

SPMS Open Water Committee Report
Thursday September 19, 2019
Submitted by Robin Smith, Chair

Upcoming Open Water Swims:

-Sun Sep 22nd – Mission Mile and SW Zone Open Water Championship Lake Mission Viejo (One and Two Mile Swims) – dual sanction with USA Swimming. **Online Registration closes Sat Sep 21st 7:30 AM**

USMS Open Water Collaborations:

-WOWSA – Redondo Beach Coastal Challenge Sunday October 6th
Unfortunately, this Event will **NOT** be sanctioned by USMS this year; there is a possibility that one or two of the swims (1K and/or 5K) may be sanctioned by USA Swimming

2019 USAS Convention:

Member of USMS Long Distance Committee (2 meetings):

-Committee announced 2021 ePostal and Open Water National Championship Events. **The Middle Distance OWNC (> 1 mile ≤ 3 miles) was awarded to Newport Beach Ocean Lifeguards Association/Pier to Pier Two Mile Ocean Swim (July 2021).**

-Long Distance Rules proposals accepted by House of Delegates (HOD)

-Meeting Presentation on all things Long Distance – Link to slides:

<https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/ld-2019-9-13-3.pdf>

Meetings Attended: HOD, SW Zone, Committees (Long Distance, Open Water, and Officials) and Workshops (Officials, Registrar as Membership Coordinator, Proposed National Committee Structure, and Diversity & Inclusion). Also participated in Legislation Committee Open Forum Call (Sun Sep 8th).

Convention Notes:

-Traveled to St. Louis early (on my own expense) to volunteer at USAS Registration Desk on 2 days – checked-in convention attendees from all NGBs (USMS, USA Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic/Synchronized Swimming); answered questions and assisted with registration issues.

-Attended SPMS Meet Operations meeting.

-Met with Southern California Swimming and USA-S to discuss open water dual-sanctions process.

-Lots of change/more technology coming to USMS.

-National Office to take on more coordination responsibilities and Volunteer roles will change and evolve accordingly – details and timing still being worked out.

-USMS Budget will now be approved by BOD (not HOD) after convention. HOD will continue to establish and approve fees.

-New USMS Membership fee structure (“Unified Fee”) under discussion and early implementation.

-USMS planning to subsidize LMSCs for some USAS Convention expenses (initially hotel).

-Sanction process for Open Water events changing – adding additional support to Event Hosts and LMSCs (USMS OW Safety Compliance Coordinator role expanded to OW Event Coordinator role). Goal is to speed up the process and increase number of USMS sanctioned open water events.

-USMS Certification renewal process in development for Safety Coordinators and Open Water Referees.

-Number of “USMS-only” certified officials continues to grow (includes Open Water Officials).

-Diversity is more than the obvious – also includes mental health and physical disability. As the older USMS members age up, changes in swimmer’s physical/mental conditions including lack of mobility, depression, chronic illness, and loss of hearing/vision will need to be increasingly acknowledged and addressed by coaches, teams, lane mates.