**OPEN WATER SWIMMING 2021 REPORT**

At this writing, the 2021 Metropolitan Swimming Open Water Championships is scheduled for Saturday, September 18.

THANK YOU TO THE:

100 Swimmers registered in either the One mile, 1K, 3K, or 5K race.

24 USA Certified Swimming officials ready to work.

Half dozen volunteers that will help with the registration, the awards, setting out the food and helping at the finish.

14 lifeguards and 12 volunteer kayakers that will on the water.

City of Rye Marine Division scheduled to patrol the course and four other local department's Marine Divisions on standby.

SmartRace Solutions, ready with timing chips to record each swimmer's times.

Rye Town Parks Department for the usage of the beach and pavilion.

Playland Park for provided free parking.

Meet Director - George Fleckenstein

Meet Referee - Jeff Chu

Independent Safety Monitor – Judy Ankor

Karen Bisnett and Marc Danin Jr. for producing our promotional video

and the members of our committee. T-shirts, medals and awards are ready for the volunteers and the swimmers.

In 2021 we continued to promote open water swimming to Metro swimmers and provided an open water swimming clinic to Metro Officials. Members of our committee participated in both the Zone and National Open Water Championships.

Metropolitan Swimming had athletes compete in both the USA Swimming National Open Water Championships in Florida and the Eastern Zone Open Water Championships in Connecticut.

Our plans for 2022 are to continue to provide open swimming opportunities for the Metro Swimming athletes.

Working with Metro clubs, we hope to add 1-2 additional open water swim meets to the schedule by providing open water meet director trainings - providing them the tools and information they need to feel comfortable running a quality open water swim meet.

Offering additional open water swimming clinics for officials will ensure that we have the personnel to run safe open water swim meets.

Through the metro web site, ongoing promotion opportunities – like our new promotional video - and inviting swimmers that qualify, we hope to educte the athletes and their families of the possibilities of open water swimming.

The Eastern Zone provides a national qualifying open water swim meet. We will continue to participate and encourage more Metro swimmers to participate in that meet.

Our 2019 Metro Open Water Swimming Championships was on track to be an outstanding first effort. Except for the storm, we were very comfortable with the planning, organization and participation. For 2021, we used the same game plan. We are considering using the same venue and time of year in the future.

Open Water Swimming is the fastest growing sport in the world. Our committee would like to take advantage of the abundance of open water within the geographic area of Metropolitan Swimming and become a national model for open water swimming.

Open Water Cochairs,

George Fleckenstein

Jeff Chu