EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

CLINIC SWIMMING



28 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2026

SOFIA, BULGARIA

MESSAGE FROM ANTONIO SILVA
EUROPEAN AQUATICS'S PRESIDENT



As President of European Aquatics, I'd like to welcome you all to the EUROPEAN AQUATICS SWIMMING CLINIC 2026.

Education is at the heart of everything we do, and it plays a huge role in the European Aquatics Strategic Plan 2024-2030. Whether you're an athlete, coach, official, or referee, continuous learning helps us all improve, stay sharp, and keep our sport moving forward.

These courses and clinics are more than just training sessions—they're opportunities to grow, connect with experts, and be part of a community dedicated to excellence. By investing in education, we ensure that our sport remains fair, innovative, and always evolving. So, dive in, learn as much as you can, and let's build the future of European Aquatics together!

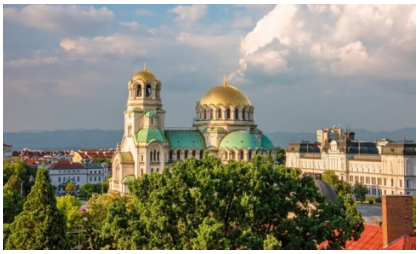
ANTONIO SILVA

European Aquatics President

CLINIC INFORMATION

SOFIA





Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, is a captivating city where ancient heritage meets modern vitality. Nestled at the foot of Vitosha Mountain, it is the country's largest city, with a population of about 1.3 million people, and serves as Bulgaria's political, cultural, and economic heart. With a history stretching back over 7,000 years, Sofia is one of Europe's oldest capitals, seamlessly blending the past and present.

The city's historic core is rich with landmarks that tell its long story. The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Roman ruins of Serdica, and the Boyana Church—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—reflect Sofia's diverse cultural and religious influences. Alongside these treasures, contemporary architecture and bustling boulevards illustrate the city's modern growth and European dynamism.

Sofia is also a cultural and artistic center, home to renowned institutions such as the National Archaeological Museum, the National Gallery, and the National Palace of Culture. Green spaces like Borisova Gradina and the nearby Vitosha Nature Park provide serene getaways and opportunities for outdoor recreation within minutes of the city center.

With its efficient public transport, thriving culinary scene, and vibrant nightlife, Sofia offers a unique mix of tradition and innovation. As a city that bridges East and West, history and progress, Sofia continues to inspire all who explore its enduring charm.

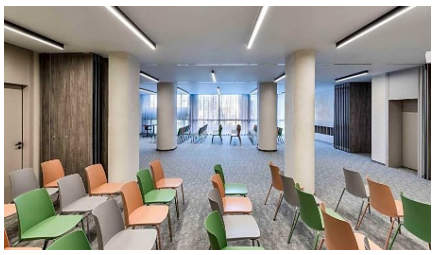
WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS CLINIC

All certified swimming officials wishing to participate in European Aquatics events during 2026 must attend this important clinic, either in-person or via the online facility, details of which will be announced in due course. Officials who do not participate in this clinic may not be eligible to be appointed to one of the EA swimming championships in 2026.

VENUE OF THE CLINIC / OFFICIAL HOTEL

Hotel Mercure Sofia City ****
Bulgaria Blvd 83, 1404 Sofia, Bulgaria
https://all.accor.com/hotel/C1G1/index.en.shtml






Hotel for travellers looking for local and authentic experiences The Mercure Sofia City is located in the eastern part of Sofia, 2.5 mi from the city center. The hotel is perfect choice for business and leisure in Sofia. Mercure Sofia City hotel offers 111 comfortable rooms and suits. The hotel is located near to Vitosha mountain, just 1.9 mi from the National Museum of History and 2.5 mi from NDK. Near to the hotel you can find the Bulgaria Mall, and Infinity Tower is a 5-minute walk away. Restaurant Mercur offering international cuisine inspired by local atmosphere. The perfect location of the hotel offers quick access to some of the most famous landmarks in Sofia: the National History Museum and Boyana Church founded 1259, part of the UNESCO World Heritage list and Vitosha National Park.

