

Committee Name: Long Distance

Session #: 1

Committee Chair: Catherine Rust
Minutes recorded by:
Christie Ciraulo & AI

Vice Chair: David Brancamp
Date/time of meeting: 8pm EST,
03 February 2026

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

1.

Motions Passed:

1.

Number of committee members present: 13 **Absent:** 4

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Christie Ciraulo, Carrie Stolar, Catherine Rust, Dave Brancamp, Phyllis Quinn, Nicki Phillips, David Spitzler, Vesna Shelnutt, John Fox, Stephen Rouch **Ex officio Members:** Jay Eckert, David Miner, Colton Martin **Committee Members Absent:** Jim Davidson, Bob Kolonkowski, Marnie Whitley, Amy Wagner

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8pm EST.

Welcome

Welcome from Chair Catherine Rust

Overcoming health issues and doing great! Don't expect quick replies on emails.

Announcements

VP of Programs - Carrie Stolar No report at this time.

USMS Office - Jay Eckert

Numbers for the one hour 1,210 as of this moment, 2/4/2026 deadline.

Sarasota Open Water plans are moving along. Entries launched 93 entries so far! 73 for 1 mile, 70 for 5K

Open Water Safety - David Miner

Off to a good start for sanctions, 11 taken care of so far this year.

One new event in TX called Rockport Beach Open Water Challenge one, two and three mile swims.

Jay: new event sanction portal is nearly complete. Late Feb early Mar for launch.

David S: wants to talk offline with David M re Pacific Masters open water.

LDC Duties Reports

Chair - Catherine Rust

Great year last year, passed 19 amendments. Thank you, Jim!

Exec Committee was very pleased with our work.

We will continue with this work in 2026.

Colton will send Catherine updated links.

Phyllis will help check results of One Hour Swim.

Dave Holland interested in hosting 2027 open water in Virginia.

Each committee member is asked to volunteer for a subcommittee (see list below) and email David B his/her preference.

David S wants to know what committee a newbie would enjoy. Likes Rules! Nicki recommends Docs and Procedures Committees:

Open Water National Championships - Dave Brancamp

Virtual National Championships – Catherine Rust

Rules – Jim Davidson

PARA (Patches, All American, Records, Awards) – Jim Davidson Documents and Procedures – Nicki Phillips

Old Business

Announce on bid form: OWNC surcharge per swimmer increased to \$8. Catherine would like to review Neoprene cap rules

New Business

Open Water National championships.

We need event liaisons and assistant liaisons for the Medford 10K marathon swim in July, and Nicki's race later in July. The Hobbs Island Swim conflicts the Bridges to Bluffs and we need to explore alternative options for the Tennessee Triple Crown series.

2026 goals included developing weekend festivals that offer differing lengths and adding one mile open water national championships across the country.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. **Colton:** Send Catherine (and others as needed) links to current virtual championship entries and results for review.
2. **Phyllis:** Assist with reviewing virtual championship results for “anomalies.” J
3. **All committee members:** Notify Dave and Catherine by **February 13** which subcommittee you would like to join.
4. **David Spitzler:** Email David Miner to schedule a discussion about sanctioning new and returning Pacific Masters open water events.
5. **John:** Discuss the Hobbs Island Swim situation with David Miner and the committee, including potential alternative events.
6. **Jay:** Contact John offline regarding serving as liaison for the Sarasota Open Water Nationals.
7. **All interested members:** Inform Dave and Catherine if you are willing to serve as a liaison or assistant liaison for the Medford 10K or Nicki's race.
8. **Carrie:** Resend Zoom links and meeting details for the next meeting.
9. **Catherine:** Present proposed rewritten Category 1 and 2 swimwear rules at the next meeting.
10. **All committee members:** Review the new rulebook and identify any remaining open water procedures vs rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm EST