REPORT

FINA APPOINTED TASK FORCE

PART 1 – TASK FORCE

1. PREAMBLE

Francis Crippen, a long distance swimmer from the United States of America (USA) passed away during the FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup race that took place in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday 23 October 2010.

In order to better understand the circumstances of the tragic accident, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) appointed a Task Force to address all the issues related to the death of open water swimmer Francis Crippen.

2. FRANCIS CRIPPEN BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Francis "Fran" Crippen (17/04/1984 – 23/10/2010) was a USA long-distance swimmer. After being a pool swimmer for most of his career, Crippen made the transition to open water swimming in 2006 where he had tremendous success.

Crippen was a six-time US National Champion. He won two national titles in the 800 m freestyle, two in the 5 km open water, and two in the 10 km open water event.

In the pool, Francis Crippen was an 11-time Collegiate All-American swimmer while swimming for the University of Virginia under coach Mark Bernadino. He is remembered by his teammates as a swimmer who “represented the University, the United States, and most importantly his family with the utmost devotion, pride, and honour in everything he did.” He graduated from UVA in 2006 with a degree in Sociology.

Francis Crippen’s international successes as a pool swimmer include two individual silver medals in the 400 m and 1,500 m freestyle at the 2003 Pan American Games and a bronze medal at the 2001 Goodwill Games. He finished fifth in the 400 m freestyle and sixth in the 1,500m freestyle at the 2004 US Olympic Trials.

After transitioning to open water swimming, from 2006-2008 Crippen represented the Mission Viejo Nadadores in California and swam for Coach Bill Rose. In 2007, he won a gold medal in the 10 km open water event at the Pan American Games.

In 2008, Francis Crippen returned home to Conshohocken, Pennsylvania to continue training, and coaching, with his long-time coach, Richard Shoulberg, at the Germantown Academy Aquatic Club. Crippen continued his success internationally, winning a bronze medal in the 10 km at the 2009 FINA World Aquatic Championships. A year later, Crippen won silver in the 10 km at the 2010 Pan Pacific Championships.

Crippen is survived by his parents Pete and Pat Crippen, and three sisters; Maddy, a 2000 US Olympic Swim Team member, Theresa, a member of the US National Swim Team, and his sister Claire, a swimmer for the University of Virginia.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE

The following Task Force Members were appointed:

- **Mr Gunnar Werner** (Sweden), Lawyer (not practising)
  Education: 1954 Law exam at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. 1961 Member of the Swedish Bar Association. 1961-1995 Werner Law Firm with specialities: Business law, Bankruptcy law, Sport law. 1994: Member of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS), 1994: Deputy President of the Appeals Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), 2008 Vice-President of ICAS, 2010 Acting President of CAS (June-December).
  Sport: 1969-1978: President of the Swedish Swimming Federation, 1976-2005: Member of the Bureau of FINA, 1988-1992: Vice-President of FINA, 1992-2000: Honorary Secretary of FINA, 2005: Honorary Member of FINA, 1986-1998: Member of the Board of the European Swimming Federation (LEN), 1990-1992: Honorary Secretary of LEN, 1992-1998: Vice President of LEN, 1998: Honorary Member of LEN, 1988-1992: Member of the IOC Sport and Law Commission, 1992-2010: Member of the Board of Governors of the International Masters Games Association.

- **Mr Harald Vervaecke** (Belgium), Safety expert
  Dr Harald Vervaecke is PhD in Physical Education and Sport, former swimmer, Professor (1974-1984) and Associate Professor (1998-2008) in Swimming and Lifesaving at the Leuven University, Master in Sport Management (Cologne, Budapest, Leuven). He has an extensive knowledge in master planning of big sport events, project planning of water related events and water based risk assessments. He is President (1985-2006) and Vice-President (2006-now) of the Belgian Life Saving Federation. He is author of many books and articles on lifesaving, lifeguarding, drowning prevention and water safety. He is the Secretary General of the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) since 1993. ILS is the world authority for drowning prevention and lifesaving sport and leads, supports and collaborates with national and international organisations engaged in drowning prevention, water safety, water rescue, lifesaving, lifeguarding and lifesaving sport and count over 30 million members in over 130 countries.

- **Mr Antonio Pelliccia**, MD (Italy), Physician
  Dr Antonio Pelliccia is Scientific Director of the Institute of Sports Medicine of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI). He was the Chief Medical Officer of the Italian

National Team at the 2002, 2006, 2008 and 2010 Olympic Games. Dr Pelliccia is specialised in Cardiovascular Disease and Sports Medicine (including sudden cardiac death). He was a visiting scientist at the Georgetown University, Washington DC and TUFTS University, Boston. He is Professor of Sports Cardiology at the University of Rome (Italy), Adjunct Professor of the TUFTS University in Boston (USA). His areas of expertise include cardio vascular disease in athletic populations. Author of several peer-reviewed papers and editor of textbooks related to the athlete's heart.

