

SPMS 2022 Survey Results Summary

The survey was sent to 4,746 SPMS members on October 16, 2022. Sixty-two percent, 2947 members, opened the email. The survey window was open for a month from October 16, 2022, through November 15, 2022. A reminder was sent via email, social media, and at the annual meeting on October 26, and November 12, 2022. When the survey closed, 320 responses, 6.7 percent were received.

The SPMS Survey Committee thanks all members who took the time to complete the survey. Common themes from the survey as well as feedback from the Survey Committee are listed below.

SWIM CLINICS

Strong support for SPMS to offer clinics with an emphasis on the less-experienced swimmer. Responses indicate a desire for clinics to be geographically spread out in the Northern part of SPMS as well as Las Vegas so members can access and attend. The interest in supporting clinics was higher than that for supporting meets. **Committee Response:** SPMS currently, and in the past, has funds budgeted for teams to host clinics. Teams are encouraged to do so. For more information contact Ken Brisbin, SPMS Chair.

SWIM MEETS

Strong support for SPMS to help subsidize meets. **Committee Response:** In 2022, SPMS piloted a grant program for teams to apply for up to \$1,500 to help with meet costs. Recognizing the positive response, in 2023, SPMS is providing host teams with \$1,500 to support meet costs (no grant request required). SPMS is also waiving the \$50 sanction fee.

Survey results indicate a desire to have meets in other areas besides Southern California.

Committee Response: Committee agrees and is currently working with Santa Barbara to possibly host a meet in July and to encourage San Louis Obispo, Las Vegas, and Rose Bowl to get back on meet schedule. SPMS Meet Operations Committee is working on this.

OPEN WATER EVENTS

Strong interest in open water clinics as well as more USMS open water events – maybe even basic open water information via Zoom, PowerPoint, or Video. There is a lot of open water interest.

Committee Response: SPMS has budgeted funds to support open water clinics and funds to help subsidize open water events with electronic timing system. Will ensure SPMS Open Water Committee is aware of the strong interest.

COACHES AND ALTS (Adult Learn to Swim)

Several respondents mentioned support for coaches, both educational support and financial support

Committee Response: SPMS currently, and in the past, has funds budgeted to assist with coach certifications and clinic attendance. Will ensure that Coaches Committee is aware of the strong interest.

Several respondents mentioned that SPMS should support ALTS clubs and swimmers, and celebrate them (e.g., feature article in newsletter). **Committee Response:** SPMS currently, and in the past, has funds budgeted to assist coaches and teams with ALTS certification courses. Will add this to the Coaches Committee.

SOCIALS

A common theme - respondents want social opportunities. Several mentioned offering a social activity after meets, or regional social events. Members want to meet people outside their own teams/workout groups. Fun relays (e.g., fin relays, T-shirt relays). **Committee Response:** Survey committee concurs. Will consider creating a Social Committee.

ANNUAL MEETING

Some confusion between SPMS and USMS annual meeting; however, strong interest in attending the SPMS annual meeting with an agenda like this past November - speaker, clinic, lunch, etc.

Committee Response: SPMS is pleased to know the inaugural SPMS Annual Meeting held this past November was well received and will pass this information on to the Annual Meeting Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Concerns about rising costs – pool rentals, lanes, dues, registration, meet entry fees, etc. Despite this, 80% of respondents said they expect to swim in a pool meet or open water event within the next year. 90% of respondents state their primary interest is fitness; 55% mentioned competition; 24% mentioned Open Water; and 21% mentioned Open Water training. **Committee Response:** Committee understands concerns about rising costs with the goal of SPMS to continue subsidizing clinics, meets, events, etc. A focus will be on expanding open water and promoting clinics, while continuing to offer additional swim meets.

COMMUNICATION and VOLUNTEERING

Survey responses stated the best way to communicate is email blast. Facebook received low responses. Confusion about USMS and SPMS newsletters. **Committee Response:** Committee agrees and continues to work on expanding communication and information. Looking to form a Social Media Committee. Will ask for more volunteers to write articles for newsletters; continue to utilize email blasts for information. Most survey respondents (61%) are not interested in volunteering; the comments showed even less interest than that; however, 51 respondents said they were interested. Most stated they are too busy, or it is not part of their personality, and several indicated current volunteers are doing a great job. Some concerns that committee members are well-seasoned and there is a lack of diversity, although positive comments about being a member of a safe team (LGBTQIA). **Committee Response:** Committee will reach out to the 51 respondents who are interested to find out more about special skills and/or committees they may want to join or assist with.

CONCLUSION

Overall, it appears that members who answered the survey were happy that SPMS asked for input. The committee will reach out for volunteers to assist with responding and to help improve communication channels.

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