

**Southern California Swimming
Open Water Committee
Meeting Minutes and Discussion Notes**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro), Mark Johnson (Metro OW Rep), Paul Szuszkiewicz (Eastern OW Rep and Officials Liaison to OW Committee)

Absent: Ron Aitken (Desert OW Rep), Iman Khadembashi (Pacific OW Rep), Paige Kuwata (Athlete Rep – Desert), Alex Nieto (Orange OW Rep),

Meeting Called to Order: 7:34 PM

Robin welcomed the attendees to the meeting. All present discussed the latest status of pool availability and timing of high school swim practices around the LSC.

It was noted that the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Committee via email and have been posted to the SCS website.

COMPETITION:

1. Committee reviewed the latest version of the SCS Open Water Calendar. Open Water Hosts are being contacted regarding possible 2021 dates and scheduling options given the lack of special event permit availability at this time.

2. The Swim to Tokyo Special Event is underway with just over 100 entries. FAQs have been posted on the SCS website. Robin will send the email blast event announcement that went out to SCS, along the FAQs document, to all OW Committee members to forward to others in their Geographic Committees as needed. Timing of special prizes, awards, and event results were discussed.

3. Robin brought up an idea presented by Head Coach Jeff Thornton (CCAT) during the recent SCS Coaches Meeting about the possibility of holding an open water series of dual meets using a cross-country scoring format. These could be held as an open water practice with all athletes being current USA Swimming members and coaches having direct line of sight to the athletes. Committee discussed potential venues and distances for this type of open water event.

EDUCATION:

1. Committee discussed the possibility of using the pool rental option to run the Open Water Age Group Camp and Open Water Clinics in two hour blocks. This would allow smaller groups in multiple locations to attend and participants could learn and practice open water skills prior to attending an open water clinic at a beach, ocean, bay, or lake location in the future. Clinics would be run using COVID-19 safety protocols for intra-squad or dual meets in pools.

SUPPORT:

No items or updates.

*****NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 21st, 2021 at 7:30 PM Pacific Time*****

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM