

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	Jim Kennedy
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	5/21/2017 - 8:00 PM EDT

Number of committee members present: 17	Absent: 4	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Voting members: Bob Bruce (Chair), Jim Kennedy (Vice Chair), Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Kathy Farrell Guizar, Lynn Hazlewood, Bob Kolonkowski, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Segal, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio: Mark Johnston, Casey Keiber, Donn Livoni, Chris McGiffin, Bob Roach.		

Motions Passed:

- MSA to recommend all items that were not pulled by the OW Committee to LDC for approval.
- MSA to recommend 303.3.1 as written to LDC for approval.
- MSA to recommend 303.3.2 as written to LDC for approval.
- MSA to recommend 303.7.2 (d) as written to LDC for approval.

New Action Items:

1. Bob Bruce to contact OW Development Subcommittee members and give report at our next meeting.
2. Bob Bruce to contact OW Swim Training Subcommittee members.
3. Sue Nutty to send OW Service Award rubric to subcommittee members.

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. EDT.
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.
3. Approval of minutes from April 23, 2017. Incomplete.

Status of Action Items:

1. Reorganize OWGTO section on USMS Website as this project progresses. Bob, Bill, & OWGTO Subcommittee. Ongoing, as needed to post new and/or revised material.
2. Review Part 3 Rules changes, pull, and be prepared to discuss. Ongoing, everyone.
3. Bob Bruce to discuss OW Convention workshop ideas with Donn Livoni. Incomplete.
4. Bob Bruce to contact members of OW Swim Training Subcommittee. Incomplete.
5. Jim Kennedy to draw up proposal to use Go The Distance database for OW Committee statistics. - Incomplete

Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. Bob reported that he has done work on rules and referee training.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Chris McGiffin reported that he is preparing for BOD meeting in June. He also reported the retirements of Jim and Anna Lea Matysek on May 26, 2017, and Tracy Grilli in August, putting the National Office in a transitional period. Jessica Porter will take over Anna Lea's membership duties. Chair reports are due at the July BOD meeting. A task force has been formed to

handle the postal modernization, and Chris will help facilitate this project along with Dawson Hughes and Skip Thompson. The first meeting of the task force is Monday, May 22, 2017.

3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Officer—Bill Roach reported 42 OW events sanctioned, one pending, and one under construction. The Hurricane Man event in Florida was cancelled due to weather constraints. We now have 50 new safety directors, and Bill is looking forward to getting reports back from safety directors after events are concluded. He is especially interested in data showing actual number of participants in each swim. He also reported that he is trying to make the online sanction form more user friendly.

Building our Committee and Status of Projects:

1. OW Development Subcommittee (purpose to generate real, actionable ways to develop and promote open water swimming, the central purpose in the committee definition)--Bob Bruce informed the OW committee that he is in the process of gathering information and will report back at the next meeting.
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO)—Bob Bruce, Chair; Lynn Hazlewood, Kathy Farrell Guizar, Denise Brown. Bob Bruce reported that committee work is on hold but information will be forthcoming.
3. Rules & Legislation Subcommittee—Bob Bruce, Chair, Lynn Hazelwood, Donn Livoni, others TBD. Bob Bruce briefly noted the pulled proposals and asked for any other pulls from the OW Committee.

A motion was made by Sue Nutty for all items not pulled by the OW Committee to be recommended to LD Committee for approval. 2nd: J. Kennedy

Starting Line: 302.2.3b (1 & 2) After a lengthy discussion, Bob Bruce pulled this item for further discussion with Bill Roach and the LDC.

Escorted Swims (Housekeeping) 303.3.1 - Donn Livoni moved to recommend 303.3.1 as written to the LD Committee for approval. 2nd: Ally Segal 303.3.2 - Donn Livoni moved to recommend 303.3.2 as written to the LD Committee for approval. 2nd: Denise Brown

Rules for Category I Swimwear: 303.7.2 (d) There was a brief discussion regarding wristwatches and their lack of ability to assist a swimmer in real time. Sue Nutty moved for the OW Committee to recommend 303.7.2 (d) as written for approval to the LD Committee. 2nd: Kathy Farrell Guizar

FINA Wetsuit Rules: Bob Bruce asked for feedback on the May 17, 2017 OW Q&A memo from Jay Thomas, Chair of USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. The memo clarifies FINA's rules governing swimwear in OW competitions which USA Swimming has adopted. 601.4.8 was cited (see below) and whether or not a similar proposal should be drafted by the committee for OW events. If so, USMS would need to adopt the FINA Wetsuit Rule. According to 203.3.2h, Sanctioning of OW Swims: "When sanctioning a FINA Masters World Championship open water event, an LMSC may grant exceptions to specific USMS open water swimming rules and administrative regulations in order to be in compliance with FINA rules." In light of rule 203.3.2h, The OW Committee decided no action needed to be taken.

"601.4.8 FINA Masters Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules—If amendments to the FINA Masters Technical Rules are adopted between the annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee."

4. Safety Education Subcommittee—Chair? Bob Kononkowski, Will Reeves, Bill Roach. No Report
5. Event Management—Chair? Bob Bruce, Jenny Hodges, Donn Livoni. On Hold

6. Officials Subcommittee—Bob Bruce, Chair; Jim Kennedy, Denise Brown. Bob Bruce reported no formal action; however, he has completed more than 1/2 of work on the referee training and hopes to get information to the subcommittee soon.
7. Awards Subcommittee—Sue Nutty, Chair; Joanne Wainwright, Mia Erickson Stevens, Ally Sega. Sue Nutty reported that OW Service Award nomination forms have been disseminated on the OW forum, OW committee forum, to OW directors in LMSCs, and published in Streamlines. Sue will send out the rubric information to subcommittee members for review and comments to finalize the form.
8. OW Swim Training Subcommittee—Chair? Ally Sega, Jim Kennedy, Mia Erickson Stevens, Will Reeves, Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, Charlotte Bryn. Bob will discuss how to use Places to Swim and other topics with committee members in the next week.
9. IT Task Force—Chair? NEW GROUP (with a better name surely to be chosen!). Will Reeves, others TBD Using Go the Distance database - Jim Kennedy reported that he discussed IT idea to use Go The Distance data to promote OW swimming with Dawson Hughes and asked Will Reeves to specify what data is needed.

New/Other Business:

Places to Swim: A suggestion was made to get people to use Places to Swim to promote and communicate OW training, noncompetitive events, clinics, etc. Will Reeves and Jim Kennedy will come up with guidelines for open water training swims, and Chris McGiffin will take information back to risk management for review. There was concern about safety requirements for inviting swimmers to participate in such activities. According to USMS insurance rules for pools or OW workouts, all participants must be:

- USMS registered members, or
- [Guest members](#) in their 30-day tryout period, or
- [Foreign Guest Members](#)
- There must be a person on deck directly supervising the workout who is:
- A USMS registered member

Working at the local and LMSC level: Although you are serving on a national committee, your greatest task and bully pulpit strength lies at the local and LMSC level; what are you doing NOW at the local or LMSC level to spread the word about USMS open water swimming in general and to encourage USMS open water swimming specifically for 2017?

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, June 18, 2017 - 8:00pm EDT
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 EDT