- **Ms Tobie-Lynn Smith**, MD, MEd (United States of America), Physician
  Dr Tobie-Lynn Smith is Family Medicine physician practicing in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is also studying public health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was a World Champion in the 25 km Open Water swim in Perth in 1998. She holds Master's Degree in Kinesiology with a specialisation in Clinical Exercise Physiology. She is an advocate for Open Water Swimming and safety for its athletes.

- **Mr Greg Towle** (Australia), Coach.
  Mr Greg Towle is a leading National Open Water Swimming Coach from Australia. Mr Towle is a Bachelor of Arts – Sports Studies as well as a classified teacher. He has extensive experience in coaching open water swimmers under many different conditions and was present at the World Cup event in Fujairah. Since 2003, he has represented Australia as a National Coach on over 30 occasions at amongst others, the following events: Beijing Olympic Games, World Championships, Pan Pacific Championships, Junior Pan Pacific Championships, Oceania Championships, World Cups, International Camps, Conferences. He was been awarded the honour of Australian Swimming Open Water Coach of the Year – 2004 and many others.

The FINA appointed Mss Katarzyna Jozwik (Poland), FINA Legal department, as ex-officio assistant to the Task Force.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK FORCE

The Terms of Reference of the Task Force is:

- To assemble, analyse and review all useful and pertinent documents and information from individuals and organisations necessary to better understand the circumstances of the death of Francis Crippen.
- To produce an independent transparent and unbiased report to be submitted to the FINA Executive.
- To propose useful, effective and firm recommendations in order to improve the safety in the sport of Open Water Swimming to avoid future harm to its athletes.

No deadline was given to the Task Force and the Task Force could define its own working procedures and timings in a fully independent nature.

The Task Force received from FINA all available information related to the Fujairah Event.

5. MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE

5.1. First Meeting

The Task Force met in Lausanne (Switzerland) on 8 November 2010.

All members of the Task Force and ex-officio assistant Katarzyna Jozwik were present.

Concluding the meeting, it was decided that many additional reports and information were needed to continue a thorough investigation.

5.2. Second Meeting

The Task Force met in Fujairah (United Arab Emirates) on 14 January 2011 from and on 15 January 2011. It also met in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) on 15 January.

All members of the Task Force and ex-officio assistant Katarzyna Jozwik were present.

During this meeting, the Task Force visited the venue where the World Cup was held. The venue was inspected by boat and interviews were held with the following persons involved with the event.

Who	Nationality	Function
Mr Valerijus Belovas	Lithuania	FINA Technical Delegate
Mr Ayman Saad	Egypt	Executive Director of the UAE Swimming Federation and Head of the Organising Committee
Mr Osama Nabil El-Shazly	Egypt	Event Safety Officer
Mr Abdulla Moubarak Al-Zahmi	UAE	Referee and Male Race Referee
Mr Mohamed Faraj Suleiman Al-Alili	UAE	Female Race Referee
Mr Tamer Ahmed Moustafa	Egypt	Deputy Safety Officer
Dr Subash C. Gautam	India	Head of the Department of Accident Emergency Unit of the Fujairah hospital
Dr Mohamed Jaffar		Department of Accident Emergency Unit of the Fujairah hospital
Mr Abdo Kamel El-Gamal	Egypt	Turn Buoy 1 Referee (Marker)
Mr Ahmed Moubarak El-Zahmi	UAE	Turn Buoy 1 Referee (Spotter)
Mr Abdulla Mohamed Abad	UAE	Turn Buoy 2 Referee (Spotter)
Mr Mohamed Idris	UAE	Turn Buoy 2 Referee (Marker)
Mr Mousa Hassan Hatem	UAE	Turn Buoy 3 Referee (Marker)
Mr Obaid Salem Obaid	UAE	Turn Buoy 3 Referee (Spotter)
Mr Amr Mohamed Badawi	Egypt	Referee at feeding pontoon 1
Mr Sorour Khamees Saad	UAE	Referee at feeding pontoon 2
Mr Nabil Mohamed Majari	Tunisia	Lifeguard at Station 1
Mr Adel Abdelsattar	Egypt	Lifeguard at Station 1
Mr Zubeer Mohamed Majari	Tunisia	Lifeguard at Station 2
Mrs Sarah Marks	Australia	Administrator, Public Relations and Public Announcer at event

5.3. Third Meeting

The Task Force met in Lausanne (Switzerland) on 7 February 2011.