ACCOMMODATION PRICES

Per person, per night, full board included (Accommodation; Breakfast; Lunch at the hotel; Coffee breaks; Dinner at the hotel/official dinner; Airport transfers - arrival and departure):

Single Room	140 Euros
Twin Room	85 Euros

During the accommodation booking, please include the number of nights and check-in/check-out dates.
If you select a twin room, please include the name of the person who will share the room with you.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Until January 30th, 2026, fully refundable.
After this date all bookings are non-refundable.

Accommodation booking must be done through the LOC's official travel partner by 10.02.2026:

Contact: boyka@unitedtravelbg.com

Payment details:

Name: UNITED TRAVEL Ltd.

Bank: Unicredit Bulbank

SWIFT: UNCRBGSF

IBAN: BG89UNCR70001525215022

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation to and from the Sofia Vasil Levski Airport (SOF) will be provided by LOC.
  The cost for this is included in Accommodation Price.
- Please note that this service is only available for those who book their accommodation at Clinics' Hotel, through the LOC.

During the accommodation booking, please send the information related to your flight to LOC's official travel: boyka@unitedtravelbg.com

FLIGHT DETAILS			
Arrival at Sofia Vasil Levski Airport (SOF)			
Arrival date		From	
Flight Nr		Arrival time	
Departure from Sofia Vasil Levski Airport (SOF)			
Arrival date		To	
Flight Nr		Departure Time	

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEE

- Registration and payment must be done directly in the EA Academy platform:
  https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/swimming-clinic-2025-2026-sofia-bulgaria
- Deadline for registration is 06.02.2026.
- There are options for in-person and online participation:

1. **IN-PERSON, at the Clinics' Hotel: 95 Euros.**

2. **ONLINE: 145 Euros.**
   The Clinic will take place on the EA Academy platform:
   https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/swimming-clinic-2025-2026-sofia-bulgaria

3. **IN-PERSON, outside the Clinic Hotel: 145 Euros.**
   Please note that transportation to and from the Venue will not be provided by LOC.
   This option – without accommodation in the Official Hotel – allows the participants to attend only the Clinic sessions and the coffee breaks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Please note that for Officials on the World Aquatics swimming officials lists who want to officiate at any European Aquatics Championships during 2026, it is mandatory to participate in this Clinic (online or on-site).

- For Officials who are NOT on the AQUA lists but want to become certified by European Aquatics, it is mandatory to follow the Swimming Clinic (online or on-site) and pass the test afterwards.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The clinic content is currently being finalised but will include topics such as:

- Introduction to European Aquatics
- Philosophy of officiating
- The new World Aquatics Competition Regulations explained
- Improving your skills as a Referee, Starter and Control Room Supervisor
- Officiating at Ice Swimming, Masters, Para, and Special Olympics events
- Professional pool deck official including communication best practice
- European Aquatics officiating protocols for 2026 events
- Participants questions, problem solving and scenario planning

LECTURERS:

- Craig Hunter, TSC Chairperson
- Mireille Zimmer, TSC Vice Chairperson
- Gary Stoops, TSC Secretary

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

All times are local times - Eastern European Time (EET)

Day 1	Day 2	Day3
	9:00 Clinic Starts	9:00 Clinic Starts
	10:30 Coffee Break	10:30 Coffee Break
	11:00 Clinic Continues	11:00 Clinic Continues
	12:30 Lunch At The Hotel	12:30 Clinic Closure
	14:00 Clinic Continues	13:00 Lunch At The Hotel
	16:00 Coffee Break	
18:00 Welcome	16:30 Clinic Continues	
20:00 Dinner At The Hotel	19:30 Dinner At The Hotel	