

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

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Iman Khadembashi (Pacific OW Rep), Paige Kuwata (Athlete Rep – Desert), Alex Nieto (Orange OW Rep), Paul Szuszkiewicz (Eastern OW Rep and Officials Liaison to OW Committee)

Guests: CJ Wanser (Official, Orange)

Absent: Ron Aitken (Desert OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro), Mark Johnson (Metro OW Rep),

Meeting Called to Order: 7:34 PM

MSP – To approve October 14, 2020 meeting minutes. (Motion by Paul Szuszkiewicz, Second by Alex Nieto, Motion passed). Robin noted that these minutes were already posted to the SCS website in accordance with new guidelines.

COMPETITION:

1. Per Coach Ron Aitken, the postponed USA Swimming Open Water Nationals are still scheduled to proceed in April 2021 (Ft. Myers, FL) with a second OW Nationals tentatively scheduled for October 2021 (Las Vegas, NV). Regarding the Western Zone OW Championship, the 2021 and 2022 locations and hosts are still TBD.
2. Committee reviewed the “COVID-19 Safety Plan for SCS OW Meet Hosts” and “Return to Racing Considerations for SCS OW Meet Hosts” documents. Discussion regarding possible pre-planning options for OW Meet Hosts included making changes to the number of races or race distances; identifying the Meet Director, OW Referee, and Independent Safety Monitor early in the process; and scheduling some OW Meets over two half-days instead of one day.
3. The “Swim to Tokyo Virtual OW Event” DRAFT Meet Form was reviewed. Committee discussed the meet entry details and brainstormed ideas for recognition & awards. Robin will present the Virtual Event at the upcoming SCS BOD Meeting on January 20th.

EDUCATION:

1. Committee started preliminary discussions regarding pre-planning and possible options for the Age Group OW Camp and OW Clinics later this year.
2. Robin noted that we now have webinar capabilities with the new Enterprise Zoom Account, so we will be able to organize the “Introduction to OW Swimming” SCS Webinars more easily.

SUPPORT:

1. Committee brainstormed potential opportunities for mentoring and training for SCS Open Water Officials.

*****NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 7:30 PM Pacific Time*****

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 PM