

# USMS Long Distance Committee

## Evaluating Requests for Exemption under Open Water Swimwear Rule 303.7.2

1. According to the published procedure, the swimmer submits an application for exemption with the appropriate documentation.
2. The LDC Chair (or designated LDC subcommittee or LDC member) reviews the application and documentation. While maintaining swimmer confidentiality, the Chair may request more information from or consult with the swimmer, the religious leader or medical professional who submitted testimony or diagnosis, other religious leaders or medical professionals, other experts in the area of the requested exemption, and/or the LDC, in order to make a decision.
3. The LDC Chair promptly issues a decision on the exemption request in writing.
4. If the LDC Chair denies the exemption, the case is closed, unless the swimmer subsequently appeals to the LDC under 303.7.2C(3). In this case, after appropriate consideration by the LDC, the decision of the LDC shall be final and binding.
5. If the LDC Chair grants the exception:
  - a. In the letter to the swimmer, the Chair will include the terms of the exemption and the process that the swimmer needs to follow at open water events.
  - b. The Chair will maintain a list of exempted swimmers, including name, USMS number, reason, exemption date, and expiration date.
6. If the swimmer is granted an exemption, he or she must follow this procedure at each subsequent open water event in order for the exemption to be valid:
  - a. Before the pre-race meeting for the event, the swimmer must show the event referee (or designee) the exemption letter and the swimwear proposed for wearing in the event.
  - b. The event referee (or designee) will accept or reject the proposed swimwear based on LDC guidelines printed in the exemption letter.