

# PART 1: OPEN WATER SANCTION GUIDELINES

## ARTICLE 101: SANCTION MANAGEMENT

### 101.1 ORGANIZATION

- 101.1.1 Governing Bodies**—The conduct and organization of open water sanctioning for U.S. Masters Swimming is governed by USMS through its Long Distance committee and LMSCs, with input from the Open Water committee. The committees and LMSCs work together to create and maintain a uniform sanction process that provides a foundation for the development of USMS open water swimming and brings open water benefits to all USMS swimmers, LMSCs and clubs.
- 101.1.2 Governing Regulations**—The uniform sanction process operates according to the following rules and administrative regulations:
- **Article 201: Membership and Representation, USMS Rule Book Part 2,** <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>;
  - **Article 203: Open Water Sanction, USMS Rule Book Part 2,** <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>;
  - **Article 204: Liability Release, USMS Rule Book Part 2,** <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>; and
  - **Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules, USMS Rule Book Part 3,** <http://www.usms.org/rules/part3.pdf>.
- 101.1.3 Open Water Safety**—Events are encouraged to use the *Open Water Safety Objectives* document (Long Distance/Open Water, <http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/>), for preparation of their safety plans.
- 101.1.4 USMS Open Water Sanction Coordinator**—The Open Water Sanction Coordinator will oversee open water sanctioning and event management for USMS. The sanction-related tasks for the coordinator include:
- Mentor LMSCs in their open water sanction and development efforts;
  - Partner with LMSCs in mentoring event directors;
  - Facilitate resolution of conflicts in the sanctioning process;
  - Work with the LMSCs and the Long Distance committee to facilitate sanctioning of national events (both championship and non-championship); and
  - Work with the Long Distance committee to evaluate the sanction process and propose any necessary changes in the process or open water sanction legislation.
- 101.1.5 LMSCs**—The LMSCs will be the primary administrators of the sanction process as it pertains to evaluating sanction applications, issuing sanctions and scheduling events held in their LMSC.
- 101.1.6 Event Directors**—Event directors are responsible for running their events according to applicable USMS rules and administrative regulations.
- 101.1.7 Open Water Support**—Assistance with any USMS open water activity may be obtained at [owsupport@usms.org](mailto:owsupport@usms.org).

## **101.2 AUTOMATED SANCTION PROCESS**

- 101.2.1** USMS has provided an automated sanction application system for the use of LMSC authorized representatives and event directors. Application for sanction or listing on the Calendar of Events will be done through this system. Once an application is made, the LMSC's authorized representative will review the request and take appropriate actions. Instructions for management of the system may be viewed on the USMS Guide to Operations (<http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/>).
- 101.2.2** The LMSC shall obtain Park, U.S. Coast Guard, etc. Approvals & Licenses from the event director prior to the event.
- 101.2.3** The LMSC shall review the safety plan uploaded during the application process. Assistance during the review process may be obtained at [owsupport@usms.org](mailto:owsupport@usms.org).
- 101.2.4** In addition to the information requested during the application process, the LMSC has the option to discuss and request other items including:
- Use (or not) of the One-Event registration, including determination of the total fee, which includes a USMS-determined base price plus additional LMSC fees;
  - Determination of the amount of the sanction fee or bond, if required, and requirements attached to the bonding process; and
  - Additional documents and publicity information to submit.
- 101.2.5** The LMSC may offer optional services to events, e.g., providing buoys and other equipment. These are not considered part of the official sanction process and are by agreement between the LMSC and the event director.