

Open Water Championship Race Committee

Open Water Championship Committee and Interested Persons

Jonathan Kaplan (Panama City Swim Team), Stan Corcoran (Scenic City Aquatic Club), Pam Braseth (Bluewater Barracudas), Kate Chronic (Excel Aquatics), Frank Myers (Greystone YMCA), Chris Coraggio (Barracuda Swim Club), Vicki Balog (Pensacola Navy Youth), Steven Fair (Greater Pensacola Aquatic Club), Clark Hammond (SE Swimming Treasurer), Mark Walker (Excel Aquatics)

When should we hold the race?

2009: Trial run in October during the Fall Southeastern Coaches'/Delegates' Meetings

2010: Summertime (bid was made by Frank Myers to hold it in Birmingham at the Oak Mountain State Park, any others?)

Where should we hold the race?

2009: Find a good location near the SE LSC Meeting.

2010: All agree a central location is ideal.

What distances should we use?

There was general agreement that we would like to have multiple distances for various ages. For example, you could have a 5K, 3K, 2K, 1K and even a 0.5K for the youngest swimmers.

What age groups should we use?

There was agreement that we should have similar age groups to Southeastern Championships. For example: 15 & Up (5K), 13-14 (3K), 11-12 (2K), 9-10 (1K), 8 & U (0.5K).

Should we use time standards?

There was general agreement that we should not use time standards at least the first year.

Should we have a series of races leading up to the championship?

We were split on the idea of having a series that leads up to the championship. However, we all agree that we should take ideas from separate races that work and figure out what works best to host SES Championship race most effectively.

Final Thoughts From Open Water Chairman (Jonathan Kaplan, PCST)

It's obvious that we have a lot of great ideas and support for a Southeastern Championship Open Water Race and that excites me! I think if we bring our ideas together, we could really come up with a fantastic race.

I would love to have a trial run sometime in 2009 with our first official Southeastern Open Water Championship Race in the early summer of 2010 in either May or early June. I also think that we might want to look deeper into what other LSC's have done because some of them are already successfully pulling off open water championship races.