



12 August 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

WOWSA or the World Open Water Swimming Association is sanctioning and governing the solo attempt of Cameron Bellamy of San Francisco, California to swim 103 miles from Havana, Cuba to Key West, Florida, U.S.A. in September 2019.

WOWSA is the international governing body for open water swimming, whose mission is to connect, inspire and grow the global community of swimmers, coaches, event organizers and environmental non-profits to make open water swimming the most accessible, fulfilling and adventurous sport on the planet.

WOWSA has previously sanctioned, governed, and served on the official observer team of the failed attempts of Diana Nyad to swim from Cuba to Florida in August 2011, September 2011, and August 2012 and sanctioned and governed the successful crossing of Ms. Nyad in September 2013.

The rules in which Diana Nyad swam on her attempts and which will govern the swim with Mr. Bellamy are attached as Appendix 1. These have been in place since WOWSA was first established and follow the rules and procedures established by the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 2002. WOWSA has recognized other attempts of this swim by swimmers from other countries including Australia, but none have been successful.

It should be noted that the official observers assigned to Mr. Bellamy is an official observer from the Marathon Swimmers Federation, a separate and independent organization. WOWSA recognizes the legitimacy of officials and observers from the Marathon Swimmers Federation and other channel governing bodies around the world. The relationship is collaborative and complementary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely yours,

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Appendix 1. Rules Governing Swims Across Strait of Florida

1. Solo swims across the Strait of Florida can start anywhere on the island of Cuba and can finish anywhere in the state of Florida. It is generally understood that the starting point is in or near Havana, Cuba on dryland land with a finish somewhere in the Florida Keys in or near Key West.
2. The swimmer may use any form of swimwear including porous stinger suits, face masks, hand gloves, foot booties, swim caps, ear plugs, and goggles. If the swimmer uses wetsuits or any kind of buoyant non-porous closed cell swimwear or hand paddles, flotation buoys or fins/flippers or anything that aids in buoyancy or forward propulsion, then the swim shall be defined as an assisted solo swim.
3. The swimmer may also use skin ointments, sunscreen, creams, Desitin, or anti jellyfish sting sprays or ointments that can be applied at any time before or during the swim. If the ointments are applied during the swim, the swimmer may apply ointments on their own skin or may have another individual apply the ointment on their own skin as long as the assistant does not help the swimmer move forward or the swimmer does not board an escort boat, kayak or paddleboard.
4. The swimmer may eat or drink anything during the swim and may be given food or drink hand-to-hand or other means by assistants on the escort boat at any time. Inadvertent touching of the swimmer by the assistants is permissible.
5. The finish is confirmed once the swimmer clears the water's edge on dryland in the State of Florida.
6. The swimmer may stand on a reef or a sand bar during the swim if such geological feature is reached. In this instance, the swimmer can stand, but must not move forward.
7. In the case of encounters with marine life (sharks or box jellyfish), the safety of the swimmer is of prime importance and the highest priority. In the case of a tropical storm or lightening occurs, the safety of the swimmer and escort crew is of prime importance and the highest priority. It is acceptable if the swimmer must be treated and touched by medical personnel or receive medicines or injections from medical personnel as long as the swimmer does not board the escort boat or move forward while undergoing treatment.
8. Adherence to and reasonable exceptions to the rules above shall be documented in writing and, if possible, by photography or video at least hourly by the observers on the escort boat and confirmed by the pilots and other escort boat crew members after the swim is completed. This documentation shall be submitted in its original form to WOWSA and copies shall be provided to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame for preservation in its archives. The documentation may also be archived by the Marathon Swimmers Federation.



Appendix 2. What Is WOWSA?

WOWSA or the World Open Water Swimming Association is a privately run volunteer organization established in Huntington Beach, California with headquarters located in San Francisco, California.

WOWSA was established in 2005 to help usher in the Marathon Swim at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The mission of WOWSA is to educate, enthuse and entertain individuals of all ages and abilities who venture beyond the shore by:

1. covering, organizing, sanctioning, officiating, observing and insuring solo marathon swims, professional races, relays, charity events, ice swims, eco-swims, stage swims, channel swims, seminars, coaching clinics and seminars.
2. organizing and promoting the annual WOWSA Awards, a global selection of luminaries in the sport in four categories: World Open Water Swimming Man of the Year, World Open Water Swimming Woman of the Year, World Open Water Swimming Performance of the Year, and World Open Water Swimming Offering of the Year.
3. hosting and managing Openwaterpedia.org, Daily News of Open Water Swimming, Open Water Summit (WOWSA Ocean Fest) in Huntington Beach (California), Queen Mary (California), United Nations (New York City), Tunis (Tunisia), Cork (Ireland), Isle of Bute (Scotland), and Windermere (England), Oceans Seven, Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming, Half Century Club, Open Water Swimming Coaches Certification, and WOWSA Lifetime Awards.
4. establishing rules of competition and local, regional and national governing bodies including the Guinness World Records, codifying safety procedures and defining specialized vernacular in the sport.
5. Managing websites including www.openwaterswimming.com, www.wowsa.org, www.marathonswimming.com, www.openwatersummit.com, www.openwaterpedia.org.

Its founding member is Steven Munatones, an honoree of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and International Swimming Hall of Fame, former member of the FINA (*Fédération internationale de natation*) Technical Open Water Swimming Committee, 9-time national USA Swimming Team coach, author of the authoritative book entitled Open Water Swimming, referee, official, columnist for Swimming World Magazine, creator of the Daily News of Open Water Swimming and Openwaterpedia.org, and the 1982 World Long Distance Swimming champion.

Other members of its board of directors include Quinn Fitzgerald, the 2019 world ice swimming champion (50m freestyle), Roughwater Swim Commissioner of the Olympic Club of San Francisco, and Yale University swimming alumnus, and Antonio Argüelles of Mexico City, the oldest member of the exclusive Oceans Seven club, two-time member of the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming, educational entrepreneur, Stanford University swimming alumnus, father of triathlons in Mexico, and a motivational speaker and author (*At Each Stroke: Endless Blue* and *The Forever Swim*).