

New Jersey Swimming - Open Water Committee

Report for 7/10/12

NJ Swimming has formed an Open Water Committee. We met via a conference call to start to build the frame work for NJ Open Water Swimming. We feel that open water events will introduce a new challenge to our swimmers due to the environmental differences and unfamiliar distances. We hope over time to have NJ Swimming support clinics and other opportunities for our members. The committee is comprised of a mixture of members with both NJ Swimming experience as well as those with open water experience. The OWC comes from a variety of backgrounds including: race directors, lifeguards, and competitors. We believe we will be able to provide a much more structured open water experience due to the diverse knowledge base we are drawing from. We are looking to quickly bring legitimacy to NJ open water swimming and hope to make large advances towards our goals in the first year. The members are:

NJS OWC Non Athlete Members - Justin Alsobrooks (Chair), Corrina Weinkofsky, Jack Caucino, Sandy Rattray, Daniel Ascencio

NJS OWC Athlete Members (NJS Athlete Reps) - Libby Dalziel, Nick Smagula, Mary Cullen, Cameron Rattray, Julianna Cavano

The Open Water Committee (OWC) has discussed the following topics:

1. Sanctioning Process
2. Fee Structures
3. Splash Fees
4. Independent Safety Monitor
5. Officials
6. News

1. Process for applying for an Open Water sanction. (Still in progress)

- a. Submitting a meet bid application.
- b. Using the NJ Swimming application/meet information template.
 - i. We are still in the process of developing a template that works best for NJ Swimming. We are using samples from the Zone and other LSCs' to develop an application for NJ.
 - ii. Once the OWC agrees on the application template we will send a copy to the Admin. Chair and the BOD for their approval.

2. Fee Structures

- a. Mile Swims - \$25
- b. 5k, 10k - \$40

These fees are the maximum that a host may charge. We also understand the chance that a meet may have to charge more to cover cost of such things as more personnel to cover longer distances, boats, and other necessary items required. We are proposing that in these circumstances these hosts can apply for an increase in the maximum fee. The OWC will develop the application and get it approved by the BOD. We will also review the application for fee increase on an individual basis.

3. Splash Fees

- a. \$2 per person

The OWC believes that NJ Swimming should receive a Splash Fee because of the amount of time and effort it takes to sanction an event. We decided a fee per person would be more reasonable until more events get established. This can be revised as more events are established.

4. Independent Safety Monitors (ISM)

The OWC agreed that it would be tough to assign a group of people to act as the ISM. Under the recommendation of the zone and other LSC's, normally the person that is assigned to the position of the ISM is the beach patrol captain or the

supervisor of lifeguards. If this person is directly involved with the event, then the position will be filled by a member of the local emergency response services. This person may be a Police Chief, Fire Chief, and neighboring Lifeguard Captain/supervisor. The OWC recommends that we follow this pattern and use these key personnel because they will be most familiar with the currents, problem areas and other conditions that affect the race area (lake, bay, river, or ocean). We feel that it would be better to have people who are experienced in the area the meet will take place.

We understand this person should be registered as a non-athlete and is suppose to take the Athlete Protection Course. We recommend that at this time the \$54 registration fee should be covered by the host of the meet and the Athlete protection course should be waived for a person of high standing such as a Chief or Captain. This person will have to sign an agreement developed by the OWC and approved by NJ Swimming BOD. The agreement will state the roles of this person and the protocol that they will need to follow. The agreement will state that they are not directly affiliated with the meet, will serve as the independent safety monitor, and that they will serve on the behalf of NJ Swimming.

5. Officials

At this time we are still in the process of working on the officials. Over the next months we will work with the Officials Chair to determine what needs to be accomplished over the next year.

6. News

NJ Swimming has sanctioned its first Open Water event: One-Mile Jersey Shore Open Water Age Group Championship in Lavallette, NJ- hosted by the Ocean County YMCA. We are hoping that this meet will raise interest in Open Water meets for NJ Swimming members and draw more events to sanction their races as USA Swimming meets.