**Open Water Swimming Normal Operating Procedure**

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| Venue | River Nene |
| Activity | Open Water Swimming |
| NOP Version | One Date: 31 May 22 |

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| **Context** | River Nene is PACTRAC venue for open water swimming during the summer months. These open water swims are non-coached club organised sessions. |
| **Water Quality** | Water quality is to be checked via the Environment Agency website. |
| **Weather** | OWS must only take place when the weather conditions allow for safe open water swimming.  In the event of actual or threatened thunder and lightening the session must be run. |
| **Water Temperature** | Water temperatures are to be monitored before every swim session.  Water temperature below 11C swimming must not take place. |
| **Swim Equipment** | All swimmers must wear a wetsuit at all times during the swim. The use of wetsuits will act as a secondary floatation aid.  All swimmers must wear a brightly coloured swim hat at all times.  It is strongly recommended that swimmers use tow bouys to assist as both visual aids and safety equipment. |
| **Entry and Exit** | Entry and exit must be clearly controlled at all times.  All swimmers are to be counted in and out of the river.  Only the recognised entry / exit points are to be used except when required to exit the water in the case of an emergency. |
| **Safety Cover** | A nominated swimmer is to act as sweeper for all swims. This swimmer must ensure that they remain at the back of the swim pack at all times.  All swimmers must have an understanding of the RA, NOP and EAP for PACTRAC river swimming.  Where possible a safety boat should be used to oversee the swim.  At least 2 swimmers should have access to a mobile phone. These swimmers should be pointed out to all swimmers prior to the swim start. |