All members of the Task Force and ex-officio assistant Katarzyna Jozwik were present.

During the third meeting, the Task Force had hearings with the following coaches, athletes and members of the Technical Open Water Swimming Committee (TOWSC) on several issues:

Who	Nationality	Function
Mr Thomas Lurz	Germany	Athlete, winner in Fujairah
Mr Stefan Lurz	Germany	Coach of Germany
Mr Steven Munatones	USA	Member of the TOWSC
Mrs Elena Nembrini	Switzerland	Coach of Switzerland, present in Fujairah
Mr Samuel Greeetham	Great Britain	Member of the TOWSC
Mr Flavio Bomio	Switzerland	Secretary of the TOWSC and Member of the TOWSC Executive Committee

The Task Force reviewed the issued draft report.

5.4. Fourth Meeting

The Task Force met in Leuven in Belgium on 27 February 2011.

All members of the Task Force and ex-officio assistant Katarzyna Jozwik were present.

During this meeting, the draft Task Force Report was reviewed for finalisation, with the conclusion that final points will need to be refined through e-mail collaboration before submission of the final report.

6. ADDITIONAL HEARINGS, INTERVIEWS AND MEETINGS

During the period after the tragic accident and the issuing of the final report, the Task Force had additional hearings, discussions, interviews, e-mail correspondence and/or meetings with the following people.

Mr Gunnar Werner

Name	Relevance to the investigation
Mr Petar Stoychev	Competitor and member of the FINA Athletes Committee.

Dr Tobie-Lynn Smith, MD, MEd

Name	Relevance to the investigation
Ms Madeline Crippen	Sister of Francis Crippen.
Ms Christine Jennings	USA swimmer participating at the Fujairah Event (ranked 14th).

Mr Jack Roach	USA national team coach (not present at the event).
Mr Alex Meyer	USA swimmer present at the Fujairah Event.
Mr Richard Shoulberg	Coach of Francis Crippen.
Ms Eva Fabian	Competitor in Fujairah.
Mr Jack Fabian	USA coach for Eva Fabian and unofficial helper of USA Swimmers at the Fujairah Event.
Ms Erica Rose	Former Open Water Swimming Competitor.
Mr Paul Asmuth	USA advisor to the Open Water Swimming team.

Mr Greg Towle

Name	Relevance to the investigation
Mr Mark Perry	Open Water Head coach of Great Britain.

Dr Harald Vervaecke, PhD

Name	Relevance to the investigation
Mr Tom Vangeneugden	Belgian swimmer participating at the Fujairah Event (ranked 9).
Mr B. Chris Brewster	President of the United States Lifesaving Association and Vice-President of ILS (USA).

Dr Antonio Pelliccia, MD

Name	Relevance to the investigation
Prof. Gaetano Thiene	Full Professor of Cardiovascular Pathology at the University of Padua (Italy).

7. DOCUMENTS ANALYSED BY THE TASK FORCE

The following documents were available and analysed by the Task Force. The documents are given in the appendices.

FINA Rules and Regulations

Nr	Document	Appendix
01	The FINA Open Water Swimming Rules (2009-2013).	01
02	The proposed amendments on the Open Water Swimming Rules 2009.	02
03	The FINA By Law 12: The requirements with regard to order, safety and security at World Championships and FINA Competitions (and Continental and Regional Championships/ Games).	03
04	The FINA Medical Rules.	04
05	The FINA Open Water Swimming Manual (2006 Edition).	05
06	The Rules and Regulations of the FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup 2010-2013.	06

Documents from/with Host Nation

Nr	Document	Appendix
01	The agreement for hosting and staging of an annual event of the	07

	FINA 10 km Marathon Swimming World Cup 2010-2013 signed by the FINA and the UAE Swimming Federation (no date stated).	
02	The official invitation issued by the UAE Swimming Federation to participate in the FINA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup, initially planned to take place in Sharjah but moved some days before the competition to Fujairah.	08
03	List of 82 Invited Competitors (55 male and 27 female).	09
04	The notification by the UAE to the FINA by e-mail (dated 21/10/2010) of the change of venue from Sharjah to Fujairah.	10

