

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	Jim Kennedy
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	9/14/2017 - 9:45 a.m. CST

Actions Requiring Approval of the HOD: None

Motions Passed: None

Number of committee members present:	11	Absent:	5	Number of other delegates present:	30
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):					
Chair: Bob Bruce, Vice Chair: Jim Kennedy					
Other Voting Members: Sherry Brooks, Mia Erickson Stevens, Kathryn Farrell Guizar, Jenny Hodges, Bob Kolonkowski, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright (scribe)					
Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Donn Livoni, Chris McGiffin, & Bill Roach.					

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. CST.

Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.

Discussed earlier and approved by email:

- Minutes of the OWC Meeting of 7/23/2017
- Referee Training Module - Bob Bruce discussed 303.8.3 (LD 18) rules proposal from the LDC which requires certified referees for 2018 OW season and encouraged attendees to adopt it at HOD. The training will include a 40-slide presentation and a 25-question test.

Standard business:

- Safety & sanction update - Bill Roach, the OW Safety Compliance Coordinator, reported that the sanction processing is becoming more streamlined with the online safety application and the addition of the submission of course maps. He stressed that the liability waiver must be up to date. There were 54 sanctioned events in 2017 with one cancelled due to weather conditions. There are 8-9 events yet to be held this year. There are 83 certified safety directors. Bill announced his retirement from USMS and that Dave Minor will take over his position.
- Open discussion: Development & promotion of open water events for 2018. Bob Bruce asked the audience for ideas to better promote OW swims. He stated that there were fewer sanctioned swims in 2017 than in 2016, and seven LMSCs contribute to 2/3rds of these swims. The discussion included the following ideas:
 - Pre-race meeting to add information specific to new swimmers (recognition, how to deal with panic, etc.)
 - Reach out to local authorities for helping run an event.
 - Make registration available immediately following an event rather than in November after new USMS registration is available.
 - Attend meetings of local triathlon clubs to help link USAT swimmers with USMS events.
 - Dual sanctions with USAT.
 - OW communication packet sent to LMSC's (Swim In A Box) with links/information on sanctioning requests, USMS insurance specifics, safety director training, OWGTO, etc.

- Add non-competitive events (see Rule 304) to include use of fins, etc.
- Organized training events in cooperation with coaches committee.
- Buddy swims.
- Importance of coach's role in influencing swimmers (add to meet calendar, etc.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.