



**UNION AMERICANA DE NATACION
TECHNICAL OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 2016**

Dear Sirs

Since the General Congress of UANA held on 13 July 2015 in Toronto, Canada, the Technical Open Water Swimming Committee (the "**Committee**") has been busy with a number of matters and a summary of those matters is provided below for your review and consideration.

Proceedings of the Committee

The Committee conducts its business and discussions by way of email communication. Generally speaking, the Secretary of the Committee sends an email to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Bureau Liaison setting out a summary of the proposal to be considered by the Committee (including any draft documents to be reviewed) and an indicative timetable for obtaining approval of such business and/or documents from the Committee. Following any feedback received from the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Bureau Liaison, the Secretary sends an email to the Committee requesting input on the business and/or documents from the Committee within a prescribed time-frame. Following discussion and receipt of feedback from the Committee, the business and/or documents are finalised and approved.

[13 July 2015 UANA Congress Report of the Technical Open Water Swimming Committee](#)

This report was prepared on behalf of the Committee by the previous Chairman, Dennis Ryther for the purposes of the Congress which was held in Toronto.

Composition of the UANA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee

In addition to those Committee members who were nominated by their respective UANA Federations and Zones, Emily Brunemann of the USA (a current open water swimmer) was appointed as our Athlete Member and has provided invaluable input into our discussions since her appointment.

Open Water Swimming Calendar of Events in the Americas

The Committee has done compiled a list of open water events in the Americas and the list is continuously growing. We hope that this becomes a useful tool for our athletes and members, in particular, as the Committee tries to establish and develop an open water circuit in the Americas.

Information on Clinics:

- Denny Ryther (Vice Chairman) and Emily Brunemann (Athlete Member) conducted a Swimmers' Clinic in the Cayman Islands on 13-14 November 2015 in conjunction with an annual 5K sea swim (hosted by the Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association).
- Denny Ryther (Vice Chairman) conducted a FINA Open Water Swimming Coaches' Clinic in Guyana on 27–29 April 2016.
- Denny Ryther (Vice Chairman), Michael Lockwood (Secretary), Rick Walker (Member), Tomas Haces (Member), Marco Flores (Member), Nicole Nomandin (Member) and Emily Brunemann (Athlete Member) will be attending the Flowers Sea Swims (One Mile, 5K and 10K) in the Cayman Islands on 10-13 June 2016. During this time, Open Water Swimming clinics will be conducted for swimmers, masters, officials and coaches and the committee members will also officiate in the various competitions.

Technical Manual for Pan Am Games 2019, Lima

The first task that the Committee completed was a review of the open water races at Pan Am Games 2015 in Toronto and the Technical Manual which was used for Pan Am Games 2015. Feedback was received from the Technical Officials present in Toronto as well as the previous Chairman of the Committee.

The Technical Manual for Pan Am Games 2019, Lima (the "**2019 Technical Manual**") was finalised by the Committee at the end of December 2015, as requested.

The key change that was made in the 2019 Technical Manual is the increase in the number of athletes who will be able to compete in Lima. The number was increased from 18 men and 18 women to 20 men and 20 women by giving Zone I (CONSANT) and Zone II (CCCAN) an additional male and female swimmer each. The purpose of the increase was to: (i) increase the number of athletes from Zone I (CONSANT) and Zone II (CCCAN) who are able to compete; and (ii) improve the quality of the races in Lima by having more athletes competing.

Establishment of an Open Water Officials List

The Committee has proposed establishing a UANA Open Water Swimming Officials List (the "**Open Water Swimming List**"). Each UANA Federation may nominate up to five (5) Officials for the List. Open Water Officials listed on the current FINA lists are automatically included on the UANA list. Federations

may list up to two additional Officials' names. The Open Water Swimming List will be valid from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019.

Each UANA Federation should be encouraged to nominate persons to the List who are not currently on the FINA lists for Open Water Swimming to help promote officials within their jurisdictions and give them an opportunity to officiate at open water competitions in the Americas for the purposes of development and so as to gain experience and one day be placed on the FINA lists.

The Memorandum for UANA Federations and the Nomination Form have been prepared.

Documents (Bid Document, Agreement for Hosting, Summons and Waiver Form) for proposed UANA 2017 Pan American Open Water Swimming Championships

The Committee acknowledges that open water swimming is still a developing sport in the Americas and would like to finalise the documents in respect of a championships to be held in 2017 known as the "UANA 2017 Pan American Open Water Swimming Championships" (the "**Championships**").

