# World Aquatics bans participants linked to Enhanced Games to uphold clean sport



World Aquatics has taken a significant step in the ongoing discourse around fair competition by becoming the first international sports federation to prohibit participation from athletes, coaches, and officials involved with the controversial Enhanced Games. This new directive comes as the Enhanced Games, which advocate for the use of performance-enhancing substances, prepare for their inaugural event scheduled in Las Vegas from 21-24 May 2026.

The Enhanced Games are positioned as a provocative alternative to traditional sporting events, aiming to embrace and celebrate the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs. Initial plans suggest the competition will focus on short-distance swimming, sprinting, and weightlifting, raising alarms among advocates of clean sport. With recent claims from Enhanced Games organisers that Greek swimmer Kristian Gkolomeev has recorded a time of 20.89 seconds in a 50m freestyle trial—surpassing the long-standing world record—the controversy intensifies further.

In response, World Aquatics announced a new bylaw emphasizing its unwavering commitment to promoting clean sport. The organisation articulated that anyone supporting or participating in events that endorse the use of scientific advancements or prohibited substances would be barred from competing or holding positions within World Aquatics. This applies broadly to roles including athletes, coaches, medical personnel, and officials. The federation has encouraged other national organisations to implement similar policies to maintain uniform standards across the sport.

Critics have voiced substantial concerns regarding the Enhanced Games, with the World Anti-Doping Agency labelling it a "dangerous and irresponsible project" that jeopardises athletes' health and undermines the principles of fair play. Despite this backlash, the initiative has gained notable support from influential figures, including venture capitalists aligned with prominent political figures like Donald Trump Jr. and billionaire entrepreneur Peter Thiel.

Husain al Musallam, president of World Aquatics, underscored the federation's stance, stating, “Those who enable doped sport are not welcome at World Aquatics or our events.” This declaration reaffirms World Aquatics' determination to safeguard the integrity of its competitions, the health of its athletes, and the credibility of the global aquatics community amidst a growing climate of performance-enhancing drug discourse in sports.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/swimming/articles/c39x3ppx18jo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/swimming/articles/c39x3ppx18jo)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/swimming/articles/c39x3ppx18jo)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/swimming/articles/c39x3ppx18jo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data