

**SPMS Open Water Committee Report**  
**Thursday March 21, 2019**  
**Submitted by Robin Smith, Chair**

**New USMS Open Water Rule for 2019:**

- SPMS Open Water Event Hosts are being notified of the new rule regarding use of personal safety buoys in open water swims.

***303.4.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events***

*E. At the discretion of the event host, except for national championship swims, swimmers may be required to wear a personal buoy for identification and safety. Requirements for buoys as well as rules for the use of these devices will be included in the event information.*

***303.4.3 Rules for Category II Swimwear for Open Water Events***

*D. At the discretion of the event host, except for national championship swims, swimmers may be permitted or required to wear a personal buoy for identification and safety. Requirements for buoys as well as rules for the use of these devices will be included in the event information. Permitted personal buoys, if not required under 303.4.2.E, will be considered Category II Swimwear for purposes of placement and scoring.*

**SPMS Open Water Administration and Planning:**

- Working with Event Hosts to finalize event dates and assist with race planning/logistics and online sanction approval process.
- Preliminary inquiry regarding Seal Beach venue for possible Open Water Clinic in June 2019.
- Open Water Event Host handbook and checklist in progress.

**USMS Long Distance Committee:**

- Bid process open for 2021 USMS Open Water and ePostal National Championship Events.

**Bids are due July 1, 2019 (Monday).**

*Note: Western Region will be in rotation for the Marathon Distance ( $\geq 6$  miles and  $< 9$  miles) and Cable (Two Mile) Open Water National Championship Events in 2021.*

See “**Championship Bidding Information**” Section for Instructions, FAQs, and link to the online Bid Form for Open Water National Championships:

<https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/open-water-national-championships>

See “**Want to Host an ePostal?**” Section for Instructions, FAQs, and link to the online Bid Form for ePostal National Championships:

<https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/epostal-national-championships>