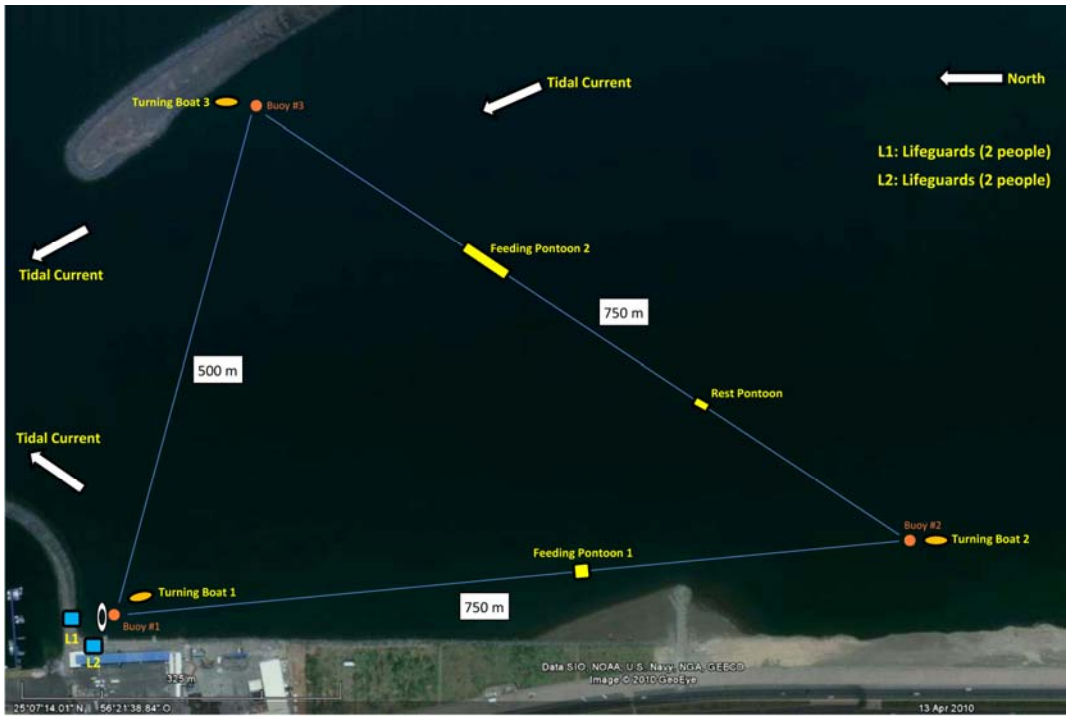
Course Map provided by the UAE Swimming Federation.

The course director informed the Task Force initially that the Map was the correct interpretation of the situation.

When the Task Force pointed out that from video proofs the start/finish zones were closer to the Fujairah International Marina and that in order to reach a final 500 m lap the triangle had to be different, otherwise the turning buoy number 3 had to end up on the rocks, the course director informed the Task Force that the map was a schematic presentation of the situation only.

8. MAP CREATED BY THE FINA TASK FORCE

Based on the video analysis and based on the information received from the course director, the course map was redesigned to provide a more accurate situation. The FINA Task Force map is given hereunder and was confirmed by the course director.



Course Map produced by the FINA Task Force.

The competition course was set up by officials from the UAE Swimming Federation under the supervision of Mr Osama Nabil El-Shazly (Egypt), the appointed Safety Officer but also Course Director.

The layout of the course was triangular, from the starting point there was a 750m leg to the first buoy and then another 750m stretch and then one of 500m back to the starting point. There was no pontoon on the last leg of the triangle.

Mr Osama Nabil El-Shazly was experienced in setting up OWS courses. He said he used GPS markings to define the course distances and to locate the positioning of the several turning buoys. The course was installed with two feeding pontoons:

- Pontoon 1 was located between turning buoy 1 and 2 and was covered by a tent. The pontoon could accommodate 20-25 coaches.
- Pontoon 2 was located between turning buoy 2 and 3 (closer to buoy 3 than to buoy 2) and was uncovered. The pontoon could accommodate 40 coaches.

Besides the pontoons, three big turning buoys, several smaller direction buoys in between the turning buoys were installed.

Feeding Pontoon 1

9. CONCLUSION

There is a small difference between the course lay out provided by the UAE Swimming Federation and the course lay out reconstituted by the FINA Task Force.

The venue was approved by the Technical Delegate. There was however no certificate of suitability for the use of the venue issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities (see OWS 5.3.). This must be made available to the Technical Delegate before the event can proceed.

In general, the course was well set up and all basic course set up requirements (pontoons, turning buoys and the start/finish) were fulfilled.