



**U.S. MASTERS
SWIMMING**

Running New Open Water Events

March 10, 2020



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Agenda

- Opening remarks and format for tonight's call
- Original presenter became unavailable and Lisa Brown stepped in to share general OW information followed by a Q&A discussion with a few OW Event Directors



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2020 Open Water Events:

- Can be found on usms.org on the bottom of the page menu under Pool and [Open Water Events](#)
- Can be sorted by area or show all events for the year
- 32 total scheduled for the year today including National Championships



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Open Water Resources:

- Can be found on usms.org
 - Guide to Operations
 - [Long Distance/ Open Water](#)
- Rules can be found in [Section Three of the Rulebook](#)
- Open Water [Sanction Fee Grid](#)
- Insurance requirements
- [Open Water Safety Information](#)
 - Safety Directors Checklist
 - Boat operator checklist
 - Open Water Referee Training module and test



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Open Water Steps to hold a race:

- Search database for dates of other events and determine a date without conflicts
- Find and secure a venue that can handle the date
- Recruit a Safety Director and Referee
 - Complete the USMS [Safety Director Training Module](#) & [Test](#) (in GTO)
 - Complete the USMS [Referee Training Module](#) & [Test](#) (in GTO)
- Develop Event Info and Entry Form with LMSC chair and Sanctions Chair
- Develop your Safety Plan
- Apply for a Sanction



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Apply for a Sanction:

- Gather Personal info for Event Director, Safety Director, & Referee (names, phones, mail & email addresses).
- Your event info (in pdf format).
- Your safety plan (in pdf format).
- A short description of your event (max 500 char). Be brief but promotional.
- Attendance: Last year's attendance if applicable & an estimate for this year.
- A picture of your venue, the nicer the better.
- [Apply for the Sanction on USMS.org](https://www.usms.org)
 - Choose "Events and Results"
 - Choose "Sanction an event"



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Q&A



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1. Can you have a Recognized Open Water Event (similar to pool events)? No. However you can use a one-day-event-registration.
2. What is the difference when running a National Championship Event? There is a bid process that takes place roughly two years in advance. 2022 bids are currently in process.
3. Sanction fees include a \$100 per event and a \$5 per swimmer charge. Ask your LMSC if they will help underwrite these fees.

Ideas for Success

- Create an established annual date, repetition builds
- Apply to be a national championship
- Destination event
- Partner with a local charity to get enthusiastic volunteers
- Piggyback on a local triathlon
- USA Swim-USMS Dual Sanction – kids & adults!
- Add Non-Conforming event (fins, etc)

There is nothing prohibiting partnering with local sponsors to help a race.