

Part 7
Open Water Swimming

R-#	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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Location: Page 111 – **701.1 – EVENTS**
Page 112 – **701.4 – SWIMWEAR**
Page 121 – **704 – ZONE OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Page 121-122 – **705 – ARTICLE 705 – USA SWIMMING OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Proposed by: Open Water Committee
Purpose: To:

1. To provide greater flexibility for local meet directors with regards to the use and application of wetsuits at non-championship level events.
2. To add consistency to the Zone Open Water Championships as it applies to the Junior National Championships.
3. Update Open Water National and Junior National Championship awards to reflect current event format.

Recommendation: *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends _____.*

Effective Date: Immediate

701.1 EVENTS

.1 *[no changes]*

.2 **Wetsuit Events**

- A. At Junior National and National Championships and any sanctioned open water competition with a race distance of 5k and greater, World Aquatics rules regarding use of wetsuits shall apply.
- B. For all ~~other~~ open water competitions with water temperature below 18.0°C (64.4°F), participants ~~may use either swimsuits or~~ must use wetsuits (refer to 701.4.5).
- C. Meet Directors may also designate a wetsuit competition category at any event other than Junior National Championships, National Championships, and Zone Open Water Championships.

.3 *[no changes]*

701.4 SWIMWEAR

.1-4 *[no changes]*

.5 Wetsuits at Championships Events (701.1.A) - Wetsuits (for both men and women) shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles

~~.6 **Wetsuits at non-Championship Event (701.1 C)** — Wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits (for both men and women) shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles. The thickness of material(s) used shall be maximum 5 mm. In addition, the outer surface of the wetsuit shall not include outstanding shapes, such as ridges, fins, etc.~~

704.1 EVENTS — A 5k shall be a required event for all Zone Open Water Championships and designated as the qualifying event for the Open Water Junior National and National Championships. All other events for Zone Open Water Championships shall be determined by the Zone.

704.2 ELIGIBILITY — Age for Open Water Zone Championships shall be determined by the swimmer's age as of December 31 in the year of competition.

ARTICLE 705 - USA SWIMMING OPEN WATER NATIONAL AND JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

705.2 EVENTS — In conjunction with the Managing Director, National Team, or designee, the Open Water Committee may designate additional events as qualifying competitions for the Open Water Junior National and National Championships, including the 5k at Zone Open Water Championships.

705.1-705.3 [no changes]

705.4 ENTRY PROCESS AND MEET ANNOUNCEMENT — The entry procedure shall be stated in the meet announcement. The meet announcement shall be prepared under joint direction of and approved by the ~~National Team Steering Open Water~~ Water Committee, the Meet Director, Program & Events Coordinator, and the President/CEO of USA Swimming (or his/her designee).

705.5 RESULTS — Results shall be submitted to the ~~National Team Steering Open Water~~ Water Committee, USA Swimming, and posted on the USA Swimming website.

705.6-705.7 [no changes]

705.8 AWARDS

.1 Individual champions shall be determined and awarded in women's and men's competitions. Medals shall be awarded to all first through eighth place finishers in each individual event.

.2 The male and female swimmers eighteen (18) years of age and younger attaining the highest finish position shall be designated as the USA Swimming 18 and under Open Water Swimming Champion in the 10K and 5K National Championships in each contested event and shall receive the appropriate USA Swimming Championship medals.

~~.3 The American male and female swimmers ages sixteen (16) years and younger and the American male and female swimmers ages seventeen through eighteen (17-18) years placing highest in the 5k and 10k events shall be designated the USA Swimming Age Group National Champion in their respective age group and shall receive the appropriate USA Swimming Championship medals.~~

[re-number remaining]

705.9 ELIGIBILITY — Qualifying times and/or qualifying criteria may be established by the Meet Director with the concurrence of the ~~National Team Steering Open Water~~ Water Committee.