

Open Water Chairs Peer-to-Peer Teleconference

June 4, 2015

The items posted in this section are notes from conversations that are not reviewed or approved by the attendees. The information in these notes is not intended to override guidelines, policies and procedures listed elsewhere in the LMSC Guide to Operations or elsewhere on usms.org or in the USMS rule book.

Facilitator: Paige Buehler, LMSC Development Committee, chair

Attendees: Jill Wright (SR), Jerry Clark (NC), Kristen Jenó (NC), Jenny Perrottet (NC), George Horan (DV), Michael Moore (PC), Helen Naylor (SO), Dewey Smith (OK), Charlotte Brynn (NE), Kevin Knox (AK), Skip Thompson (MI), Steve Schtab (MR), Sherry Brooks (SP), Bob Eberwine (SP), Peter Lee (SP), Mary Hull (SP), Craig Jourdannais (MT), Donn Livoni (MT), James Biles (WI), Tim Waud (OR), Matt Bronson (IW), Margaret Hair (IW), Jim Davidson (PN), Mary Pohlman (OZ), Nadine Day (USMS President), Rob Butcher (USMS Executive Director), Bill Roach (USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator)

Paige Buehler introduced Bill Roach, the USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator, who served as the content expert for the teleconference. He gave some opening comments and clarifications before opening the floor to questions.

1. There have been 43-44 open water events so far in 2015 running at about the same rate as 2016.
2. The most misunderstood issue over the last 3 years is about boat propellers. Prop guards are not required so long as there is a designated swimmer monitor aboard the boat without one.

Open Questions/Discussion:

1. How many incident claims in last 3 years?
Incidents are handled by national office but he has heard of 2.
2. Are we making positive progress on reducing claims?
Hopefully yes especially because LMSC sanctions chairs are looking at OW sanction requests and then they go to Bill for review. More eyes on safety plans are good.
3. Independent Safety Monitors (ISM) are the LMSC's representative at the event site. They report back to the LMSC and secondarily to Bill. It's up to the LMSC to pick the ISM.
 - a. People who would be a good ISM: nurse, teacher, insurance agent, risk managers.
 - b. Job requirements: understand safety plans and rules and ability to hold the event accountable to the plan.
4. Thermal Plans – be sure OW event applicants know the requirements and when they are not required.
5. Open Water Safety Application Form

- a. Can stand in for a safety plan
 - b. Will be required for every OW event in 2016
 - c. Can be found at usms.org in Guide to Operations in Open Water section
6. Checklists for Boat Operators & Safety Directors
 - a. Found at usms.org in Guide to Operations in Open Water section
 - b. No sign off needed; simply ensures those volunteers know what the safety parameters are and what needs to be done prior to the event start
7. Sanction Fee Rebates
 - a. Still available for 2015
 - b. Targeted toward smaller events getting started.
 - c. 8 rebates given in 2014 of about \$6,000 each
8. What level of sanction fee is a sustainable amount for LMSCs and event hosts?
 - a. General consensus from those in the audience was less than \$1,000
9. Discussion on Legislation proposal to allow for a national-level sanction fee
 - a. Could affect pool, open water, postals, clinics, etc.
 - b. If approved then finance committee would put amounts into budget to take effect 2016
10. Incident Report Form
 - a. Search usms.org for the form and instructions
11. Dual sanctions are still an option for Open Water events
12. Rob Butcher thanked Bill Roach for his service to USMS as the compliance coordinator