

Open Water Opportunities

Session Date: Mar 5, 2022

Presenter(s): Chris Nolte, Sue Nolte, Jay Eckert

Description: Learn how to use open water workouts as a growth engine.

Key Points:

- Jay Eckert shared the USMS Open Water Central site and lots of resources and information that was shared with the participants. (Events Calendar, National Championships, Articles and Videos, Workouts, Event Management and Clinic and Practice Management)
- Jay also reviewed the requirements for insurance to hold an open water practice; things to consider when planning a practice - one-pager as a resource for all
- Update your club finder to include any information on open water potential workouts even if it is only seasonal and informal. Discussion also about the safety and skill levels of the swimmers on these informal swims
- Sue Nolte then shared about the swims in Colorado (Chatfield Gravel Pond) that started and organized for the local participants, including the transitions from history to forming a club. Included the process each year, with the updated safety plan, communication methods, logistics of the workout and layout of the course. Chris Nolte shared information about the app that is used for tracking the swimmers for check-in and out and monitoring processes with the app.
- Sue also shared some of the difficulties encountered such as enough volunteers with cancellations to monitor and entitlement. She shared the reminder that this is not an event; it is practice.
- There was discussion about the use of materials and safety buoys for some swims and safety of the swim caps.