



World Water Safety

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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To the ILS Member Federations
To the Members of the ILS Board of Directors
To the Chair and Members of ILS Commissions
To the Chair and Members of ILS Committees

Leuven 30/07/2025

Dear friends,

The 2026 Lifesaving World Championships (LWC 2026) were scheduled to take place in the city of Agadir in Morocco. However, the ILS received an official communication from the Royal Moroccan Lifesaving Federation informing us that, due to geotechnic and structural stability issues, the construction of the Olympic Swimming pool will not be completed in time.

In response to this development, I have put in charge the ILS Secretary General to find an alternative solution. Over the course of several months, the ILS Secretary General analysed various options and conducted visits to potential host cities. The result of his inquiries is as follows.

The LWC 2026 will be held in the City of Port Elizabeth – Nelson Mandela Bay. The city agreed that the ILS may use the name “Port Elizabeth – Nelson Mandela Bay” in place of Gqeberha, primarily for phonetic and international recognition reasons. The Championships will be held at the end of November until the beginning of December 2026. This is the best period to guarantee steady waves, good weather and acceptable water temperatures. The Executive Mayor and Councillors are very thrilled to have the Lifesaving World Championships coming to their city. We express our sincere gratitude to Lifesaving South Africa (LSA) for their leadership and swift action in stepping in to support and stabilise the planning process for the benefit of all our athletes. Their dedication and willingness to organise such a big event is duly appreciated.

On behalf of the ILS, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ILS Secretary General for his unwavering support and for successfully resolving this matter in the best interest of all our athletes - youth, junior, senior, and masters alike.

Yours Sincerely,



Graham Ford AO
ILS President