

## **MBSA Commitment to its Swimmers and Marathon Swimming Communities.**

It is the opinion of the Monterey Bay Swimming Association that in order to maintain our position as a sanctioning organization for marathon swims in the Monterey Bay, we must provide a minimum set of services. We consider this our core product. We also recognize that being recognized (locally and internationally) as a sanctioning organization is a privilege and to maintain that privilege we work very hard (unpaid and with a lot of personal investment) to go above and beyond the minimum set of services and provide additional value to interested swimmers, as well as the local and international marathon swimming communities. We consider this our whole product offer.

We provide the following at a minimum:

- **Published rules and swim/support safety protocol**
- **Trained observers**
- **Consistent and detailed documentation, including GPS tracking**
- **Maintain accurate history and records (available to the public)**
- **Operate as a non-profit organization and maintain a Board of Directors**
- **Awareness and Up-to-Date Public Presence**  
Someone interested in swimming Monterey Bay, must be able to discover that we exist and easily learn how and why they should partner with us when planning and attempting their swim.
- **Accessibility & Responsiveness**  
We are available for contact by email, phone, or social media. Once contacted, we must respond within a reasonable time frame. We do everything in our power to ensure that our services do not become the single cost barrier to attempting a swim. We will work with swimmers using payment plans, trade, scholarships, etc.
- **Availability**  
We must be available to observe and document swims within a reasonable time of request. We ask that swimmers arrange swims at least 90 days in advance, but we do everything in our power to accommodate last minute swims that meet all other safety standards.
- **No Conflicts of Interest**  
Example: We do not dictate which boat or pilot is used for support, although we do publish a set of standards for choosing a pilot AND we can refuse to work with any pilot or watercraft we believe is unsafe or lacks experience.

We also offer the following:

- Established relationships with local Coast Guard Auxiliary, Harbor Management, local fisherman, and interested pilots.
- Investment in additional safety, CPR, AED, and first aid training of all observers.
- Local knowledge and direct experience with Monterey Bay waters, including (but not limited to) currents, tides, weather patterns, and wildlife.
- Logistical best practices for the Monterey Bay (on and off the water)

- Relationships and the “go to” source of information with local press
- Public education and outreach to promote and educate about the sport
- A pool of volunteers and support staff for Bay swims and local events.
- Annual and lifetime association memberships (used to fund the organization)
- Annual events to bring together the open water swimming community.

**In Summary:**

MBSA sanctioning includes pre-swim information and support, two official observers, tracking, detailed swim report, documentation, ratification, promotion (if wanted), verification with the press (if wanted), certificate of completion, a medal, and recognition at the annual awards ceremony. A successful and verified swim with MBSA also gives your swim credibility and recognition across the global marathon swimming community.

It is our goal to ensure that ALL attempts at swimming across the Monterey Bay are done so in partnership with the Monterey Bay Swimming Association so that we can maintain the integrity, and accurate documentation of these swims and to preserve the traditions of marathon swimming by following internationally recognized rules and standards. We have gone to great effort to ensure there is NO good reason a swimmer would not partner with MBSA when attempting a trans-Monterey Bay swim.

If you (or someone you know) is considering an independent swim across the Monterey Bay, please reach out to the MBSA to discuss your plans. We are confident we can work together in a way that is in the best interest of your swim and the sport of marathon/channel swimming.