Reports

Nr	Document	Appendix
01	The report of Mr Gunnar Werner (Sweden) of his inspection visit to the site of the incident some days after the tragic accident.	11
02	The report of Mr Valerijus Belovas (Lithuania), FINA Technical Delegate of the competition.	12
03	The Letter of Appeal from Mr Valerijus Belovas (Lithuania), FINA Technical Delegate of the competition.	13
04	The report of Dr Mouhamedou Diop (Senegal), FINA Medical Delegate of the competition.	14
05	The report of Mr Saeed Al-Hamour (UAE), Secretary General of the UAE Swimming Federation.	15
06	The Forensic Medical Report issued by Dr. Osman Abdul Hamid Awad (UAE), Forensic Consultant of Fujairah. This report was made available to the Task Force, however, due to privacy and confidentiality has not been included in the Appendices.	16
07	The Report of Mr Saeed Khalfan Issa Alzabahl (UAE), Attorney General of Fujairah on behalf of the Court.	17
08	The Report of Mr Osama Nabil El-Shazly (Egypt), the Safety Technical Officer of the Competition.	18
09	The additional statements of Mr Osama Nabil El-Shazly (Egypt), the Safety Technical Officer of the Competition.	19
10	The Report of Mr Abdulla Mubarak Al Zahmi (UAE), Male Race Referee.	20
11	The Report of Mr Mohamed Faraj Suliman Al Alili (UAE), Female Race Referee.	21
12	The Report of Mr Hesham Hazem (Egypt), Mr Zubeer Mohamed Majary (Tunisia) and Mr Nabil Mohamed Majari (Tunisia), the lifeguards at Fujairah.	22
13	The Death Certificate of Mr Francis Edward Crippen issued by the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health. This report was made available to the Task Force, however, due to privacy and confidentiality has not been included in the Appendices.	23
14	The Report from Dr Subash C. Gautam of the Fujairah Hospital related to three patients (Mr Allan Do Carmo – Brazil, Ms Eva Fabian – USA and Ms Christine Jennings - USA) brought to the Accident and Emergency Department of the Fujairah Hospital. This report was made available to the Task Force, however, due to privacy and confidentiality has not been included in the Appendices.	24

15	The report of Mr Abdo Kamel El-Gamal and Mr Ahmed Moubarak, turning buoy 1 referees.	25
16	The report of Mr Abdulla Mohamed Abas and Mr Mohamed Idris, turning buoy 2 referees.	26
17	The report of Mr Mousa Hassan Hatem and Mr Obaid Salem Obaid, turning buoy 3 referees.	27
18	Names of officers and safety officials at the Fujairah Event issued by the UAE Swimming Federation.	28
19	Official Results of the competition.	29
20	The autopsy report provided by Mr Ian C. Hood, MB, ChB, Forensic Pathologist (USA). This report was made available to the Task Force, however, due to privacy and confidentiality has not been included in the Appendices.	30

Written Statements, Letters and Articles

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01	Written statements from Ms Christine Jennings (USA), competitor.	31
02	Written statements from Mr Alex Meyer (USA), competitor.	32
03	Written statements from Mr Thomas Lurz (Germany), competitor.	33
04	The report of Mrs Elena Nembrini, Team Manager Open Water of the Swiss Swimming Federation.	34
05	The Letter from Mr Michel Louwagie, President of the Royal Belgian Swimming Federation.	35
06	Report of Mr Jack Roach related to the measured water temperature one day after the race.	36
07	E-mail from Mr Beresnev Alexander, father of an Ukraine female swimmer related to Fujairah.	37
08	Written statements from Mr Mark Perry, Great Britain coach.	38
09	Written statements from Mr Petar Stoychev, Bulgaria, Competitor member of the FINA Athletes Commission.	39
10	Written statements from Mss Ana Marcela Cunha, Brazilian Swimmer.	40

Maps, Pictures, Video's

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01	The venue and race track map issued by the UAE representative and the FINA Technical Delegate.	41
02	The venue and race track map issued by the FINA Task Force.	42
03	Pictures taken during the competition day on 23 October 2010 (ten pictures).	43
04	Pictures of the venue taken on 24 October 2010 (two pictures).	44
05	Extracts of the video taken by the UAE on 23 October 2010.	45
06	Video taken by Mrs Elena Nembrini, Team Manager Open Water of the Swiss Swimming Federation.	46
07	Pictures taken by Mrs Elena Nembrini – Switzerland (four pictures).	47

Other useful documents and material

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01	Recommended Minimum Guidelines for Open Water Swimming Event Safety Issued by the International Life Saving Federation.	48
02	Open water swimming water temperatures policies.	49
03	Pre-Participation Medical Evaluation.	50
04	Recommendations to the FINA by athletes.	51
05	Medical Action Plan proposal.	52
06	IOC Medical Recommendations	53

Letters mailed to the UAE Swimming Federation by FINA

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01	Requests for Reports.	54
02	Request for Insurance cover and Insurance copy.	55
03	Request for Names of Safety Officers.	56