



**Neville Smith, Honor Administrator, South Africa,
2021**



Videos: [Interview 1 IMSHOF 2021 at 38:22](#)

Neville Smith was involved in marathon and open water swimming for more than 30 years (to 2022 and beyond) as an administrator, parent, coach, and official. A FINA Open Water Swimming referee, he served on the Swimming South Africa Technical Open Water Swimming Committee and officiated at National, Continental and World Championships. Neville was on the start and finish pontoon at the 2008 Olympics. He was an event organizer and manager at the National Federation level (attending events in more than 10 countries). Neville was at the forefront of the sport in his native South Africa as well as helping expansion of the discipline throughout the continent.

He led initiatives to increase open water safety regulations and helped develop mass participation community swims from 400 meter to 10 km including assisting at the IMSHOF Honor Organization the Midmar Mile. He was responsible for the establishment of a sponsored national open water swimming series. These events grew the profile nationally and it saw the discipline become the fastest growing

recreational sport in South Africa. He established a national squad system which supported open water swimming athletes, coaches and technical officials.

A successful coach, he has also worked with several swimmers with disabilities, including down syndrome athletes who have established world records and won multiple World Championship medals.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)