

USMS OW and LD Committee Proposals
USMS OPEN WATER SWIMMING
ONE EVENT (OEVT) ENTRY & EVENT SANCTION – LEGISLATION L4 & L10
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1: What are the proposed legislation changes for USMS open water OEVT registration and sanctions?

Legislation L4: Allows USMS to offer open water OEVT registration to an athlete to participate in an USMS sanctioned open water event (*this specifically identifies an open water OEVT*).

Legislation L10: Allows USMS to approve “other sanction” options to bring existing USMS and non-member open water events into the USMS sanctioned event fold.

Q2: What are the objectives of the proposed open water OEVT & “other sanctions” legislation changes?

The objective is to have widely available, competitively priced open water OEVT registration and multi-sanction options that are used as tools to develop & grow financially viable open water events.

Q3: What is the benefit of achieving the open water OEVT entry & “other sanctions” objectives?

The primary benefits include increased open water event participants and revenue for hosts. Achieving this makes more local open water events financially viable, while introducing USMS to the wider open water world by attracting customers to USMS in a competitive marketplace. More successful open water events lead to more events and more revenue investment in aquatic safety and clinics. (See **USMS Open Water OEVT Entry Benefits Chart** on reverse side.)

Q4: Is an OEVT entry eligible for USMS national open water events, awards, or recognitions?

No. This is consistent with current USMS open water swimming rules & administrative regulations.

Q5: Will the proposed open water OEVT entry and “other sanctions” legislation changes compromise safety?

No. The same applicable USMS rules, administrative regulations, and guidelines apply to all competitive or non-competitive open water event sanction approvals, operations, and safety measures.

Q6: What is being done to significantly reduce or eliminate the administrative burden associated with one-event entries?

Should the Legislation L4 pass, National Office staff will handle the one-event registration processing. An automated registration system similar to regular registration is also under consideration.

Q7: How will these proposed legislation changes impact the USMS and LMSC registration process?

LMSCs continue the role of primary administrators of the open water event sanction approval process using the applicable USMS rules, administrative regulations, and uniform sanction and safety guidelines.

Q8: How does the proposed open water OEVT entry make USMS more competitive in the marketplace?

USMS open water events compete for customers with USAT-sanctioned open water events and independent events. Both of these competitors operate with inexpensive (for the swimmer) insurance coverage—USAT with a \$10 fee for non-members and independents with comparable costs per swimmer, while USMS' OEVT is not universally available and charges fees that range from \$12 to \$24. That puts us at a competitive disadvantage, which is difficult to surmount. It also inhibits our ability to recruit independent events to join us as USMS sanctioned events.

Q9: How will the proposed open water OEVT entry legislation changes impact USMS membership?

OEVT entry data over 2-years (2009 & 2010) suggests that there is ample evidence that LMSCs have grown while using OEVT entries (i.e., There is no evidence that OEVT use limits USMS membership growth). The data reveals that 83% of the OEVTs used are from 12 LMSCs who averaged 15.2% growth, while USMS experienced 14% growth. By comparison, USA Triathlon has experienced dramatic growth while offering widely available, competitively priced Single Event Permits (OEVT entry).

USMS Open Water One Event Entry - Benefits Chart

