

Asociación Argentina de Deportistas por la Diversidad

c/o Federacion Argentina LGBT, Cochabamba 477, C1150AAE Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 January 2022

**International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics, Inc.
c/o Chandler Mercer
170 West 400 South
Bountiful, Utah 84010
United States of America**

Re: Letter of Intent to Bid to Host the 2024 IGLA Championships

To the IGLA Board:

This letter signifies that the LGBTQ+ aquatics team of the Asociación Argentina de Deportistas por la Diversidad (Argentine Association of Athletes for Diversity d/b/a “Dogos Natación”) from Buenos Aires, Federal Capital & Autonomous City, Argentina intends to bid to host the IGLA Championships in November 2024.

Though we only joined IGLA as a member organization in 2020, our association was first founded in 1997 and we have offered aquatics programming since 2019. We are members of the Confederación Argentina de Deportes (Argentine Sports Confederation), which is recognized by the IOC as the premier sports federation in Argentina. We are the only LGBTQ+ member organization in the federation. We are also members of the Federación Argentina LGBT (Argentine LGBTQ+ Federation) and the Comisión Organizadora de la Marcha de Orgullo (Organizing Commission for the Buenos Aires LGBTQ+ Pride March). Our organization offers the LGBTQ+ community an opportunity to have a safe space to participate and compete in European-rules football (commonly referred to as “soccer” in North America), tennis, basketball, aquatic sports, and other sports and recreation.

We have already been awarded the bid to host the International Gay & Lesbian Football (European-Rules (Soccer)) Association World Championships in 2024. We have tentatively scheduled the football tournament for the first week of November 2024. We are also planning to host a Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance tournament that week, and we may be able to offer athletes competitions in other sports that week as well.

We are planning these events around our annual pride events which are held every November. The pride march is usually held on the first or second Saturday of November. Buenos Aires LGBTQ+ Pride events are held in November to honor our first LGBTQ+ community organization, "Nuestro Mundo," founded in November 1967. The first LGBTQ+ pride march was held on June 28, 1992, organized by an Human Rights, LGBTQ+ and AIDS activist Carlos Jáuregui, and modeled after the marches in New York City. The first march, from Plaza de Mayo to Plaza del Congreso was a small celebration of life and freedom of expression, a commemoration of the long struggle of the LGBTQ+ community, and a political protest against the institutional, social and cultural homophobia and transphobia that still exists. The march is now held in November when it is warmer as June is in the dead of winter in Buenos Aires. The route of the march has remained the same, but the march now attracts tens of thousands of people.

Even though homosexual acts and sodomy were decriminalized in the 19th century, institutional homophobia and transphobia continued well into the 20th century until the end of the dictatorship era in 1983. "Nuestro Mundo" was founded during the Onganía dictatorship (1966-1970) in response to increased police brutality. The "Dirty War" (1976-1983) saw even harsher persecution of the LGBTQ+ community with arrests, indefinite detentions and disappearances of LGBTQ+ activists. Even though LGBTQ+ activists were inspired by the Stonewall Riots and the political activism in New York City, LGBTQ+ activism was strictly forbidden during the dictatorship era. The restoration of democracy in 1983 allowed the LGBTQ+ community to live openly and publicly for the first time. The first gay bar in Buenos Aires was founded in 1984. The first post-dictatorship LGBTQ+ community organization was founded the same year. The LGBTQ+ movement in Argentina has continued to grow into a vibrant, free and politically-active community.

Since the founding of the Federacion Argentina LGBT in 2005, we have made significant advances in LGBTQ+ rights and protections at the federal level, including, but not limited to:

- Lifted the ban on the LGBTQ+ community serving openly in the military in 2007
- Adoption of the international convention on human rights providing protection for the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination in 2009
- Legalization of same-sex marriage and same-sex couple adoption in 2010
- Ban on conversion therapy in 2010
- Legalization of changing gender on legal documents without surgery or permission from a doctor or judge in 2012
- Lifting of ban on blood donations by men who have sex with other men in 2015

We propose hosting the championships between November 4 and November 9. We will hold aquatic competition in indoor speed swimming, water polo, diving, artistic swimming, open water swimming and pink flamingo. We plan to use the following venues for competition:

(1) The National Olympic Training Center: El Natatorio “Jeanette Campbell” del Centro Nacional de Alto Rendimiento Deportivo (CeNARD) (National Center for High Performance Sports Jeanette Campbell Natatorium), Address: Calle Miguel B. Sánchez 1050, C1429, Buenos Aires, CABA, Argentina;

(2) The Olympic Aquatic Center used for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games: El Natatorio Olimpico del Parque Deportivo Julio A. Roca (Olympic Natatorium at Julio A. Roca Park), Address: Avenida Coronel Roca 4170, C1439DUS, Buenos Aires, CABA, Argentina; and

(3) One of the lakes in the suburbs used by Circuito Lagos Buenos Aires: Circuito Lagos del Rocio, Extremia Luján, Jet Park Argentina, Puerto Pilar Club/Laguna Deep Pilar, Laguna Club Luján, etc.

We already have the support of city and federal officials to secure these venues for the championships. We are also working with LGBTQ+ businesses and ventures in the city for venues to host the social events, cultural events and official events outside of the pool during the week (such as the welcome reception & opening party, closing party, annual general meeting, women’s events, etc.)

We want the IGLA family to come to Buenos Aires for the first IGLA Championships in Latin America to experience the Paris of South America!

Sincerely,

Hugo Melano, Member of the Board of Directors of La Asociación Argentina de Deportistas por la Diversidad & Coordinator General of the LGBTQ+ Aquatics Program (d/b/a “Dogos Natación”) (Buenos Aires, Argentina), hugo_melano8@hotmail.com, +54-11-6954-3270

Translation Services provided by the FGG International Development Committee: Chris Bey, Volunteer Member & Member of Team New York Aquatics (New York City, USA), chris.bey@gaygames.net, +1-917-514-0091