

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

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), Ron Aitken (Desert OW Rep), Mark Johnson (Metro 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: Michael Kinross (WZ OW Coordinator, Desert), CJ Wanser (Official – Orange)

Absent: John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:33 PM

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

**COMPETITION:**

1. Debrief and discussion regarding the USA Swimming OW Nationals/Jr Nationals held April 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Myers, FL. Those who attended the meet noted the rough water conditions in the Gulf and last minute changes made to the schedule, race courses, and feeding stations. Everyone was very proud of all of the SCS Athletes, Coaches, and Clubs who participated. Robin will submit some articles for posting to the SCS website with the meet results and recognize those who qualified for USA Swimming National/Jr National OW Teams.

2. The Swim to Tokyo Special Event currently has 153 entries from around our LSC. Interim results will be posted shortly. Robin requested that Committee members remind their Geographic Committees that the Event is ongoing and entries continue to be accepted. All Athletes entered as of April 30<sup>th</sup> will receive a special prize.

3. SCS OW Calendar was discussed. Local authorities and venues are still not allowing hosts to schedule open water meets or submit special event permit applications. Priority will be to try to schedule SCS OW JOs sometime in the fall, preferably prior to the WZ OW Champs in Sep.

4. The Combined USA Swimming OW Nationals/Jr Nationals scheduled for October in Henderson, Nevada will be a qualifying event for National/Jr National OW Team selections. An Open Water Festival is being planned for the dates immediately following the OW Nationals meet and will include additional race distances and age groups.

**EDUCATION:**

1. Committee discussed the possibility of scheduling smaller open water clinics in conjunction with open water meets. This might be easier to implement based on all of the continuing safety requirements and scheduling limitations as venues start to re-open for the summer. It would also offer an educational opportunity for those who are present including athletes, parents, and officials. Committee will think about feasibility of this when open water meets are able to be scheduled and confirmed moving forward.

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**SUPPORT:**

1. OW Officials are encouraged to take the updated exam on the new rules when the online system opens back up on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul mentioned that shared training and virtual clinics are being discussed and planned to include all open water officials from across the US.

**OTHER:**

1. Club Support amounts for Open Water approved at the recent BOD Meeting include: \$1000 for OW Nationals and \$700 for Junior OW Nationals. It was noted that there are two OW Nationals Meets in 2021. Both are combined Nationals/Jr Nationals and there are separate qualifying criteria for the USA Swimming National/Jr National OW Teams at each meet.

2. SCS Committee Budgets for 2022 will be initially estimated as 75% of the 2019 approved budget numbers to start discussions.

3. Start time for May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was discussed given the changing schedules for everyone. We will try a mid-day start time.

**\*\*\*NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 12th 2021 at 1:30 PM Pacific Time\*\*\***

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 PM



## 2021 OPEN WATER CALENDAR

*(Updated as of April 21, 2021)*

Here are the Open Water Meets and Events that I am currently aware of for planning purposes. Local authorities and venues are **not** scheduling special events or accepting permit applications at this time.

***Please note that this schedule is subject to change due to meet venue, local, state, and federal public health requirements; availability of special event permits; and approvals for meet sanctioning.***

DATE	OPEN WATER MEET/EVENT	LOCATION	DISTANCE(S)
Mon March 1st to Sun Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	“SWIM TO TOKYO” Special Virtual Open Water Event	Open ONLY to SCS Athletes and Clubs	5471 Miles (Goal Distance)
Fri April 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sun April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Combined USA Swimming Open Water Nationals and Open Water Junior Nationals	Fort Myers, FL	10K / 5K (Nationals) 5K / 7.5K (Junior Nationals)
Date TBD TENTATIVE	SCS Age Group Open Water Camp and Clinic	TBD	N/A
Sun June 13 <sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE	Hermosa Beach Triathlon Open Water Pier Swim (USAT sanctioned Event)	Hermosa Beach, CA	One Mile
Date TBD TENTATIVE	52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Seal Beach Rough Water Swim (dual-sanction USA-S/USMS)	Seal Beach, CA	200yd / 400yd / 800yd / 1200yd / One Mile / and Three Mile
Fri July 16 <sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE	Legacy Triathlon Open Water Swims (USAT sanctioned Event)	Long Beach, CA	750m / 1500m
Date TBD TENTATIVE	SCS Open Water JOs Host: Mission Viejo Nadadores	Lake Mission Viejo, CA	TBD
Sat Sep 18 <sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE	2021 Western Zone Open Water Championship Host: Sandpipers of Nevada	Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, NV	5K, 2.5K, 1.25K
Fri Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> to Sun Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE	Combined USA Swimming Open Water Nationals and Open Water Junior Nationals	Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, NV	10K / 5K (Nationals) 5K / 7.5K (Junior Nationals)
Mon Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE	Open Water Festival	Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, NV	TBD
Date TBD TENTATIVE	Mission Mile (dual-sanction USA-S/USMS)	Lake Mission Viejo, CA	One Mile / Two Mile

For Questions OR If you would like to Host an Open Water Meet Event:  
Please contact Robin Smith, SCS Open Water Committee Chair ([coachrobinsmith@gmail.com](mailto:coachrobinsmith@gmail.com))