



Swimmers, Coaches and Parents -

The Executive Committee for 2011 Central Zone 14 & Under Age Group Open Water Championships in Topeka, KS has made the decision to cancel the Open Water Swim scheduled for August 4th at Lake Shawnee.

Dave Carpenter, Open Water Meet Referee, Daryl Halsey, Open Water Safety Officer, and I have been gathering information over the last 5 days to consider in making this decision. USA Swimming has standards regarding water temperature and the combination of water and air temperatures in order to conduct an Open Water competition. They are:

1. For races of 5K and above, the water temperature shall not exceed 87.8 degrees.
2. The air temperature and water temperature when added together cannot exceed 177.4 degrees.

Over the last 5 days, we have monitored these temperatures from 6am to 11am, during the time the races would occur, and the water temperature has not dropped below 88 degrees. With the air temperatures consistently running between 95 and 104 degrees in Topeka we do not see a break in the weather that would be needed to comfortably get us inside the standards. Given this, we did not want to bring swimmers to Topeka a day early for the Open Water Competition and cancel it on the morning of competition.

The committee also considered conducting a Pool Open Water swim. Due to one outdoor pool not being available and the time schedule of events at the Capitol Federal Natatorium on Thursday August 4th, a Pool Open Water event was not an option for the committee.

It is with this information that the committee, after careful consideration for the swimmers' safety and their families traveling to Topeka, regretfully decided to cancel the Open Water Championships.

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to a great competition at the Natatorium.

John Dicus
Open Water Meet Director