

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #: 1	Report #: 1
Committee Chair:	Catherine Rust	Vice Chair:	David Brancamp
Minutes recorded by:	Tim Murphy	Date/time of meeting:	01/26/2025 at 8pm ET

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

Actions Passed:

- **Please see New Business section, discussion about rules.**

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 1	Number of other delegates present: 2
Committee members present: Catherine Rust, Dave Brancamp, Tim Murphy, Nicki Phillips, Stephen Rouch., Bob Kolonkowski, Jim Davidson, Christie Ciraulo, Marnie Whitley, John Fox, Phyllis Quinn		
Absent: , Vesna Shelhutt		
Ex-Officio members present: Jay Eckert, David Miner		

Topic: LDC Meeting – January 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm ET:

Call to order

Welcome from Chair

Committee Member Introductions

Welcome / Announcements/Reports

VP Operations - Robin Smith

USMS Office - Jay Eckert

1-hour virtual championship, have until 1/31 to register (hoping to get to 1300)

Open water nationals (April 4-5) in Sarasota, partnering with USA Swimming, planning to launch entries this week.

Transitioning to a new event system.

Vice Chair – Dave Brancamp

Open Water - David Miner

Actively sanctioning events for 2025. Biggest thing is to work on safety plan, event info sheet, course map.

Sub-Committee Reports

Chair - Catherine Rust

Overview of committee structure of the LDC.. LDC members to let me know 2-3 areas would like to which area or areas would like to work on.

Open Water National Championships - Dave Brancamp

Have all events covered

How do we help event directors?

How do we help each other?

Look at the rules, as a team.

Try to spread the events around the country, when possible.

Virtual National Championships – Catherine Rust

- Work with the national office on the rules, information pages, and updates to information pages.

Rules – Jim Davidson

- Part 3 of the USMS Rule Book
- Getting new rules / updates approved by the Rules Committee, and taken to the HOD at the annual meeting

Open Water Safety - David Miner

Look at the rules, make sure all safety procedures are outlined

Safety in all USMS open water swims

Incorporate any new techniques/updates.

PARA (Patches, AA, Records, Awards) – Jim Davidson

- Patches: people who complete all virtual swims get a patch
- Records: in charge of updating the USMS database when records are broken

Documents and Procedures – Nicki Phillips

- Continually updating, such as liaison timeline
- Make more current, more helpful to the Long Distance Committee
- Host Bid form is very long, especially for an event that recently hosted. Make things easier for hosts to complete.

Old Business – Continue to work on the 2024 goals:

1. Develop a plan to increase the number of overall USMS sanctioned open water events
2. Look for more prominent venues for Open water National championships
 - Clarify Open water strategy between LDC and NO
 - 1-3mi OWNC weekend festival concept already in discussion
 - Clarify NO role regarding the OWNC bid process, at least for shorter events.

3. Remove the operations and procedures (Part III) from USMS Rule Book and move to Guide to Operations documents. If it is not a hard and fast rule that is not subject to be followed always should be moved from the USMS Rule Book to the Guide to Operations documents.

New Business: Rules – Jim Davidson

- Protest: revised the responsibility for who the protest should be made to (onsite the referee or event director). Cannot be appealed.
- Who is responsible for appeals to virtual swims? LDC Chair, who has final determination (7 days to reply)
- Protests regarding gender: be addressed to the rules committee.

Increase the USMS open water events

Increase / make more prominent the USMS Open Water National events.

Adjournment

2025 Open Water National Championships

Sprint Distance and Long Distance Open Water National Championships - Sarasota FL April 4 -

1 mile. April 5 - 5K. National Office will be conducting in connection with the LDC

- **Catherine will be there as an observer**
- **John Fox will be a referee**

One Mile and 2 Mile Cable Swims National Championships - Charlottesville, VA May 31st

Liaison: Nicki Phillips and Asst. Liaison: Vesna Shulnett

- Can swim one or both swims

Ultra Marathon Open Water National Championship – Portland, OR, July 13th

Liaison: Dave Brancamp and Asst. Liaisons: Marne Whitley and Christie Ciraulo

- Still 22 slots left (as of tonight, 1/26)

LDC 2025 Meeting Dates 8:00 pm Eastern Time as needed:

January 26, 2025

February 23, 2025

March 31, 2025

April 27, 2025

May 25, 2025

June 29, 2025

July 27, 2025

August 31, 2025

USMS Annual Meeting September 12, 2025

September 29, 2025

October 26, 2025

LDC Approximate High-Level Timeline Items by Month: A work in progress

January:

New OWNC season registrations open

initiate work on new goals

Assignments for working groups

February:

send out award nomination requests

begin to consider rules changes

March through May:

Review bids and documents for next year

consider rules changes

updates on LD NC events progress

June:

Prepare next year's events

finalize rules proposals

finalize award nominations

thick of the competition season

July:

award working group meets

finalize OWNC for next year

August:

finalize all LDC details to prepare for Annual Meeting

September: Annual Meeting

October-December:

Relay meeting: Open water workshop

Request for next season's details

Conclude remaining event details.

Open registration for next season's OWNCs

Wrap-up year's business