

USMS Convention — Atlanta, Georgia 2016

Committee Name: Open Water	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: Bob Bruce	Vice Chair: NA
Minutes recorded by: Joanne Wainwright	Date/time of meeting: September 21, 2016; 3:30 p.m.

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1.

Motions Passed:

1.

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: 6	Number of other delegates present: NA
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Bob Bruce, Chair. Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Rob Copeland, Jenny Hodges, Bob Kolonkowski, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Sega, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Donn Livoni, Elaine Howley, Chris McGiffin, Bill Roach.		
Committee Members Absent: Charlotte Brynn, Suzi Green, Lynn Hazelwood, Rendy Opdycke, Jim Wheeler. Ex-Officio: Patty Miller.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Chair Report - Bob Bruce greeted the audience and commenced with the attendance taking process. He thanked the committee for its strong work this year, and briefly outlined the main thrust of the meeting to be a brainstorming discussion of ideas to help increase the number and quality of OW swims for USMS.
2. Rules & legislation Review. Bob Bruce briefly outlined the history, relationship, and workings of the Long Distance and Open Water Committees, mentioning that the OWC reviewed all rules before they were approved by the LDC. He also discussed that the LD committee just accepted an amended LD 68 (302.2.2 A 3): A swim greater than 5K shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 29.45 C (85 F). A swim 5 K or less shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 31.1 C (88F). Bob also reported that the OW Committee oversees the OWGTO, part of which includes thermal plans for cold water swims to help eliminate issues and mitigate incidents, and plans to include a thermal plan requirement for hot water swims.
3. OW Guide to Operations Update. Rob Copeland, chair of the subcommittee, briefly discussed the manual and the need to do a major overhaul of the document.
4. Education program update. The OW Committee completed two education programs during 2016, for Independent Safety Monitor and Safety Director. Future educational programs in the planning stage are for referees and event directors to help them with best practices for OW swims.
5. Awards Update. Bob Bruce thanked Sue Nutty for the work she has done as chair for the Award subcommittee.
6. Safety & Sanction Update. Bill Roach reported that in 2016 there were 64 applications reviewed and all were granted sanctions. Of these sanctions, none were revoked. 56 events were held and two are

coming up. Six events were cancelled due to water temperature or weather conditions. Out of 64 requests, seven applications needed a thermal plan in place. Bill also reported that 41 sanction requests used the online sanction request form; others sent in their own safety plans, some of which were quite extensive but lengthy. He requested that all sanction requestors use the online format and additional information may be sent as an attachment. Bill also reported the following statistics for sanctions in previous years: 2013-68 sanctions, 2014-60, 2015-58, 2016-64. Additionally, Pacific had the most sanctioned OW swims. Also in 2016, there were 12 new events and 6 events from 2015 did not request sanctions.

7. Open discussion: “What do we need to do to improve the number and quality of USMS-sanctioned open water swims?” The committee and audience made many suggestions, and the compiled list will help guide the committee in future deliberation and action.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Updating the OWGTO to make it more streamlined and user friendly, and distributing it widely to all interested people and groups.
2. Creation of education modules for training referees and event directors.

The meeting was adjourned at: 4:46 p.m.