The purpose of the Championships would be to help promote and develop the discipline of open water swimming in the Americas. UANA Federations are encouraged to bid for the Championships and, as a part of the bid, please note that the Championships do not necessarily need to be a standalone event. The Championships may be a standalone event or part of an existing open water swimming event in your UANA Federation such as an aquatics festival or part of an existing multi-sport event.

UANA Federations are also encouraged to consider encouraging separate masters events in the Championships to help promote attendance and success of the Championships. The Championships may be split between juniors (i.e. persons aged 14-18), open and masters.

The Championships may include events in any or all of the following distances and/or formats: 5k, 10k, 25k and team pursuits (men, women and/or mixed).

The UANA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee expects that, at a minimum, the Championships will consist of at least 5k and 10k events for men and women (open) but the Bidder should give serious consideration to including junior and masters events in order to ensure larger participation and development opportunities for younger athletes.

Link to Certificates distributed to participants at UANA Events

This is a form of certificate that can be used by the Committee for Open Water Swimming events.

Recommendations for the 2018 PASO Festival

The Committee was asked to provide feedback on the open water swimming portion of the 2018 PASO Festival.

The Committee recommended that the races to be conducted at the 2018 PASO Festival should include 2.5K, 5K and 5K team pursuit races for men and women in order to promote the discipline and attract persons who may not be competitive in a 10K race. The proposed number of athletes is 50 men and 50 women. The Technical Officials for the 2018 PASO Festival will consist of Committee members and local officials from the host UANA Federation of the 2018 PASO Festival.

Recommendations/Suggestions to the UANA Executive Committee

The Committee humbly requests the UANA Executive Committee to consider the following recommendations:

- (a) The inclusion of a UANA 2019 Pan American Junior Open Water Swimming Championships after the conclusion of the Pan Am Games 2019, Lima. The purpose of these championships would be to give the junior athletes an opportunity to compete after the Pan Am Games in a competitive atmosphere similar to Pan Am Games but geared towards junior swimmers.
- (b) The establishment of an annual Open Water Swimming circuit in the Americas with races to be conducted in each Zone throughout the year for swimmers of all ages and abilities (junior, senior, masters and Special Olympics) in various distances (including, 2.5K, 5K, 10K and 25K and team circuit). The Committee acknowledges that many UANA Federations do not have the ability (due to, for example, lack of facilities) to host competitions for Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming and Water polo) but many UANA Federations could host an individual Open Water Swimming competition as part of a circuit. Establishing a circuit, and encouraging smaller UANA Federations to host a part of such circuit, would, among other things, help boost their profile within UANA, assist with the training of their officials, provide their athletes with further exposure to Open Water Swimming and promote aquatics and assist with sports tourism in their own jurisdictions (which will hopefully lead to more local monetary support of their athletes and facilities (i.e. more 50m Pools)).
- (c) The establishment of an annual UANA OWS Championships to be held within the months of April or May each year which are open to more than two swimmers per country (weather and safety permitting). The timing of this event would permit countries to use the Championships as a trial or qualifier for summer events such as FINA World Championships, Commonwealth Games, FINA World Junior Championships etc.
- (d) The development of precedent documents to be used as a starting point by each technical committee and specialised committee. As the Executive Committee may already be aware, each technical committee and specialised committee prepares documents (i.e. agreements, summons, bids etc.) based on previous documents which were used or based on documents prepared by another committee. Adopting this approach would be beneficial for UANA as the documents used by each technical committee and specialised committee would be consistent in terms of format and content (apart from items that are specific to a particular area or aquatic discipline (i.e. the use of a pool for a swimming competition versus the use of an open water venue for an open water swimming competition and their respective specifications and requirements)).
- (e) The adoption of guidelines for insurance policies. To the extent that it has not done so already, the Executive Committee may wish to consider what types of insurance policies should be adopted in general (i.e. director and officer liability insurance) and for competitions (i.e. general liability insurance and event insurance) and who should secure and maintain such insurance policies in each case (i.e. UANA and/or the Host Federation of a competition). Again, this would be done for the purposes of consistency and protection of UANA, its Executive Committee, UANA Federations, our officials and volunteers and, most importantly, our athletes.

Concluding Remarks

The Committee would like to thank the UANA Executive Committee for their support of the Committee, its members and its initiatives and we look forward to continuing to work with the Executive Committee.

Yours faithfully

Committee Members

UANA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee