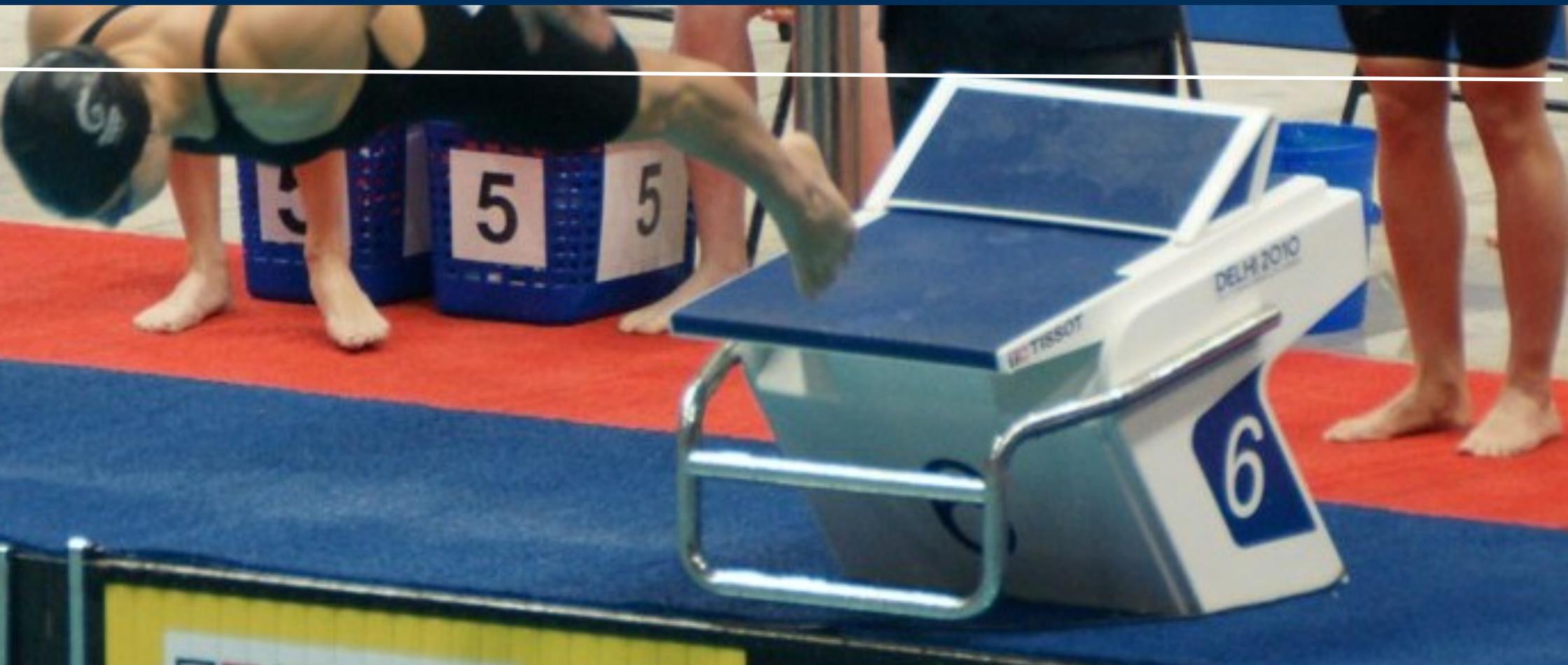


So ... what else will be on show at Auckland Opens?



ASA announces the acquisition of eight new Olympic starting blocks

We are excited to be able to announce the acquisition by the ASA of eight new Omega OSBII starting blocks with relay break detection to be installed at the West Wave Aquatic Centre this week.

This acquisition has been made possible through the generous support of the ASA's commercial supporters, the Trusts Charitable Foundation, and more importantly, the Henderson-Massey Local Board of the Auckland Council.

The blocks are a part of our continuing effort to ensure that despite the limitations of our proximity and fixed factors such as the age and design of the West Wave Pool, we can offer the best competitive environment possible for our swimmers. With the installation of these blocks integrated into our ARES and Omega timing systems, the West Wave Pool will be the only pool in New Zealand fully equipped with this advanced style of starting block.

The management of West Wave have been exceptionally supportive of this acquisition and we extend our thanks and appreciation to them for the part which they play in our continuing partnership.

Our supplier is scheduled to commence installing the new blocks this week with the intention that the entire system will be installed and tested in time for the SNZ Olympic Trials at the end of March.

There are measurable and proven performance benefits which accrue from this type of block, and as we wish to provide maximum opportunity for our athletes to adapt to their use, every effort is being made to have their use available, in part at least, for this weekend's Auckland Open Championships.

We hope that if there is disruption that you will be patient and recognise the benefits which will occur longer term as a result of this very significant investment.



SWIMMING
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