

Western Zone Open Water Report

House of Delegates – September 27, 2025

The Western Zone continues to lead the way in Open Water Swimming, pushing the boundaries of performance and participation beyond the pool. Our athletes are consistently setting the standard at both national and junior levels, and our zone remains a key contributor to the growth and success of the sport across the country.

National-Level Representation

At the elite level, several outstanding athletes with roots in the Western Zone earned spots on the USA Swimming National Open Water Team. These swimmers include:

- **Ivan Puskovitch**
- **Becca Mann**
- **Claire Weinstein**
- **Dylan Gravley**
- **Gabriel Manteufel**

We're also proud to recognize **Sianna Savarda**, who represents the Western Zone on the USA Swimming National Junior Open Water Team.

Their accomplishments serve as inspiration for the next generation of open water competitors.

2025 Western Zone Open Water Championships

The 2025 Western Zone Open Water Championships, held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, were a tremendous success. The event brought together 275 swimmers from across the zone, competing in three race distances. Notably, 16 of the 17 LSCs in the Western Zone were represented, a testament to the growing appeal and reach of open water swimming within our region.

Participants ranged in age from 9 to 21, highlighting the inclusive nature of the event and its importance in developing both current and future talent.

The competition was exceptionally well-organized, thanks to a dedicated and capable leadership team. Special recognition goes to:

- **CAST Swim Club** – Host Club
- **Meet Referees** – Jeff Walkley & Alex Herr

- **Administrative Referees** – Sandy Graham & Brian Schmidt
- **Meet Directors** – Brian Schmidt & Melissa Stroh
- **Independent Safety Officer:** Marz Everett

The event was blessed with ideal weather and water conditions, including a water temperature of approximately 72°F, which contributed to the positive experience for all involved. Coaches, athletes, and parents alike provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on the quality of the event.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Western Zone Open Water Championships will be held in Maui, Hawaii, on June 20, 2026. We anticipate another outstanding event in a world-class open water setting.

Additionally, the Western Zone is currently accepting bids to host the Open Water Championships in 2027, 2028, and 2029. We encourage all clubs who meet the hosting requirements to submit a proposal.

Growing the Sport Locally

As always, we strongly encourage LSCs and clubs to collaborate and expand open water programming in their communities. USA Swimming provides a wealth of resources for those interested in hosting local open water events, and we are here to support those efforts every step of the way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Zemaitis

Western Zone Open Water Chair