

## Alia Atkinson breaks national 50m breaststroke record, earns silver at world short course

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Alia Atkinson won a historic second consecutive World Short Course Swimming Championships silver medal today.

Atkinson clocked 28.91 to break the national and her personal record to earn the 50-metre breaststroke medal.



Alia Atkinson

The Jamaican was out touched for the gold medal by Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania, who clocked 28.84, a difference of a mere 0.07 of a second. That difference was made from the start as Ruta had a reaction time of 0.60 of a second compared to Alia's 0.66. The 25-year-old Jamaican had previously won the silver medal in the event two years ago in Istanbul, Turkey when she had clocked 29.67.

Atkinson is the Caribbean's only medallist so far. The region's other medal hopeful, world no. 1 George Bovell pulled out of the short course championships for personal reasons.

Less than an hour later, Atkinson was back in the pool competing in semi-final one of the 100 metre individual medley. She placed second in 58.66 behind Siobhan-Marie O'Connor of Great Britain 57.66. The time puts Atkinson fourth overall. She will be

seeking to challenge for a medal in the final tomorrow. Atkinson recorded her best time and a Jamaica best of 58.26 at the World Cup Meet in Dubai UAE on September 1 this year. She also stroked her way to fourth in the final of the 2012 edition of the Championships in 58.85.

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