

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

Please note that this Committee Meeting occurred the day before USA Swimming recommended the initial suspension of sanctioned events due to COVID-19. Given the ongoing situation, we may need to adjust or postpone some Committee activities and action items accordingly.

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), Mark Johnson (Metro OW Rep), Iman Khadembashi (Pacific OW Rep), Annaliese Litton (Athlete Rep – Pacific), Paul Szuszkiewicz (Eastern Officials Rep and OW Liaison)

Absent: John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro), Paige Kuwata (Athlete Rep – Desert), Alex Nieto (Orange OW Rep)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:32 PM

MSP – To approve February 12th meeting minutes as posted. (Motion by Mark Johnson, Second by Paul Szuszkiewicz, Motion passed)

EDUCATION:

1. Age Group Open Water Camp/Clinic

- Seal Beach is willing to be considered as the OW Camp/Clinic venue. The Club offered to include the clinic in their event permit and schedule it into their open water practices that lead up to the Seal Beach RWS.
- Discussed differences in the permit process for open water clinics and practices on the beach/ocean versus open water racing events and the possibility of starting with a pool session first before the beach/ocean session.
- Assumptions include: ~50 participants, no more than 2 hours total of actual clinic – includes overview, introduction of open water swimming skills on the beach first, and use of buddy system to pair younger or less experienced open water athletes with older or more experienced open water swimmers on the beach and in the water. The start/end time of clinic will need to consider parking and transportation issues for parents.
- Registration fee for clinic and budget for t-shirts, swim caps, and food was also discussed. There is a possibility of using available monies for some of these expenses in current budget.
- There might be a possibility of an OW Olympian to talk at Camp/Clinic depending on the date.

Action Item(s):

- **Mark Johnson to follow-up with Coach Patti Haney/SEAL regarding potential dates/times.**
- **Robin Smith to look into current budget for OW Committee.**
- **Robin Smith to F/U with SCS/USA-S to confirm insurance requirements for OW clinics and OW practices.**

2. Additional OW Clinic/Pool OW Clinic options during summer

- Discussed skills progression of initially starting in the pool and then moving to a bay/lake (calm open water) and finally to the ocean.
- With scheduling and permit challenges for beach clinics, we may need to do more pool open water clinics or offer two-part clinics (pool plus open water).

3. Coaches

- Question raised about how to provide coaches with education and training related to open water. Suggestion to find out how many coaches in SCS might be interested in this.

Action Item(s):

- **Robin Smith to follow-up with SCS BOD.**

COMPETITION:

1. Reviewed SCS Open Water Calendar Updates (as of March 11, 2020) – current schedule attached on Page 3

- Location of SCS Open Water JOs will be Lake Mission Viejo. Events: 1K, 2K, 3K swims. Host requested guidance regarding officials and electronic chip timing.
- There is a possibility of a sanctioned Pool Open Water Swim Event at Riverside Aquatic Center TBD.

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2. Western Zone Update

- New Western Zone OW Chair appointed – Coach Michael Kinross (Sandpipers of Nevada).
- Plan is to implement a formal bid process for the 2021 and 2022 Western Zone OW Championship events.
- Michael is currently working with San Diego Imperial LSC and Coronado Swim Association regarding hosting the 2020 Western Zone OW Championship – Date and Location are TBD.

3. OW Officials Update

- There are currently 8-12 Open Water Certified Officials and 1 Certified OW Referee in SCS.
- Will look for potential open water training opportunities for our officials with upcoming open water clinics.

Action Item(s):

- **Paul Szuszkiewicz to coordinate assignments as needed for OW events on the calendar as well as for any potential upcoming training opportunities.**

SUPPORT:

1. Electronic Chip Timing for OW Events

- Possibility of drafting chip timing guidelines along with list of potential vendors to assist OW Event Hosts.

2. Open Water Course Buoys for Clinics

- Discussed buoy set-up for pool open water clinics/races and potential options for purchasing open water buoys.

3. Kayakers/Paddlers to Support longer OW events

- Seal Beach 3 Mile Swim will again require mandatory kayakers/paddlers for participants. How can SCS assist?

SPECIAL PROJECT – Swim to Tokyo 2020:

- Every SCS GEO Committee hosts an event related to OW – this can be an open water clinic, open water swim, pool open water clinic, or pool open water swim.
- Designate some open water swims in the pool/ocean as “Swim to Tokyo Events” – maybe a 1K and 620yd swims to honor the 10K Olympic Event.
- Designate some LCM pool meet events as “Swim to Tokyo Events” – can be a 400m for Age Group, and 800m or 1500m for Seniors.
- Literally “Swim to Tokyo” – the distance from Los Angeles to Tokyo is 5479 miles. Pick a timeframe and challenge Clubs, GEO committees, the entire LSC to “Swim to Tokyo” (virtual event).

Action Item(s):

- **All attendees to bring this event up at their GEO Committee meetings, and with Clubs, Coaches, Athletes, to get feedback on what is “doable” and brainstorm any new ideas.**
- **Robin Smith to inform USA-S OW Development of this project and plans (Bryce Elser, Kaitlin Pawlowicz, Catherine Kase).**

*****NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for Wednesday April 8, 2020 at 7:30 PM*****

Meeting adjourned: 8:39 PM

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**Southern California Swimming
2020 Open Water Calendar of Events
(Updated as of April 8, 2020)**

Here are the open water events that I am currently aware of for planning purposes. Events not already listed will be added to the SCS Website and Calendar along with links for registration and information when available. There are several additional open water events in planning stages that may be added in the future.

DATE	RACE/EVENT	LOCATION	DISTANCE(S)
<i>Fri April 24th to Sun April 26th **POSTPONED**</i>	<i>Combined Open Water Nationals and Open Water Junior Nationals</i>	<i>Fort Myers, FL</i>	<i>10K / 5K (Nationals) 5K / 7.5K (Jr Nationals)</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>SCS Age Group Open Water Camp Lead – Mark Johnson (CERR) Metro OW Rep</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Pool Open Water Swim Event Host: Riverside Aquatics</i>	<i>Riverside, CA</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Sat June 20th (Note: Host is looking into August dates as back-up plan)</i>	<i>51st Annual Seal Beach Rough Water Swim (dual-sanction USA-S/USMS)</i>	<i>Seal Beach, CA</i>	<i>200yd / 400yd / 800yd / 1200yd / One Mile / and Three Mile</i>
<i>Sat June 27th</i>	<i>Firecracker Swim Meet – Pool Open Water Swim Event (dual sanction USA-S/USMS)</i>	<i>San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	<i>125m / 250m / 500m / 750m / and 1000m</i>
<i>Sun June 28th **CANCELLED** (Note: SCS is hoping to find a new venue and new date)</i>	<i>SCS Open Water JOs Host – Mission Viejo</i>	<i>Lake Mission Viejo, CA</i>	<i>1K, 2K, 3K</i>
<i>Fri July 17th</i>	<i>Legacy Triathlon Open Water Swims (USAT sanctioned Event)</i>	<i>Long Beach, CA</i>	<i>750m / 1500m</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Western Zone Open Water Championships Host – San Diego Imperial LSC / Coronado Swim Assoc.</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Sun Sep 20th</i>	<i>Mission Mile (Lake Mission Viejo) (dual-sanction USA-S/USMS)</i>	<i>Mission Viejo, CA</i>	<i>One Mile / Two Mile (Additional distances TBD)</i>

Questions? – Please contact Robin Smith, SCS Open Water Chair (coachrobinsmith@gmail.com)