

SPMS OPEN WATER REPORT

Christie Ciraulo

July 18, 2024, 7:30pm

Sunday 21 July - Newport Beach 2 mile Open Water

Sanction received from USMS and entry link is posted on SPMS website.

PLEASE NOTE: Instituted this year per request of Newport Lifeguards – time limits on swim.

Sunday 18 August - Corona del Mar 1 mile Open Water

Sanction received from USMS and entry link is posted on SPMS website.

Sunday 22 September - Mission Viejo Open Water

Mark Moore, race director, is currently working on Summer Nationals, being held in his home pool of Mission Viejo. His tentative plan, that will be finalized ASAP, is to have a one day event and have the USMS Masters Mile. It is a co-sanctioned event with USA Swim and they will have 400m and 800m races. This is the model of the swim prior to last year's National Championship.

Ongoing talks are being held with USMS regarding the recognition of Open Water Swims in Southern California. We have numerous open water swims that are very popular with Masters swimmers, but these "surf festivals" have their own insurance and have no need for OEVTs and extensive paperwork. Our idea is to, in the future, have these swims "recognized" instead of "sanctioned," (much as we do the Senior Games pool series). This would allow for posting on the SPMS website, our review and approval of the safety plan and swim details, and eliminates unnecessary expense on the festival's part. We're working on the details now.

This summer's Open Water calendar was not satisfactory. Having the Spring Nats so late to coincide with USA Olympic Trials in Indy compacted the summer season. We lost six weekends for meets and open waters. Additionally, Newport Beach Lifeguards found it necessary to move to Sundays for the Newport Pier to Pier and the Don Burns One Mile. These swims were traditionally held on Saturdays. We will make a concerted effort to avoid scheduling Open Waters swims to conflict with long time favorites such as Naples Island and San Clemente festivals.