

Are You Aware of All the Opportunities?

Coaches! Did you know that the USA Swimming Open Water National Team is making selections for the World Championships in Japan? Are you aware that the selection dates should not affect your athletes training cycle? Did you know that if your swimmer misses making the pool team they could still have a shot at the Open Water Team and travel to the same World Championships?

Many swimmers have been on the Open Water Team and gone on to do some great things because they got international experience during international competition. Klete Keller was the gold medalist in the Pan Pacific Games 5K the summer before the Olympics. Many of our top distance swimmers are taking advantage of making a National Team by attempting the challenging swims of Open Water. We encourage you to inform your athletes and provide them with the chances of making USA's Open Water Team.

We are selecting two men and two women for the 10K and two men and two women for the 25K. We will make a decision for two, from each gender, to then swim the 5K double. The team will assemble on or around July 8th here in the states and then return from Japan July 22nd. In 1998 we were the World Champions in the 5k and had individual golds in the women's 5K and 25K. We are looking for great distance swimmers who want to swim for the gold again and bring back pride to the USA. With the domination of Europe growing we need your help to inform those athletes, who might be interested, of these opportunities.

May 19- 25K Championships, Clemson, SC ***Meet information and entry forms are posted in the Events section of the USA Swimming website (www.usa-swimming.org). Or contact Linda Ditty at USA Swimming Headquarters at lditty@usa-swimming.org or 719/578-4578.

June 24- 10K Championships, Daytona Beach, FL ***Meet information and entry forms are posted in the Events section of the USA Swimming website (www.usa-swimming.org). Or contact Linda Ditty at USA Swimming Headquarters at lditty@usa-swimming.org or 719/578-4578.

Please don't forget that the 5K Championships will follow the Summer Nationals and you can bring those swimmers you would like to have see a championship and then have them swim in the 5K following the pool events. You can make a team trip out of it. Awards are presented to top teams and finishers. All can have a great experience and it will pay off in the pool, not just open water. Come join us in an event where challenges are as common as chlorine is to pools. Again, please visit the website or contact Linda Ditty for meet information and entry forms. In the past, only a few swimmers attend the Selection Meets, which should make the odds of your swimmers either finishing in the top eight or making a trip to Japan pretty good. See if your swimmers might want to make the trip and the chance to represent the USA. They may even come back fired up for their pool events. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Rick Walker
USA Swimming
Open Water National Team Coach