



PACIFIC SWIMMING COMMITTEE REPORT

To be submitted to Marie Lin (secretary@pacswim.org) the Sunday prior to the next BOD meeting

Committee: At-Large

Liaison to the Board: Not applicable

Date of Last Meeting: Not Applicable

Members Present:

Mike Piccardo

Date of Next Meeting: Not applicable

Action Items Completed: Not applicable

Action Items In-Progress / Pending: Not applicable

Announcements: Attended QSS Watsonville non-sanctioned open-water swim at Capitola Beach in Capitola. This event was attended by about 78 swimmers. The open-water swim course was set up by a crew of about 8 Capitola beach lifeguards. The course was a rectangular course using large orange pyramid shaped buoys placed by the lifeguards from their jet-ski and set up just offshore from the beach near the Capitola pier. The race was two laps around the course, which totaled about 1500 meters. The lifeguards also provided on-course safety with several lifeguards on surfboards following the swimmers and one lifeguard on a jet-ski with attached rescue board that could either carry someone on the board or provide a tow using the eight built-in handles mounted on the surface of the board near its edges. The meet was professionally timed by a company that times about 50 triathlon and swim competitions a year (I do not remember their name). Each swimmer was provided a tracking chip for timing. The tracking chip also served as a safety feature since the computer can track each chip individually and account for the return of all chips at the end of the swim. The meet was divided into four heats, 18/Over (13 athletes), 13-17 Girls (~23 athletes), 13-17 Boys (~21 athletes), and 12/Under (~20 athletes who swam just one lap). Wet suits were available to athletes but many choose to swim without a wet suit. The fastest time was set in the 13-17 Girls heat and was about 19 minutes and 15 seconds. Everyone appeared to have a great time and I would like to see formal (i.e. sanctioned) open-water meets provided within Pacific Swimming in the future. The meet started at about 8:40 AM and ended at about 11 AM.

Questions for the Board / Larger Group: How do we provide certified open-water officials so that open-water meets can be sanctioned and does an open-water officials training program exist within USA Swimming?

Notes/ Other: