



2007 CARIFTA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The CARIFTA Swimming Championships has become a cornerstone in the development of the Caribbean's Champion swimmers. Jamaica's Janelle Atkinson, who finished 4th in the 400 M Freestyle at the 2000 Olympic Games began her International career as a CARIFTA Swimmer, so did George Bovell, Trinidad's 2004 Olympic Games 50 M Freestyle Bronze Medalist.

Jamaica, under the auspices of the Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica (ASAJ), is proud to be hosting the 2007 CARIFTA Swimming Championships at the National Stadium Pool, April 7-10. This will be the third time since 1999 that Jamaica will be hosting CARIFTA, the last time being 2003. Jamaica is known for well-organized competitions and exciting swimming competitions, always pushing the boundaries to ensure the very best environment for our regions top age group swimmers. We expect CARIFTA 2007 to be no different.

248 athletes from 13 Caribbean Countries have entered the submitted entries. The competition will be held at the National Stadium Pool while the Games Village will be located at the Knutsford Court Hotel. The preliminary heats will start at 9:00 AM each day and the finals at 6:00 PM.

The quality of entries has been enhanced by the fact that FINA has sanctioned the competition. Despite the fact that CARIFTA is first and foremost a development tool for our age group swimmers, many of the regions elite level swimmers will be using the competition to qualify for the 2007 PAN AM and 2008 Olympic Games.

The budget for the competition is JA\$9 million. We have been blest with a number of great sponsors and partners who have contributed in many different ways, however there is a need for additional sponsorship if we are to achieve the goals established by the Organizing Committee. A special thank you to the Sports Development Foundation for helping the Federation purchase a set of new timing pads, an asset that will be used at our competitions for many years to come.

People make things work well and I pay tribute to the volunteers, particularly the member of the Organizing Committee who are working tirelessly to ensure a great environment.

We look forward to four days of exciting competition and invited the public to come out April 7-10 to support their favorite team or swimmer.