

Open Water Committee Meeting

Date & Call to Order

Date: Sunday, November 21, 2010

Called to Order: 8:03 PM EST by Chair

Attendance:

Present: Lynn Hazlewood, Chair; Glenda Carroll, Vice Chair; Lisa Bennett; Marcia Cleveland; Malcolm Cooper, David Diehl, EC Liaison; Mark Gill, NO Staff Liaison; Heather Hagadorn, LD Chair; Jon Harnett; Laurie Hug; Karen Kaussner; Katherine Longwell; Fred Pigott; John Traynor.

Absent: Michael Collins, Frank Marcinkowski, Robert Ripp, Jim Wheeler.

Action Items:

- 1) Proposed Sanction Guidelines—Minor amendment to the proposed sanction guidelines were agreed to. The amendment was as follows:

101.2.1A It is highly recommended that OEVT be used for all open water events.

- 2) The Chair will submit Part 1 (Sanctions) and Part 2 (Safety) of the Guide to Operations to the Executive Committee for review.

Agenda Items:

- 1) **Introductions:** After the meeting was called to order, attendance was taken. As each person's name was called, they were asked to introduce themselves and say a few words about their connection to open water as a swimmer, coach, clinician, event director and/or event official.
- 2) **Report from the Chair:**
 - a) Report to EC—The chair sent a report to the EC for their Nov 30 meeting. Topics included the proposed sanction guidelines, proposed safety guidelines, development of the OW Guide to Operations (GTO), progress made in defining a plan for swimmer clinics, and the need for an easier one-event registration process to assist with event development. Mark Gill pointed out that we will soon be able to use the event entry signature on online entries to cover the OEVT waiver. This has been agreed to by Legal Counsel and the insurance broker. The Registration committee still needs to sign off on the concept.
 - b) Proposed Sanction Guidelines—Minor changes to the proposed sanction guidelines were approved as amendment. The amended guidelines will be forwarded to the EC for their November 30 meeting. The amendment was as follows:

101.2.1A It is highly recommended that OEVT be used for all open water events.
 - c) Proposed Safety Guidelines—There were no amendments to the proposed safety guidelines. The guidelines will be forwarded to the EC for their November 30 meeting.
 - d) Open Water Safety—The Chair and Mark Gill discussed initiatives that are in process concerning open water safety in the aftermath of Fran Crippen's death in October.
 - e) National Office Open Water Staff Member—The chair announced that Steve Munatones will be joining our USMS team as a staff member dedicated to open water swimming. Steve is a member of the FINA OW Committee and recognized as one of the leading experts on open water internationally. Steve will be helping USMS sanctioned events in primarily three areas; safety, education and promotion.

- f) Clinics Project—The committee will be working with Steve Munatones to create swimmer clinics. During convention, the Finance committee put \$10,000 in the committee budget to fund clinics, with the proviso that we provide an acceptable plan and budget for implementation. There will be a clinics subcommittee formed to work with Steve on this project.

The clinics program may include 10 clinics around the country aimed at areas with a large triathlete base. The clinics will be taught by Steve Munatones and Gerry Rodrigues with local USMS open water coaches providing additional staff. The clinics would include a combination of classroom, pool and open water instruction. The pool portion of the clinics will be recorded and available on usms.org for review by subscription. Access would be free to participants. Non-participant USMS members would receive a discount.

Projects for 2010-2011

The committee briefly discussed the projects for 2010-2011 and members volunteered for subcommittees as follows. Please note that the Chair is ex-officio to all subcommittees.

- 1) Sanction Process (E2EEM)
 - a. Work with the Education subcommittee to maintain the sanction guidelines section of the OW GTO.
 - b. Provide LMSC education for the new processes.
 - c. Work with the LMSCs to manage open water sanction and event management activities.
 - d. Subcommittee volunteers: Malcolm Cooper, John Traynor
- 2) Open Water Safety (owsafety@usms.org)
 - a. Work with the Education subcommittee to maintain the safety guidelines section of the OW GTO.
 - b. Prepare auxiliary safety education materials.
 - c. Provide LMSC and event director safety education and mentoring.
 - d. Subcommittee volunteers: Marcia Cleveland, Malcolm Cooper, Jon Harnett, Jim Wheeler, John Treaynor, Karen Reeder (LD committee)
- 3) Event Results Database
 - a. Define data collection and storage for digital event results.
 - b. Develop national ranking system.
 - c. Document DB needs to automatically calculate national awards and recognition—records, All Americans, All Stars and national rank.
 - d. Subcommittee volunteers: NONE
- 4) Swimmer Clinics (owclinics@usms.org)
 - a. Develop and implement a national clinics project.
 - b. Brainstorm ideas for other types of clinics, camps and training programs.
 - c. Task Force members: OW Committee—Lynn Hazlewood, Glenda Carroll, Laurie Hug, Marcia Cleveland (advisor); LD Committee—Heather Hagadorn, Dick Sidner; BOD—Dave Diehl; National Office Staff—Rob Butcher, Mark Gill, Steve Munatones.
- 5) Event Development
 - a. Series promotion and development.
 - b. Event mentoring and assistance.
 - c. OEVT promotion and education.
 - d. Subcommittee volunteers: Glenda Carroll, Karen Kaussner, Rick Walker
- 6) Educational Publications
 - a. Reformat and update existing manuals and include in the OW Guide to Operations. Work with the Long Distance Committee and other OW subcommittees on this project, where appropriate.
 - b. Develop new educational materials.

- c. Subcommittee volunteers: Katherine Longwell, Marcia Cleveland (advisor)
- 7) Liaison positions
 - a. Long Distance committee—Heather Hagadorn, Lynn Hazlewood
 - b. E2EEM Task Force—Lynn Hazlewood
 - c. Coaches committee—Michael Collins
 - d. Officials committee—Fred Pigott
 - e. LMSC Development Committee—?
 - f. National Office Staff—Lynn Hazlewood

Next Meeting

January 9, 2011 8:00 PM EST

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.