SAMOA SWIMMING FEDERATION

Samoa Swimming Report

2023 LCM World Aquatics Championships Fukuoka, Japan

23-30 July 2023

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Overview

World Aquatics LCM Fukuoka, Japan. Samoa selected two elite-level athletes to represent at Worlds: Oliva Borg (21) and Brandon Schuster (25). In addition, two elite development athletes were selected: Kokoro Frost (20) and Kaiya Brown (18), completing the team of four athletes. Team management for Team Samoa was Suzie Schuster, National Swim Coach/General Secretary.

Results

Name	Events	Seed Time	Preliminary Time	FINA PTS	Rank	Evaluation
Olivia Borg	50m fly	0:27.37	0:27.77	681	34/49	
	100m fly	1:01.13	1:01.80	724	35/64	Recognised by World Aquatics as Top 40
Kaiya Brown	50m free	0:27.84	0:28.04	602	65/102	
	100m free	1:01.83	1:02.01	580	60/77	
Brandon Schuster	50m free	0:24.93	0:24.19	665	86/115	Same time as his NR for Freestyle (now broken by Hector Langkilde in August 2023)
	100m free	0:53.17	0:53.75	646	72/119	
Kokoro Frost	50m fly	0:26.00	0:25.58	660	62/89	NR until August 2023 (broken by Hector Langkilde
	100m fly	1:00.53	1:00.20	554	68/74	
4 x100m freestyle mixed relay			3:49.29			National Record

Olivia Borg

Olivia has returned to intense training from April 2023 after an extended break. Her performance in the primary event, the 100m fly, gained recognition by World Aquatics as being in the top 40. She swam fluidly and is regaining her leg strength for sprints.

Brandon Schuster

This was Brandon's final competition for Samoa Swimming on the World Aquatics circuit. He remained competitive in his two events as well as the team relay. His 50m freestyle time mirrored the existing national record that he holds. He continued to look to improve his strokes through Dr G's programme for Universality swimmers.

Kokoro Frost

Kokoro entered both fly sprint events. He broke his national record in the 50m fly and had a season-best in the 100m butterfly. He is a motivated and committed emerging competitive swimmer and remains committed in all backstroke and butterfly sprint events.

Kaiya Brown

This was her second World Championships, and she tackled her competition anxiety well. She was more confident and secure in her performance and vocalised her needs throughout the campaign. She achieved season-best in her two events with sights to improve in both the freestyle and backstroke events.

Relays

The team competed in the 4 x 100m freestyle mixed relay, breaking the LCM national record by over three seconds from the previous 2022 record. The team performed very well together in this event.

Team Dynamic

The team stayed in a World Aquatics hotel, with athletes sharing rooms (female and male rooms). Each morning began with team devotion and meeting before breakfast, travelling to the competition pool, training and/or competing. Most afternoons consisted of
resting time and card games with the team. The team worked well together, had positive camaraderie, and all members contributed to a supportive, friendly, and respectful environment. It was an all-around positive team dynamic for Team Samoa. Fukuoka was an especially welcoming city with many affordable eateries, malls and shops within walking distance.

Team Uniform

The team did not have any sponsorship for uniforms. However, Kokoro purchased ARENA polo shirts for the team to enhance the team uniform kit.

Conclusion

Leading this team at the FINA 2023 LCM World Championships was a pleasure. Olivia, Kaiya, Kokoro and Brandon were mature, held themselves well with other delegates, and respected the team rules, uniform code, and behaviour expectations. They performed well both on deck, in the pool and in public, proving to be ideal ambassadors for Samoa Swimming and Samoa.