

Open Water Committee Meeting Sunday, February 12, 2012

Call to Order: 8:03 PM EST

Attendance: Lynn Hazlewood, Glenda Carroll, Lisa Bennett, Bob Bruce, Malcolm Cooper, Dave Diehl, Laurie Hug, Donn Livoni, Frank Marcinkowski, Sue Nutty, John Traynor, Jim Wheeler

Action Items:

1. MSA minutes for the 11/20/2011 meeting (Motion Bob Bruce; Second Glenda Carroll)
2. Committee agreed to explore the idea of an Open Water Service award.

Discussions:

1. Report from the Chair:
 - a) The Chair suggested we consider whether we wanted to create an Open Water award to be presented at convention. The discussion was inconclusive except the committee agreed that this should be a service award rather than a competition award. This will most likely be a discussion that includes both the OWC and LDC.
 - b) The Chair proposed that we consider whether we need some kind of continuous form of communication with LMSC OW officials, event officials, coaches and swimmers. The committee was asked to aid in the creation of an editorial calendar for open water to determine what topics we would need to discuss with OW officials and how often.
2. 2012 Open Water Task Forces
 - a) Safety—Jim Wheeler, Bob Bruce and Frank Marcinkowski will collaborate and create a plan of action for presenting safety webinars. The plan will be presented at the next committee meeting.
 - b) Event Development—See report below that was distributed prior to the meeting.
 - c) Legislation/Rules—Chair Bob Bruce asked the committee to prepare suggested rules and legislation changes by March 4. In addition the task force has offered the plan reproduced below for development of other types of OW sanctions. Glenda Carroll and Malcolm Cooper volunteered to be added to this task force.
 - d) E2EEM—Chair Lynn Hazlewood reported that the automated sanction system has been released. The date of implementation for the OW section of the event results database is yet unknown. Dave Diehl will get that information for the committee. In the meantime, a proposal for a national ranking system and national challenge system will be distributed to the LDC and OWC prior to their next meetings.
3. Other Business
 - a) Dave Diehl noted that the OWC does not have a private discussion forum. The lack of a private discussion forum is because the committee chair has found the USMS forums awkward to use and not functional for committee members in the past.

Next Meetings: March 4, 2012 8:00 PM (webinar discussion meeting); April 1, 2012 8:00 PM (full discussion meeting). Note: The March 4 meeting was cancelled because the expected plan was not ready to present.

Adjournment: 9:10 PM EST

Task Force Reports

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Event Development TF Report

I understand the webinar idea has been raised before, but I would like to see it raised again. Safety would be a section of the presentation; not the focus. There is more to running an OW swim than safety, although it is a tremendously important part.

- Contact for Event Director questions on any aspect of USMS-sanctioned Open Water event organization, sanction, operations, safety risk management, online sanctions procedure.
- Develop/coordinate a webinar: How to plan and run an open water swim. Included would be a section on how to convince a not-so-interested board to support an OW swim: webinar 45 minutes to an hour.
- Lead the formation of annually designated USMS Open Water Zone Series and/or Championship events for each of the 8 USMS Zones
- Update, streamline, and/or integrate existing *USMS Open Water Manual* into approved USMS Guide to Operations format. Draft completed by April 1.
- Develop a job description for Open Water Chair for the LMSC level.

Other Open Water Sanctions

Plans to implement **Article 203.1.1C OTHER SANCTIONS**—The Rules/Legislation Task Force will work on creating two additional sanction categories:

- Type 1: A sanction type that is the functional equivalent of Recognition. This shouldn't be complex. It involves a re-crafting of already existing legislation, which has worked for us for many years in pool events.
- Type 2: Dual sanctions with other governing bodies. This is much trickier, since it involves a true integration of swimmers in the event and will require negotiations at a higher level than a standing committee. Swimmers would enter an event as a member of different NGBs, but would be considered as part of the same event (no separation for scoring).

We will aim for "step-wise" approval by USMS BOD in the form of well-defined and unambiguous "hard" up or down commitments from USMS BOD before moving from one stage to the next. We will begin with a concept document for the two types of sanction.