

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #: 3	Report #: 1
Committee Chair:	Catherine Rust	Vice Chair:	David Brancamp
Minutes recorded by:	Tim Murphy	Date/time of meeting:	03/30/2025 at 8pm ET

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

Actions Passed:

- **Swimmer surcharge fee for Open Water National Championships increase:**
 - **Approved by whole committee**
 - **Proposed by Phyllis, seconded by Nicki**

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, Bob Kolonkowski, Jim Davidson, Christie Ciraulo, Vesna Shelnutt, Stephen Rouch, John Fox, Phyllis Quinn, Marnie Whitley, Jay Eckert

Absent: David Miner, Robin Smith

Ex-Officio members present: N/A

Topic: LDC Meeting – March 30, 2025

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

Welcome and roll call

Reports:

- Chair – Catherine: Our Rules packet is due June 10 and in order to get the packet ready for the Annual meeting any rules changes need to be made at the April meeting. If OW and OW Safety subcommittees could look at the OW rules for any changes, additions or deletions in reference to the OW swims and safety.
- Surcharge OWNC, increase from \$3 to \$8
 - **Swimmer surcharge** - Continue the discussion on increasing the swimmer surcharge for OWNC. The surcharge has been \$3.00 for least the last 10 years and at this point does not cover USMS costs on its monetary involvement in the events. USMS would not be making any profits, but the increase would cover the current costs. Jay can give further explanations on costs/involvement of USMS.
 - **Sanction fee no longer exists.** They were \$100 + \$5 per person, Open Water Nationals was an extra \$3 per person.
- Carter (our representative at the national office) is moving on from USMS. We wish him the best and he will be missed.
 - Bethany and Noni (membership staff) will be our new contacts. Jay and Angelique will still help.
 - They will backfill the role, but it will take some time.
- Logging on to Forum. Log on to USMS website and go to upper right corner. Click on the swimmer icon. Press on the Community/Forums and scroll down to National Committee and LMSC Leadership. Scroll down to Long Distance committee.
- Vice Chair – Dave B.
 - New business: 1 hour virtual
 - Timing for 5k/10k
 - If we know of great events, encourage them to put in a bid (can chat with Dave)
- VP Operations – Robin Smith (absent)
- USMS Office – Jay Eckert
 - Excited about open water nationals in Sarasota
- OW - David Miner (absent)

Committees:

- Open Water – Dave
- Open Water Safety – John F
- Rules – Jim
- PARA – Jim
- Procedures and Documents – Nicki
- Virtual Championships – Catherine

Liaisons:

- Sarasota 1m & 5K – Jay, Catherine
 - John is the liaison for officials (he is also handling this for USA Swimming)
- Cable Swims 1m & 2m – Nicki
 - 96 swimmers in total, expected to increase.
- Ultramarathon – Dave
 - Sold out, with waiting list (at least 60 people)

New Business:

- Change to 1 Hour Virtual Championship Procedures
- Discussion of 5k/10k Long Course entry time period
 - Does it need to be 4 months long?
 - Perhaps trying to shorten the time to 2 to 2-1/2 months, to when long course pools are usually in use (about end of May to middle of August).
 - Reason to shorten: some people feel it drags on too long. Promotion lasts the whole time, until the 3000/6000. Many people wait until the last few weeks to do this.
 - When the 1-hour event was shortened to January, participation increased.

- Stephen/Phyllis feel we should keep this going until at least Labor Day. Perhaps shorten a little, but access for some is very limited.
- Another thought Phyllis proposed was pushing out the start time for the 3000/6000
- Catherine will get some additional data for our next meeting, and we can decide from there.
- Special instructions for USMS record attempt (discussion)
 - Timer estimates distance in last partial lap, adds to previous total
 - Normally this is fine, but in the case of USMS records, the LDC does some calculations to verify those estimates
 - Takes the average time for the last several laps, make a ratio to estimate what the last final partial lap would be
 - Some members have said that they sprint in that last lap
 - This is only done for those who are in the running for a USMS record.

Goals: Old Business –

1. Develop a plan to increase the number of overall USMS sanctioned open water events. Clarify OW strategy between LDC and NO.
2. Continue to remove procedures from rule book
3. Look for more prominent venues for Open Water National Championships

Adjournment

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

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

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

- **Swim is sold out and the waiting list is full.**

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