REPORT

FINA APPOINTED TASK FORCE

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SUMMARY

Francis Crippen, an Open Water Swimmer from the USA passed away whilst competing in the FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup race that took place in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates on Saturday 23 October 2010.

In order to better understand the circumstances of the tragic accident, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) appointed an international Task Force to conduct an independent and unbiased investigation into the tragic death of Francis Crippen. Members of the Task Force include Mr Gunnar Werner (Sweden) Lawyer, Dr Harald Vervaecke PhD (Belgium), Safety Expert, Dr Antonio Pelliccia MD (Italy), Cardiologist, Dr Tobie-Lynn Smith MD (USA) Physician and former Open Water Swimmer and Greg Towle (Australia), National Open Water Swimming Coach. FINA appointed Ms Katarzyna Jozwik (Poland), FINA Legal department, as ex-officio assistant to the Task Force.

The Task Force met on four occasions and maintained regular correspondence in between the meetings. The Task Force visited the location of the tragic accident in Fujairah and held hearings with the FINA Technical Delegate, key officials at the event, representatives from the Fujairah Hospital, an athlete's representative, coaches, Technical Open Water Swimming Committee members. The Task Force also received correspondence from several other sources which included athletes, coaches, federations and the Crippen family.

The submitted Report covers the following Parts: 1. The Task Force, 2. The implementation of the FINA rules in Fujairah, 3. The Venue, 4. Climatic conditions, 5. Safety aspects, 6. The Event, 7. Medical considerations and 8. Recommendations and Conclusions.

It is the opinion of the Task Force that a multitude of factors may have played a role in the death of Fran Crippen. Medically, these factors include the potential (although not proven) existence of cardiac abnormality and the possible occurrence of uncontrolled exercise-induced asthma in unfavorable race environmental conditions.

The Task Force acknowledge that factors such as a combination of high physical exertion and fatigue in conjunction with high air and water temperatures, potential dehydration and heat exhaustion were all possible contributing causes which led to Francis Crippen's progressive incapacitation. This led to a loss of consciousness in the water which ultimately resulted in drowning.

The Task Force is of the opinion that the current FINA Rules and Regulations need to be amended and refined. Furthermore the Task Force feels that many safety measures were not adequately addressed at the Fujairah event.

The Task Force concludes its report by proposing a number of recommendations for the consideration of FINA.

Mr Gunnar Werner | Dr Harald Vervaecke PhD | Dr Antonio Pelliccia MD

Dr Tobie-Lynn Smith | Mr Greg Towle

REPORT

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SYMBOLS USED

UAE	United Arab Emirates
FINA	International Swimming Federation
LEN	European Swimming Federation
TOWSC	Technical Open Water Swimming Committee of FINA
°C	Degrees Celsius
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit

TEMPERATURE CONVERSION BETWEEN DEGREES CELSIUS AND FAHRENHEIT

°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F
10	50.0	20	68.0	30	86.0	40	104.0
11	51.8	21	69.8	31	87.8	41	105.8
12	53.6	22	71.6	32	89.6	42	107.6
13	55.4	23	73.4	33	91.4	43	109.4
14	57.2	24	75.2	34	93.2	44	111.2
15	59.0	25	77.0	35	95.0	45	113.0
16	60.8	26	78.8	36	96.8	46	114.8
17	62.6	27	80.6	37	98.6	47	116.6
18	64.4	28	82.4	38	100.4	48	118.4
19	66.2	29	84.2	39	102.2	49	120.2