

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #:	5
Committee Chair:	Catherine Rust	Vice Chair:	Dave Brancamp-absent
Minutes recorded by:	Christie Ciraulo	Date/time of meeting:	07 July 2026. 8pmEDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

None

Motions Passed:

The committee passed 2027 Open Water National Championship Venues

Committee Present: 11	Committee Absent: 32	ExOfficio Present: 4	ExOfficio Absent: 1	Guest: 0
Committee Members Present:				
Catherine Rust				
Christie Ciraulo				
James Davidson				
John Fox				
Bob Kolonkowski				
Nicki Phillips				
Phyllis Quinn				
Stephen Rouch				
Vesna Shellnut				
David Spitzler				
Marnie Whitley				
Committee Members Absent:				
Amy Wagner				
David Brancamp				
ExOfficio Members Present:				
Carrie Stolar				
Jay Eckert				
Colton Martin				
Dave Miner				
ExOfficio Members Absent:				
Onshalee Promchitmart				
Guest:				
none				

The meeting was called to order at 8pmEDT.

Meeting Opened by Chair Catherine Rust

Meeting Summary Reports

1. VP of Programs - Carrie Stolar

Will attend in person board meeting in Nashville and will share info next meeting.

Catherine will present rules we have proposed at this meeting

2. USMS Office - Jay Eckert

Sarasota is onboard hosting as in the last two years. USA Swimming announced Apr 2,3,4. Week after Easter.

Friday one mile, Saturday 5K is the plan.

5k 10K Virtual National Championships are now open.

Anyone open to coming to Relay, needs to express interest in participation to their LMSC. Golden Goggles Saturday night.

Deadline for Summer Nationals is approaching – very large crowd so get entered.

Catherine presents:

2027 Proposed OW National Championships

April 2-3 1 Mile/5K Nathan Benderson Park Sarasota, FL
June 5 2 Mile Lake Berryessa Napa, CA Kevin Waterson
June 19 1 M/2M Cable Chris Greene Lake Charlottesville, VA Corey Krall
June 26 10K Applegate Lake Medford, OR Todd Lantry

Motion to approve, seconded, schedule passes unanimously.

3. Open Water Safety - David Miner

44 sanctioned races so far. More expected. Not this many sanction requests since 2019.

4. Chair - Catherine Rust

LDC Meeting Dates
August 10 Open to USMS membership
August 19 Small group in forum
August 31 LDC forum

Virtual Championships Relay Entry Timeline
Sep 18-19 is the meeting
Committee requested to attend meeting.

5. Rules: Jim Davidson

No update. Rules queued up for Annual Meeting.

6. MN Swim - Nicki Phillips

Open Water National Championships Middle Distance, Square Lake, MN
We have a full race, sold out. 201 swimmers. We're putting the finishing touches on it.

Old Business:

Open Water Service Award

One nominee

Long Distance National Championship Award

Three nominees

Committee: Marnie, Stephen, Robert K

New Business:

2027 Open Water National Championships

August 10 LDC Meeting Topics:

OW Sanctions

OW Referee responsibilities - John Fox

Procedures reviewing Virtual Championship entries - Phyllis

LDC proposed amendments

Recap of 2026 OWNC

Guide to Open Water Central

Cold Water Swimming – Stephen and Marnie

Electronic Finishes

Any more suggestions?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 EDT

LDC 2026 Meeting Dates

8m Eastern Time as needed:

First Tuesday of each month.

February 3, 2026 - DONE!

March 3, 2026 – DONE!

April 7, 2026 – DONE!

May 5, 2026 - DONE!

June 2, 2026 – Canceled

July 7, 2026 – DONE

August 4, 2026

August 10, 2026 – Open to USMS Membership

August 19, 2026 – Small Group Forum Practice

August 31, 2026 – LDC Forum

September 18-19 (September 20 if needed) USMS Annual Meeting

September 1, 2026

Rules Covering Protests

303.12 Protests

303.12.1 Any protest arising from an open water swim (other than national championship swims—refer to article 307.7.8) shall be made to the event referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

305.7 Protests

Any protest arising from a long distance pool swim (other than national championship swims—refer to article 307.7.8) shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

307.6.8 Protests

A Protests against judgment decisions regarding the start, missing a course turn, failure to achieve a cutoff time, or the finish of a race can only be considered by the referee, and the referee's decision shall be final and may not be appealed.

B Any protest arising from an open water championship swim shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. After receipt of a protest, the referee or event director shall have 10 days to reply. If the protest is denied by the referee or event director, the swimmer will have five days to appeal in writing to the Long-Distance Committee Chair. The Long-Distance Committee Chair will have 10 days to reply, unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.

C Any protest arising from a virtual championship swim shall be made to the Long Distance Committee Chair in writing within five days after all swimmers are notified of the release of preliminary results or amendments to the preliminary results.. The final decision for any protests will be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair. After receipt of a protest, the Long Distance Committee Chair shall have 10 days to reply, unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.

October 6, 2026

[illegible]