

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #:	2
Committee Chair:	Catherine Rust	Vice Chair:	Dave Brancamp
Minutes recorded by:	Christie Ciraulo and AI	Date/time of meeting:	03 March 2026

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

1.

Motions Passed: (see below)

Presented and received approval for two rule changes regarding thermal plans and water temperature requirements.

1. 302.2.2/A 1-5 Water Conditions
2. 307.3 Edited to remove language extraneous language.

Committee Present: 10.	Committee Absent: 4.	ExOfficio Present: 4	ExOfficio Absent: 1
Committee members present:			
Catherine Rust			
David Brancamp			
Christie Ciraulo			
James Davidson			
Bob Kolonkowski			
Nicki Phillips			
Phyllis Quinn			
Stephen Rouch			
David Spitzler			
Amy Wagner			
Committee Members Absent:			
John Fox			
Vesna Shelnutt			
Marnie Whitley			
ExOfficio Members Present:			
Carrie Stolar			
Jay Eckert			
Colton Martin			
ExOfficio Members Absent:			
David Miner			
Onshalee Promchitmart			

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8pm EST.

Welcome from Chair Catherine Rust

USMS Office - Jay Eckert

USMS sanctions system will be taken offline from February 27 to March 9 for system upgrades. Upgrade will provide cleaner data and ease of use.

Open Water Nationals in Sarasota is next month and SwimTrek is the presenting partner. 147 total entries, compared to 231 last year. Swimmers are doubling up with 115 entered in one mile and 117 in 5K. Carrie hopes to attend to assist with officials. Jay needs to finalize officials.

LDC Duties Reports

Chair - Catherine Rust

The application processes for the Open Water Service Award and Long Distance National Championship Award has changed. Nominations will be submitted online. Dave, David and Robert will review nominations with revisions due by April 1st.

The USMS Open Water Swim Rule Summary (one page) is posted on Open Water Central for review.

Catherine will reach out to Jill and obtain the handwritten committee notes from 1994.

Executive email regarding the classification of rules, policies, and guidelines in USMS regulations has been received and will be responded to with possible changes.

Open Water National Championships - Dave Brancamp

USA Swimming partnership will be continued. Carrie: CEO of USA Swimming "it is our intention to continue the partnership." It depends on where and when everything happens.

Sarasota is next up.

Middle distance and Applegate marathon swim are moving forward. Dave will serve as liaison for Applegate. Carrie will serve as liaison for Middle Distance Open Water National Championship

John Fox will be at Sarasota and possibly Catherine if she can hitchhike her way across Florida!

Virtual National Championships – Catherine Rust

The committee discussed challenges with virtual championship entry verification and agreed on several solutions including monitoring entries as they come in and adding clearer language about entry review to the forms. All swimmers will be encouraged to maintain their handwritten split sheets.

LD committee will be allowed to check the club assistant splits as they come in, although most come in the last few days.

The Virtual Championship committee will put together an internal doc to address handling questionable entries.

Rules – Jim Davidson

Presented and received approval for two rule changes regarding thermal plans and water temperature requirements.

307.3 Edit to remove language for successful bidder

302.2.2 Clarifies requirement for temperature.

PARA (Patches, AA, Records, Awards) – Jim Davidson

The One Hour is a wrap. Need to post new records.

Documents and Procedures – Nicki Phillips

Sub-committee will meet to discuss virtual championship entry procedures and rulebook review

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Start thinking about potential new locations for future national championships in their areas
2. Post records from the one-hour swim
3. Submit any proposed rule changes to Jim by June 15th for annual meeting
4. Continue discussions with USA Swimming about future partnership for 5K/1-mile events after Sarasota

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50EST

LDC 2026 Meeting Dates

8m Eastern Time as needed:

First Tuesday of each month.

February 3, 2026 - DONE!

March 3, 2026 – DONE!

April 7, 2026

May 5, 2026

June 2, 2026

July 7, 2026

August 4, 2026

September 1, 2026

October 6, 2026

Motions Passed

302.2.2 Water Conditions

A Water Temperature

~~(1) A swim shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 16 degrees Celsius (60.8 degrees Fahrenheit), unless heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers or a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place.~~

~~(2) A swim in which heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 13.9 degrees Celsius (57 degrees Fahrenheit) unless a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place.~~

~~(3) A swim of 5 kilometers or greater shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 29.45 degrees Celsius (85 degrees Fahrenheit). A swim of less than 5 kilometers shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees Fahrenheit).~~

(1) Water Temperature is below 16 degrees Celsius (60.8 degrees Fahrenheit) – Swim may proceed if a USMS approved cold water thermal plan is in place.

(2) Water Temperature is greater than 16 degrees Celsius (60.8 degrees Fahrenheit) and less than 25.6 degrees Celsius (78 degrees Fahrenheit) - The swim may proceed with no restrictions.

(3) Water temperature is greater than 25.6 degrees Celsius (78 degrees Fahrenheit) and less than 29.45 degrees Celsius (85 degrees Fahrenheit) - Swim may proceed if heat-retaining swimwear is not permitted.

(4) Water temperature is greater than 29.45 degrees Celsius (85 degrees Fahrenheit) and less than 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees Fahrenheit) - Swim may proceed if heat-retaining swimwear is not permitted and a USMS approved warm water thermal plan is in place

(5) Water temperature is above 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees Fahrenheit) - Swim cannot proceed.

307.3 Contract

Representatives of the host organization ~~that is the successful bidder~~ for an open water ~~and long distance~~ championship event shall sign a written contract with USMS, which specifies the responsibilities of the event host and of USMS.