Running New Open Water Events

March 10, 2020
Agenda

- Opening remarks and format for tonight’s call
- Original presenter became unavailable and Lisa Brown stepped in to share general OW information followed by a Q&A discussion with a few OW Event Directors
2020 Open Water Events:

- Can be found on usms.org on the bottom of the page menu under Pool and Open Water Events
- Can be sorted by area or show all events for the year
- 32 total scheduled for the year today including National Championships
Open Water Resources:

- Can be found on usms.org
  - Guide to Operations
    - Long Distance/ Open Water
- Rules can be found in Section Three of the Rulebook
- Open Water Sanction Fee Grid
- Insurance requirements
- Open Water Safety Information
  - Safety Directors Checklist
  - Boat operator checklist
  - Open Water Referee Training module and test
Open Water Steps to hold a race:

- Search database for dates of other events and determine a date without conflicts
- Find and secure a venue that can handle the date
- Recruit a Safety Director and Referee
  - Complete the USMS Safety Director Training Module & Test (in GTO)
  - Complete the USMS Referee Training Module & Test (in GTO)
- Develop Event Info and Entry Form with LMSC chair and Sanctions Chair
- Develop your Safety Plan
- Apply for a Sanction
Apply for a Sanction:

- Gather Personal info for Event Director, Safety Director, & Referee (names, phones, mail & email addresses).
- Your event info (in pdf format).
- Your safety plan (in pdf format).
- A short description of your event (max 500 char). Be brief but promotional.
- Attendance: Last year’s attendance if applicable & an estimate for this year.
- A picture of your venue, the nicer the better.
- **Apply for the Sanction on USMS.org**
  - Choose “Events and Results
  - Choose “Sanction an event”
1. Can you have a Recognized Open Water Event (similar to pool events)? No. However you can use a one-day-event-registration.
2. What is the difference when running a National Championship Event? There is a bid process that takes place roughly two years in advance. 2022 bids acre currently in process.
3. Sanction fees include a $100 per event and a $5 per swimmer charge. Ask your LMSC if they will help underwrite these fees.

Ideas for Success
• Create an established annual date, repetition builds
• Apply to be a national championship
• Destination event
• Partner with a local charity to get enthusiastic volunteers
• Piggyback on a local triathlon
• USA Swim-USMS Dual Sanction – kids & adults!
• Add Non-Conforming event (fins, etc)

There is nothing prohibiting partnering with local sponsors to help a race.