USMS Open Water Committee
Open Water Referee Certification Test

After completion, send to USMS Open Water Safety Officer David Miner at...
openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org

Personal Information

1. About you:
   Name:
   Mailing Address:
   Email Address:
   Primary Phone:

2. Open Water Experience: Briefly describe your experience in event management, event support, event participation, etc.:

Test: Passing Grade is 20 out of 25 (80%) – may be taken “open book”
[circle the correct answer]

1. The Open Water Referee position is defined by:
   a. USMS Rule 303.3.1C
   b. The USMS National Office Open Water Compliance Officer.
   c. The Open Water Event Director.
   d. LMSC Open Water Policies and Procedures.

2. True  False  A USMS-certified Open Water Referee is required only for USMS Open Water National Championship swims.

3. True  False  Open Water Referees are appointed by the event host and approved by the USMS Open Water Compliance Officer upon successful completion of this test.
4. True  False  Open Water Referees should have these desirable qualifications: experience as an official, experience as an open water swimmer, and/or basic knowledge of water safety.

5. True  False  The Open Water Referee may perform the duties of other officials.

6. True  False  The Open Water Referee has authority over all event officials and safety staff.

7. True  False  The Open Water Referee or designee should conduct a pre-swim meeting for all officials, but attendance is optional.

8. True  False  All swimmers must attend a pre-race meeting to discuss course, conditions, & hazards, as well as safety procedures.

9. True  False  Open Water Referees may bar, remove, or take other appropriate action with any swimmer who acts in an unsporting manner within the swimming venue.

10. True  False  Open Water Referees have the authority to disqualify.

11. True  False  The Open Water Referee has the authority to modify the manner in which the swim is conducted, change the course or distance, delay the start, or stop a swim in progress if circumstances warrant.

12. True  False  Modifying a swim is usually (but not always) done for safety reasons. Such a decision must be coordinated with both the Event Director and Safety Director.

13. True  False  The Open Water Referee is the only person who may stop a swim in progress.

14. True  False  Because the Safety Director’s main role is to oversee event safety, the Open Water Referee has only a minor role in providing event safety.

15. True  False  Enforcement of USMS swimwear rules is a key role of the Open Water Referee.

16. True  False  The Open Water Referee may grant exemptions on medical or religious grounds from the USMS swimwear rules.

17. True  False  The USMS rules and guidelines define disability and govern participation of swimmers with disabilities in USMS open water events.

18. True  False  Modifications for swimmers with disabilities may give a swimmer a competitive advantage under certain circumstances.

19. True  False  Swimmers may draft from escort craft in bad weather.
20. True  False   In swims requiring individual escorts, event hosts have the option to allow or prohibit drafting from other swimmers when only non-motorized escorts are allowed.

21. True  False   If a swim is stopped, the Open Water Referee must determine if the swim is to be restarted or considered official. Only the Event Director can cancel the entire event.

22. True  False   Any protest arising from an open water competition shall be made to the Referee within 30 minutes after the release of results.

23. True  False   The Open Water Referee may join in the swim after the pre-race meeting is complete.

24. True  False   The Open Water Referee should submit a written report after the event.

25. True  False   The main responsibility of the Open Water Referee is the fair conduct of the swim!