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LIFESAVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ADELAIDE 2018 LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

Today marks exactly 365 days until more than 5000 lifesavers from every corner of the globe descend on South Australia for the Lifesaving World Championships.

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) Championships, held every two years, is the largest lifesaving event in the world. It showcases excellence in lifesaving sports and rescue, highlighting the vital role lifesavers play as an emergency service in reducing the rate of drowning around the world.

Next year the Championships, co-hosted by Surf Life Saving South Australia and Events SA, will be held at Glenelg Beach and the South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre from November 16 until December 2.

Event Director Conny Wilson said organisers were expecting the 16-day Lifesaving World Championships to be the biggest and best ever held, with thousands of competitors, volunteers and officials from more than 40 countries taking part.

“This is an enormous event for Adelaide to host given it attracts similar numbers of participants as the Commonwealth Games,” Ms Wilson said.

“While the program will showcase Adelaide and surrounding areas to the world, the event’s main aim is to highlight competitive lifesaving skills to broader audiences, grow awareness of the movement and deepen levels of engagement with the community.”

Official opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Glenelg Beach and competition categories include National Championships, Interclub Championships, Youth Championships, Masters Championships, IRB Championships and Surf Boat Championships.

International Lifesaving World Championships ambassador Bruckner Chase, a professional endurance waterman and internationally regarded ocean advocate, has been recruited to help grow US Masters participation for the Adelaide event.

“My first Lifesaving World Championships in 2016 continues to positively impact my mission and vision to positively impact our oceans and communities around the world, and I am honoured to be able to contribute to the reach and impact of the 2018 LWC,” Mr Chase said.

Minister for Tourism Leon Bignell said securing the World Lifesaving Championships for a second time was a huge economic and sporting win for Adelaide.

“Adelaide hosted the World Lifesaving Championships in 2012 and the event pumped more than \$4 million into the local economy. I’m sure we’ll see an even bigger economic impact again in 2018,” Mr Bignell said.

“We are the only city in the world to host the Championships twice, which is a testament to Adelaide’s reputation as a major events city and our fantastic beaches and sporting facilities.”

Event organisers will also be seeking volunteers early next year to assist with the major event.

“Volunteers play an enormous role in the Championships and we’ll be calling for people to help with everything from administration to hospitality to medical assistance,” Ms Wilson said.

For more information and competitor registrations, please visit www.lifesaving2018.com.

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