

**PART 1:  
OPEN WATER SANCTION GUIDELINES  
ARTICLE OW-101:  
SANCTION MANAGEMENT**

**February 10, 2013**

**OW-101.1 ADMINISTRATION**

**OW-101.1.1 Governing Bodies**—The conduct and organization of open water sanctioning for U.S. Masters Swimming is governed by USMS through its Open Water Compliance Coordinator, Long Distance committee and LMSCs.

**OW-101.1.2 Governing Regulations**—The uniform sanction process operates according to the following rules and administrative regulations:

**A Article 201:Membership and Representation, *USMS Rule Book Part 2*, <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>;**

**B Article 203: Open Water Sanction, *USMS Rule Book Part 2*, <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>;**

**C Article 204: Liability Release, *USMS Rule Book Part 2*, <http://www.usms.org/rules/part2.pdf>;**

**D Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules, *USMS Rule Book Part 3*, <http://www.usms.org/rules/part3.pdf>; and**

**E Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO), *USMS Guide to Operations—Long Distance / Open Water Section*, <http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/>.**

**OW-101.1.3 Denial or Revocation of Sanction**—The LMSC, USMS President and Executive Director have the authority to deny or revoke an open water sanction for failure to comply with any safety or administrative procedure.

**OW-101.1.4 Open Water Compliance Coordinator (OWCC)**—The OWCC ensures a second level review over required safety plans and administrative procedures for all open water events.

**OW-101.1.5 LMSCs**—The LMSC with jurisdiction is responsible for issuing sanctions and scheduling events held in their LMSC.

**OW-101.1.6 Event Directors**—Event directors shall run their events according to applicable USMS rules and administrative regulations and according to the process defined in their approved Safety Plan.

**OW-101.1.7 Open Water Support**—Assistance with any USMS open water activity may be obtained at [owsupport@usms.org](mailto:owsupport@usms.org).

**OW-101.2 SANCTION PROCESS**

**OW-101.2.1** USMS has provided an automated sanction application process through the End-to-End Event Management (E2EEM) system for use by the OWCC, LMSC authorized representatives and event directors.

**A** All open water sanctions shall be registered through the automated sanction system.

**B** A link to the sanction system ("*Sanction an Event*") can be found under the "*Events & Results*" tab at <http://www.usms.org>.

**C** Tutorials may be viewed on the *USMS Guide to Operations—Sanctions Section* (<http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/>).

- OW-101.2.2 Sanction Eligible Events**  
 Events defined under Article 302: Open Water Events (*2013 USMS Rule Book*, <http://usms.org/rules/part3.pdf>) are eligible for sanction.
- OW-101.2.3** The OWCC (or designee) shall review the safety plan uploaded during the application process.
- A** The reviewer may request that the event host make changes to the safety plan prior to approval.
- B** The sanction shall not be issued without an approved safety plan in place.
- OW-101.2.4** The event director shall provide to the LMSC all approvals and licenses from all necessary entities, including parks, U.S. Coast Guard, etc., prior to the event.
- OW-101.2.5** In addition to the information requested during the application process, the LMSC has the option to discuss and request other items including:
- A** Use (or not) of the One-Event registration, including determination of the total fee, which includes a USMS-determined base price plus additional LMSC fees;
- B** Determination of the amount of the sanction fee or bond, if required, and requirements attached to the bonding process; and
- C** Additional documents and publicity information.
- OW-101.2.6** The LMSC may offer optional services to events, e.g., providing buoys and other equipment. These are not considered part of the official sanction process and are by agreement between the LMSC and the event director.

**ARTICLE OW-102:  
 MANDATORY SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**OW-102.1 GENERAL INFORMATION**

- OW-102.1.1** All USMS sanctioned open water events are subject to administrative review to ensure compliance with these standards. Failure to comply with any safety or administrative procedure may result in denial or revocation of sanction (see Article OW-101.1.3 for authority).
- OW-102.1.2** Events are encouraged to use the *Open Water Safety Objectives* document (*OWGTO, USMS Guide to Operations—Long Distance / Open Water*), <http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/>) and safety education documents posted on USMS.org and elsewhere for preparation of their safety plans.
- OW-102.1.3** Administration of the Mandatory Safety Regulations is detailed in *Addendum A: Mandatory Safety Regulations*.

**OW-102.2 MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT**

**OW-102.2.1 Propeller Driven Motorized Craft**

- A** All propeller driven watercraft used in conjunction with the sanctioned open water events must have a propeller guard(s) installed for the duration of the event.
- B** Propeller guards must be of a design that protects swimmers from propeller strikes.

**OW-102.2.2 Exceptions to Article OW-102.2.1**

- A** Boats owned and operated by Coast Guard, police, fire and rescue, or other government agencies;
- B** Boats at anchor from start to finish of the sanctioned event with engine(s) off, while any swimmer is in the water;
- C** Boats with propellers fore of the rudder (e.g. inboard motors), provided:
- (1) These boats do not run directly on the designated swim course.

- (2) For events requiring personal escort craft, water craft with inboard motors may be allowed on the course provided their engines are off when any swimmer is within 20 feet of the propeller and during relay exchanges. For feedings the swimmer may approach within 5 feet of the bow or side of boat with engines engaged.

**OW-102.3 WATERCRAFT AND OPERATORS INSURANCE COVERAGE**

**OW-102.3.1** Motorized watercraft and/or watercraft operators working at the event shall conform to one of the following insurance requirements:

- A Hired Watercraft**—All motorized watercraft hired for the event (by the host, participants, or others) must provide a certificate of insurance naming United States Masters Swimming, Inc., its LMSCs, officers, directors, employees, sponsors, trustees and event host as additional insured. The certificate shall be submitted to the referee at least 24 hours prior to the event. Liability coverage limits shall not be less than \$1,000,000.
- B Operators Hired**—All operators hired for the event (by the host, participants, or others) must provide a certificate of insurance naming United States Masters Swimming, Inc., its LMSCs, officers, directors, employees, sponsors, trustees and event host as additional insured. The certificate shall be submitted to the referee at least 24 hours prior to the event. Liability coverage limits shall not be less than \$1,000,000.
- C Volunteered Watercraft**—All motorized watercraft volunteered to the event must provide proof of insurance. The Proof of Insurance shall be submitted to the referee at least 24 hours prior to the event.

**ARTICLE OW-103:  
INSURANCE SURCHARGE**

**OW-103.1 COLLECTION OF INSURANCE SURCHARGE**

The USMS Board of Directors has approved an insurance surcharge schedule in accordance with the newly enacted Article 203.3.3.

**OW-103.1.1 2013 Insurance Surcharge** — USMS shall collect from the LMSCs an insurance surcharge for sanctioned open water events in 2013. The LMSC may pass along any to all of this surcharge as a sanction fee to the event host.

**ADDENDUM A:  
MANDATORY SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**Administration of Article OW-102**

**REGULATIONS SUMMARY**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Verified By</b>	<b>Documentation</b>	<b>Required By</b>
Safety Plan	OWCC or Designee	Plan uploaded with sanction application	When sanction is applied for
Propeller Guards	LMSC Evaluator and Event Referee	Written report and photographs of visual inspection at the venue	Morning of the event
Certificate of Insurance for Hired Watercraft	OWCC/Referee	Certificate of Insurance	24 Hours prior to event
Proof of Insurance for Volunteer Watercraft	OWCC/Referee	Copy of Insurance policy or other proof of insurance	24 Hours prior to event

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Compliance with mandatory safety regulations is administered by the Open Water Compliance Coordinator (OWCC).
2. Failure to comply with any safety or administrative procedure may result in denial or revocation of sanction (see Article OW-101.1.3 for authority).
3. The OWCC will review OW sanction requests that are submitted via the USMS online sanction database ensuring compliance with USMS rules and Administrative Regulations defined in Article OW-103 above and in the Regulations Summary in this addendum.
4. The OWCC will contact the event director to ensure these standards will be met and gather information as necessary.
5. The OWCC will work with the Open Water Committee Safety Subcommittee to review and make recommendations to the overall safety plan for the sanction request. If the safety plan is inadequate, the Open Water Compliance Coordinator may revoke the sanction.

**PROPELLER GUARD EXAMPLES**

**Examples of allowable Propeller guards**

**Example of disallowable Propeller guards**

