



FINA 10km MARATHON SWIMMING & GRAND PRIX 2012



Gianniotis (GRE) and Grimaldi (ITA) win inaugural race in Santos (Brazil)

The current and up-and-coming open water swimming elite was on-hand on Sunday January 29 for two thrilling events: the opening leg of the **FINA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup in Santos (BRA)** and the second stage of the **FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix**, a 57km effort between **Santa Fe and Coronda (ARG)**.

In Santos, reigning World champion **Spyridon Gianniotis (GRE)** captured gold, rounding up in 2h11m39s51. Italy's **Nicola Bolzonello** came second (2h11m41s44) while **Richard Weinberger (CAN)** was not far behind (2h11m42s34), claiming the bronze.

Among women, still-competitive **Martina Grimaldi (ITA)** touched first in 2h22m23s94. German veteran **Angela Maurer** proved her consistency with a second-place finish (2h22m25s50) and local hope **Ana Marcela Cunha (BRA)** made a good start with a third spot (2h22m28s44).

In the GP race, French **Joanes Hedel** emerged triumphant with a time of 8h36m38s67. Argentina's **Luciano Sales Rubio** finished second (8h36m47s62), closely followed by compatriot **Damian Blaum (8h36m47s85)** who grabs his second bronze medal (he was third in Rosario).

Anna Uvarova from Russia was the best among women (8h44m26s12). She clinched silver in Race 1, before improving to a gold-medal finish in convincing fashion. Home favourite **Pilar Geijo** looked strong and finished second (8h47m58s62) while Spain's **Esther Nunez** took the minor medal (8h52m46s59).

FINA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup 2012 calendar:

Race 1: January 29 in Santos (BRA)

NEXT RACE: February 4 in Viedma (ARG)

Race 3: April 1 in Eilat (ISR)

Race 4: April 21 in Cancun (MEX)

Race 5: July 26 in Lac St-Jean (CAN)

Race 6: August 11 in Lac Megantic (CAN)

Race 7: October 7 in Hong Kong (HKG)

Race 8: October 14 in Shantou (CHN)

FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix 2012 calendar:

Race 1: January 22 in Rosario (ARG, 15km)

Race 2: January 29 in Santa Fe-Coronda (ARG, 57km)

NEXT RACE: February 5 in Hernandarias-Parana (ARG, 88km)

Race 4: June 17 in Capri-Napoli (ITA, 36km)

Race 5: July 28 in Lac St-Jean (CAN, 32km)

Race 6: August 4 in Lac Magog (CAN, 34km)

Race 7: August 5 in Sabac (SRB, 19km)

Race 8: August 11 in Ohrid Lake (MKD, 33km)