February 2015

To: LMSC Chairs  LMSC OW/LD Chairs  National Championship Event Directors  USMS Long Distance Committee  USMS Open Water Committee  USMS Board of Directors

Subject: USMS Open Water and Long Distance National Championship Bids for 2017

Greetings! The 2017 U.S. Masters Swimming (USMS) Long Distance National Championship bid forms for Postal and Open Water events may be accessed and completed by using the following links.

2017 USMS Open Water National Championship Bid Form  
2017 USMS ePostal National Championship Bid Form

We encourage all interested organizations to submit bids.

The bid form is an easy to use document that has been updated for your convenience. Please fill out the appropriate bid form and submit by **July 1 2015**, attachments to the bid form, such as maps for OW swims, logos, and pertinent event details, are not required but will definitely be considered. They should be emailed to me at the address at the bottom of the page. A safety plan for the OW events is required to be submitted with the bid.

You will receive an immediate email response acknowledging confirmation that your bid form was received. Please follow up via phone (number below) if you do not receive an email confirmation within 24 hours.

Site/host selection for the 2017 events will occur **prior** to the 2015 USMS Annual Convention. Committee collaboration, review and discussion of all bids will take place via conference calls before the Convention; we will schedule phone interviews with bidders and select bid winners in July/August.

The Committee wants to stress that we are looking for a **Central** venue (it will be considered in-area) for a 2 or 3-day, multi-national championship open water festival. Possible events for the festival are: the **Middle Distance** (>1/≤3 miles) & **Ultra Marathon Distance** (≥9 miles) since both of these are in-area for the Central in 2017. The Committee will also accept festival bids for consideration from out of area (West or East). We would also like to award one or more OW National Championship events to each of the other two areas -- the West and the East. The 2-mile cable will be considered in-area for the East in 2017. Please refer to the 2015 USMS Rulebook section 307.3 for additional information regarding site selection for long distance national championships.

Selection will be based on the overall suitability of the bid received, and in the case of open water, we will also consider the area in which the event is to be held, safety, and annual event schedule as a whole. Bids received after July 1st may not be considered if a qualified, timely bid has already been received for the same event. We encourage bidding for multiple events to strengthen your options.

The current USMS calendar includes both open water and pool long distance events. This calendar is available at http://www.usms.org/longdist/ldcamps.php and http://www.usms.org/comp/ldcalendar.php. Both pool and open water long distance national championship information, manuals and other important resources are available at http://www.usms.org/longdist/manuals.php.

Please feel free to copy this email to any interested party and contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, **Donn Livoni** / Chair, Long Distance Committee / 406.381.5523 longdistance@usms.org