



Western Zone Open Water Report

House of Delegates – September 28, 2024



2024 Season Recap

Western Zone athletes once again produced outstanding results at the *2024 U.S. Open Water National Championships & Junior National Championships* in Sarasota, Florida, held May 3-5. Current and College Alumni Western Zone athletes and clubs brought home multiple top 3 team finish trophies and earned their spots on 2024 Team USA Rosters. The following athletes finished in the Top 8 in their races and were named to National and/or Junior National teams from their performances at Nationals:

- Brown, Joshua – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 8th place-10K; National Team
- Daniell, Cameron – University of Utah (Mesa Aquatic Club): 6th place-5K
- Ellis, Luke – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 6th place-10K; National Team, World Junior Team
- Gravley, Dylan – Arizona State University (Sandpipers): 3rd place-10K, 1st place-5K; National Team
- Grimes, Katie – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 1st place-10; Olympic Team
- Manteufel, Gabriel – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 9th place-10K; Nat. Junior team, World Jr. Team
- Miehl, Zayda – Corvallis Aquatic Team-OR: 3rd place-Junior 5K
- Puskovitch, Ivan – Team Santa Monica-CA: 2nd place-10K; Olympic Team
- Ruthven, Milla – University of Utah (Loveland Swim Club): 7th place-5K
- Sherman, Makenna – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 3rd place-Junior 7.5K
- Savarda, Sianna – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 9th place-10K; World Junior Team
- Tower, Zach – Team Santa Monica-CA: 5th place-Junior 7.5K
- Weinstein, Claire – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 2nd place-10K; National Team, World Junior Team
- Zarkos, Isabella – Sandpipers of Nevada-CA: 8th place-Junior 5K

In addition to the biggest domestic event of the season, Western Zone athletes had successful Open Water campaigns on the international stage. Below are the final results from events held in 2023-24:

- World Aquatics OW Cup 2023 – Stop #5 Funchal, Portugal (10K Results)
 - Claire Weinstein (SAND-CA) – 1st
 - Katie Grimes (SAND-CA) – 5th
 - Applejean Gwinn (SAND-CA) – 54th
 - Ivan Puskovitch (TSM-CA) – 24th
 - Michael Brinegar (TST-CA) – 40th
 - Joshua Brown (SAND-CA) – 42nd
 - Dylan Gravley (ASU/SAND) – 46th
 - Brennan Gravley (UF/SAND) – 48th
 - Luke Ellis (SAND-CA) – 52nd
 - Gabriel Manteufel (SAND-CA) – 56th
 - Simon Lamar (Harvard/FAST) – 58th
 - Santiago Gutierrez (SAND-CA) – 65th
 - David Heron (MVN-CA) – 81st
- World Aquatics Championship 2024 – Qatar, Doha
 - Michael Brinegar (TST-CA): 19th place-10K, 5th place-4x1500 Mixed Relay
 - Joshua Brown (SAND-CA): 24th place-5K
 - Katie Grimes (SAND-CA): 4th place-5K, 15th place-10K, 5th place-4x1500 Mixed Relay
 - Ivan Puskovitch (TSM-CA): 30th place-5K, 14th place-10K
- World Aquatics OW Cup 2024 – Stop #2 Golfo Aranci, Italy (10K Results)
 - Ivan Puskovitch (TSM-CA): 34th place-10k



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- 2024 Olympic Games – Paris, France (10K)
 - Katie Grimes (SAND-CA): 15th place
 - Ivan Puskovitch (TSM-CA): 19th place
 - Coach Ron Aitken (SAND-CA): Named Head Olympic Open Water Coach

Looking ahead to the 2024-25 season, coming on September 28 is the *Western Zone Open Water Championship*. This event is open to all athletes in the Western Zone who meet the qualifying times. 1.25K, 2.5K & 5K races will be offered to age groups as young as 9 years old. The event is hosted by Coronado Swim Team Association-Team Elite and held at Silver Strand Beach.

The Zone level championships also serve as a qualifier for the *2025 Junior National Championships*. 16-17-year-old athletes finishing in the Top 10 and 15-Under athletes finishing in the Top 15 of the Open 5K races earn automatic spots at next year's Junior National races. A ton of swimmers who do not have the current pool times or have not been to a National level race will get their first opportunity next Spring. Results and more information can be found on the [Western Zone-Open Water](#) tab.

2026 Western Zone Open Water Championship Bidding

Bidding information for the 2026 championship was emailed out to all Western Zone Leaders and Coaches on August 27. The application will be open until September 26. The host will be awarded at the annual HOD Meeting on Sunday, September 28.

The Zone is flexible with dates and event format. Please contact Michael Kinross with any questions.

Upcoming Open Water Events

- Open Water National & Junior National Championships
 - Spring 2025 (specific dates TBD)
 - Location TBD
 - Contact Bryce Elser (belser@usaswimming.org) for more information
- 2025 Western Zone Open Water Championships
 - Late August/Early September (specific date TBA)
 - Hosted by Coeur d'Alene Area Swim Team
 - Contact Race Director Brian Schmidt (meetdirectorcast@gmail.com) for more information

Report submitted by:

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