



Open Water Swim



COMPETITION MANUAL

Updated: August 2025



GUIDING BODIES

World Police and Fire Games Federation (WPFGF)
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Tele: (858) 571-9919; E-mail: 4info@cpaf.org

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Tele: +41.21.310.4710; Fax: 41.21.312.6610; Web-Site: <http://www.worldaquatics.com>

CLICK HERE FOR GOVERNING BODY FULL RULES

International rules will be followed unless specified in WPFG Guidelines

EVENTS

INDIVIDUAL

MEN

WOMEN

Men's and Women's events shall be offered in the following age categories:

18+	50+
30+	55+
35+	60+
40+	65+
45+	

Age as of Date: 12/31/2027

Entry Deadline: 2/28/2027

Safety Boat or Paddleboard Personnel:

Paddleboards (minimum 10) with safety personnel must be in the water before the race starts. One paddleboard will lead the lead swimmers at a comfortable distance (at least 20 yards), around the course. The other paddleboards will be stationed in positions to observe as many swimmers as possible. Paddleboards may move to be in the best place to provide help if needed. One paddleboard must follow the last swimmer. Paddleboards must not interfere with swimmers but stay approximately 10 yards off the swimmer's path. On courses with parallel lanes, paddleboards should stay between the lanes to be able to watch both directions. If a swimmer raises their arm or needs help, the paddleboard nearest will go to the location of that swimmer and provide assistance. The paddleboard will summon help from the safety boat. The swimmer will only be transported by the safety boat. The safety boat will remain away from the swimmers unless needed because the fumes from the engine drifts on top of the water and is toxic to breathe when swimming. The



safety boat will contain at least a driver and an EMT, and have radio communications with the Sport Coordinator and the other EMT at the ambulance. Paddleboarders will be briefed regarding the course and will report the competitor number of a swimmer that they observe cutting the course, to officials at the end of the race. It will be up to the officials to interpret this information.

COURSE

Minimum of 2 mile (3.2 Km) course, with the starting point and finish point at the parking area. Large brightly colored buoys shall be used to mark the course and all swimming will be between those buoys and the shoreline. Smaller buoys may be used to mark the course between the large distance buoys. The buoys must not drag or move. The finish line must be clearly visible (especially as the swimmers approach the finish). The timing line may be slightly farther up from the start/finish point. A water finish is preferable. The course configuration shall be approved by the WPFGF Director for Open Water Swim.

GENERAL SPORT RULES for Open Water Swimming

Estimated water temperature and course location shall be provided to all competitors in the Confirmation Letter, and will determine whether wet suits will be allowed or not. The water temperature should be a minimum of 60.8 degrees Fahrenheit (16 degrees Celsius) and a maximum of 87.8 degrees Fahrenheit (31 degrees Celsius)

If the water temperature is below 18 degrees Celsius (64,4 degrees F) a wetsuit is compulsory. Wetsuits are not permitted in water with temperature of 18 degrees Celsius (64,4 degrees F) and above except when conditions are hazardous for the competitors. The Referee may upon recommendation of the Safety Officer and Medical Officer declare wetsuit mandatory in temperatures up to 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees F).

The minimum depth of water at any point shall be 1.40 meter. A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities.

No floatation devices of any kind. No fins allowed. No devices on the hands allowed.



Competitors will be advised that a raised hand indicates trouble or withdrawal from competition and when given aid, or picked up by a safety boat, results in disqualification.

No aid may be given to competing swimmers until they have crossed the finish line.

The sport may be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled if unavoidable for stormy conditions or high waves.

Finish line shall be at the water's edge to eliminate medal-place changes out of the water. If for any reason the finish line is removed from the water's edge, swimmers must be escorted physically (by the arm if competitors are close) from the water's edge to the finish line to avoid any position change out of the water. In this case, a Waterline Judge and enough Host personnel to handle several swimmers leaving the water at one time are required.

By the time the last swimmer leaves the water, all results should be tabulated, and the awards ceremony should begin.

AWARDING OF MEDALS TO ATHLETES

During the medal presentation, only athletes are allowed to participate in this ceremony. Each athlete and **SHALL** present their Athlete's Credential. If the athlete does not present their Athlete's Credential, they **SHALL NOT** receive a medal. This is a mandatory requirement to receive a medal.

Technical Support Personnel and children are not allowed on the podium with the teams during the medal presentation.

The sport coordinator **SHALL** have in their possession a copy of the CSE Report for verification of participation. This will determine and verify which event the athlete was entered into.