

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

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Mark Johnson (Metro OW Rep), Alex Nieto (Orange OW Rep), Paul Szuszkiewicz (Eastern OW Rep and Officials Liaison to OW Committee)

Guests: Michael Kinross (WZ OW Coordinator, Desert)

Absent: Ron Aitken (Desert OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro), Dan Heraly (Pacific OW Rep), Paige Kuwata (Athlete Rep – Desert)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:31 PM

MSP – To Approve the August 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Robin noted that these minutes have already been posted to the SCS website.

COMPETITION:

1. Robin gave an update on the upcoming Mission Mile Open Water Meet (Sun Sep 12th) at Lake Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, CA. Entries are closed. There are 80 USA Swimming athletes entered across the 3 race distances (1-mile, 800m, 400m) and 50 USMS participants entered in the 1-mile. Check-in opens at 8:00 AM with the 1-mile race start time at 9:00 AM

2. Michael Kinross gave an update on the 2021 WZ Open Water Championships (Sat Sep 18th) at Lake Las Vegas, Henderson NV. Entries close tonight. There are currently ~285 entries. The 5K distance will be separated into two races (Men and Women) due to the large number of participants. The Technical Meeting is Friday September 17th at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

3. The Las Vegas Open Water Champions Cup (Fri to Sun Oct 8th to 10th) at Lake Las Vegas, Henderson NV is confirmed as a National Event per USA Swimming and will serve as a Qualifying Event for the USA Open Water National Team. Athletes and Coaches who participate are supposed to qualify for SCS Support Funds (\$1000 Senior / \$700 Junior) based on BOD discussions earlier this year. Robin will remind everyone of this at the upcoming BOD meeting.

4. Michael Kinross reminded everyone that bids for 2022 and 2023 WZ Open Water Championships are still open.

EDUCATION:

1. Committee had a brief discussion regarding definitions of unsporting conduct during an open water race and differences between yellow flag and red flag infractions.

SUPPORT:

1. It is noted that SCS Open Water Meet Hosts may need to request financial grant support from SCS in order to break even. Costs of lifeguards and safety equipment (boats, kayaks), plus additional requirements for permitting due to the pandemic have increased dramatically.

2. Committee discussed plan for adequate staffing and training of open water officials at the upcoming SCS OW meets.

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OTHER:

Robin reminded the Committee about the 2021 USA Swimming Virtual Annual Business Meeting Convention and the upcoming SCS BOD and HOD Meetings.

*****NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:30PM Pacific Time*****

Meeting adjourned: 8:12 PM