

May 16, 2011

To: LSC General Chairs
LSC Sanction Chairs
LSC Officials Chairs
LSC Permanent Offices
USA Swimming Member Coaches
Board of Directors

Pursuant to the emergency safety power provisions of Rule 504.8, the USA Swimming Board of Directors, at its meeting held on May 7, 2011, passed the attached Open Water legislation. This legislation has received the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Rules & Regulations Committee, the Safety Education Committee, and our legal counsel. These new rules were precipitated by the recommendations of the Open Water Review Commission chaired by Mr. Richard Pound ("The Pound Commission"), which investigated the circumstances surrounding the death of Fran Crippen, while he was participating in a FINA Open Water World Cup Event.

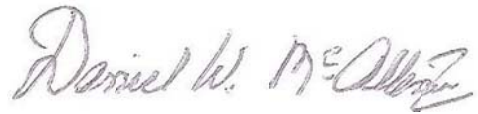
The additions to our Rules & Regulations, which are attached, include the following:

1. A requirement that for any open water event, the Meet Host shall develop a Safety Plan;
2. Provides that the meet referee or meet director has the ability to independently withdraw the sanction or approval for an open water event if adequate safety precautions are not in effect on the day of the race; and have the authority to independently stop the race at any time if safety becomes a concern;
3. Provides that every open water event shall have an Independent Safety Monitor who has the authority to withdraw the sanction or approval, or to stop the race at any time if adequate safety precautions are not in place;
4. Establishes a maximum and minimum water temperature for open water competitions; and
5. Establishes water quality requirements.

In addition to the changes to our Rules & Regulations, the Board adopted, as part of the USA Swimming Policy Manual, a standardized open water sanction application and established the requirements for a safety plan. This Sanction Application must be completed in order to obtain a sanction or an approval for any open water competition, and must be accompanied by a written safety plan. The standardized sanction application and safety plan requirements are attached.

For those open water competitions that have already obtained a sanction or approval, it is very strongly recommended that a written safety plan be adopted prior to the competition.

The new USA Swimming Rules & Regulations, standardized sanction application, and safety plan requirements are effective immediately. If you have questions concerning the enclosed please contact me.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniel W. McAllen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a stylized 'M'.

Dan McAllen, Chair
USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee