



What a year! While many people were not able to swim in their pools this summer I did hear and see a lot of interest for Open Water swimming this summer. If you did get your swimmers in a lake hopefully, they liked it and will continue to pursue Open Water events in the future.

Open Water State Championships

I am rather disappointed I was not able to make this happen for our athletes. It would have been a really great opportunity for kids that did do open water training this summer to have a chance to use their newly found skills. Due to a state restriction it made it impossible to do this event in person. I also had a great plan to run a virtual open water championship but could not bring all the resources together to make that happen either. I suppose the upside is that all those ideas can be used in the future.

Other Open Water Resources

Since there was so much interest all over the county in Open Water, USA Swimming has really been trying to provide information to coaches. The Open Water Summit in August was fantastic. Here is the link to the videos, scroll down to "webinars", it's broken up into 3 videos.

<https://www.usaswimming.org/swimmers-parents/swimmers/open-water/open-water-education>

Open Water Legislation

This past week was the virtual convention, open water actually had a few rule changes that were approved. Most significant to our athletes and coaches is a change in the wetsuit rule. For events 5K or below . . . *"When the water temperature is below 20.0 degrees C (68.0 F) participants may use either swim suits or wetsuits."* This is significant because it opens up the ability to hold races in colder water and not subject novice level swimmers to have to buy a wetsuit. Get those races going!

Save the date

Open Water Zone 2021	June 17-18 @Recplex
Open Water Zone 2022	June 16-17 @Recplex

Laurel Liberty
Open Water Committee
coachlaurel@swimfsc.org
