



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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SWIMMING FESTIVAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE ON JUNE 27

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The last day to register for the Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) 1st Annual Swimming Festival (formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament) in Managaha on June 28, 2014, is the day before the event, June 27.

So far, 44 swimmers from Japan have registered for the event. They include gymnast and Olympic medalist Takehiro Kashima, who won gold and bronze medals in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and a silver medal in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Kashima is the guest of Central Sports Co., Ltd., the largest fitness club franchise in Japan and co-organizer of the swimming festival.

“We’re very excited to hear from our Japan office that Olympic medalist Takehiro Kashima is expected to join the list of swimmers this year,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “As always, safety is our first concern, and we look forward to providing a safe and enjoyable event for all the participants during the festival.”

Representatives of Japan media Marine Diving Magazine and Music Bird radio will also be on island to cover the event.

The MVA is inviting all swimmers and snorkelers to discover the underwater wonders of Managaha with a 1.5K course around the island. For 11 consecutive years Managaha has been named “Best Beach and Snorkeling” at Japan’s annual Marine Diving Fair, and local swimmers

are invited to join visitors in exploring the submarine beauty of the island this month.

This unique race requires swimmers to must use wetsuits or life jacket and fins along with mask and snorkels. Awards will be given for Overall Male and Female (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place), Junior Male and Female (ages 10 and under, 11-12, 13-15, and 16-18). Competition age divisions are: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-and-up.

Ferries will depart Smiling Cove Marina to Managaha promptly at 4:45 a.m. the morning of the race. The race will begin at 6:30 a.m., followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony on the white sand beaches of Managaha.

The cost is \$25 for Northern Mariana Is. residents with valid I.D. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 27, 2014, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. during the orientation at the American Memorial Park amphitheater on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

Event sponsors include Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University life Sport Education Society, and Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association. Co-sponsors of the event are Delta Air Lines, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS Saipan, and the Commonwealth Health Center.

For more information or to register, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call Ed Diaz at 1.670.664.3210.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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