

IMSHOF NEWSLETTER

October 2021



2021 Induction & Awards Ceremony

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Class of 2021 Induction & Awards Ceremony – Available to watch on YouTube

IMSHOF ran the virtual Class of 2021 Induction & Awards Ceremony on September 18th. There were two zoom events. First for guests in the Asia Pacific time zones then followed for guests in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa time zones. Closed captions are available.

The video is available to view [here](#)

The booklet and pictures of attendees are available on the [website](#)

Nominations for the Class of 2022 Induction and Awards

Nominations are now closed for the Class of 2022 Induction and Awards. Thank you for all who helped! Selectors will vote in the coming weeks and results announced later in the year.

If you missed this deadline – start working NOW on nominations for the Class of 2023! The criteria are noted, processes described and forms available for download on the submenus at [Nominate | IMSHOF](#). Please note the swimmer or contributor does not have to be retired, but they must have had a “career” in the sport of marathon swimming (for swimmers at least 5 years of elite

competition or traditional solo swims). Winning one race, setting one record or running one successful event does not make a career.

Other Honoree Videos/Interviews

Honorees Antonio Argüelles Díaz-González, Ned Denison, and Steven Muñatones conduct interviews with Honorees. These appear on the [IMSHOF Facebook page](#) and [WOWSA](#) with links to YouTube. Interviews since the last newsletter (click to access the hyperlink) include: [Edith van Dijk](#).

Honorees - if you haven't been interviewed YET > please volunteer.

World and other records – Your input wanted

Many marathon swimmers claim world and other records. This was the case 50, 100 and 150 years ago and remains the case in 2021. FINA (for the pool) and World Athletics (for track and field) regulate and confirm world records in their sports. Marathon swimming (non- FINA racing) does not have a similar global control board. FINA does not name world record marathon swims as courses/conditions vary dramatically.

As a result, IMSHOF would generally NOT use the description World Record for a marathon swim.

The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) publishes biographies on our website for 306 Honorees – [select a name here to see examples](#). IMSHOF has a small role for this topic. We strive for uniformity in description and language as much as possible.

IMSHOF tries to consult widely before making such decisions, and if successful, this can, occasionally, drive similar approaches in other marathon organizations, media, and historians. So please read the document below and send your thoughts to info@imshof.org

Our plan is to review all input at the end of October 2021, exchange emails for clarification, perhaps set up a few zoom calls with a few who have input and finalize our policy in November.

This would be announced in the next newsletter and then all biographies revised accordingly by end 2021.

Many thanks - follow us on:



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World and Other Records

1 October 2021

Draft proposal sent out for YOUR input

Purpose

Many marathon swimmers claim world and other records. This was the case 50, 100 and 150 years ago and remains the case in 2021. FINA (for the pool) and World Athletics (for track and field) regulate and confirm world records in their sports. Marathon swimming (non- FINA racing) does not have a similar global control board. FINA does not name world record marathon swims as courses/conditions vary dramatically.

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Swimmer Self Declaration of Records

Best practice is that well accepted organizations ratify/accredit/certify and announce successful swims. Some of these organizations have long been accepted as the official body of certain swims (example Cook & Gibraltar Strait, Catalina Channel, etc. These same organizations should also be the ones to determine and announce a record. Most Associations/Federations seem to avoid the phrase "World Record" - see Catalina [Individuals Records – Catalina Channel Swimming Federation \(swimcatalina.org\)](#).

Generally, more global ratification/accreditation/certification organizations (like MSF and WOWSA) will not get involved when a swim takes place in waters regulated by local well accepted organizations.

It is always bad practice when a swimmer announces their own swims/records.

Guinness Book of World Records

This organization has operated independently for decades and will probably operate for decades to come. It is not worth the effort to try and control them. If they declare a marathon "world record", then

usually the swimmers should - just repeat their citation - labelled as "Guinness Book of World Records".

These would be the only world records which appear on the IMSHOF website. Anyone is free to challenge these directly with the swimmer or Guinness.

IMSHOF may cited a few of these (or may not) in a biography. IMSHOF are more likely to cite MSF or WOWSA lists (as of date X) – IF IMSHOF thinks it is relevant, credible, and actually adds to resume of an Honoree.

Example Trent Grimsey broke the “English Channel: England to France Overall Speed Record” – adding the name “Guinness” (should they ever endorse it) to this doesn’t add anything extra to Trent’s accomplishment.

Example: Honor swimmer Cameron Bellamy has two Guinness World Record for rowing – noted in his biography.

Guinness will have their own processes and none of the suggested “rules” below are expected to apply.

Fastest

Example: time across a recognized course (like England to France with potentially variable starting/landing places)

call it “course record”

call it "English Channel: England to France Male Speed Record"

This can apply to 2-way, 3-way, 4-way (with rules about the turn times), triple crown/oceans seven and stage swims (rules laid out), etc.

Call it "fastest combined time to complete the triple crown".

Stage swims can get tricky – illustrated by this example:

the fastest S.C.A.R. stage 3 swim for a swimmer who completed all 4 stages?

fastest stage 3 swim – perhaps not in the event?

The S.C.A.R. organization currently lists times for all stages and overall, for each event year but does not name speed records across all years. The S.C.A.R. organization may or may not care to ratify/accredit/certify stages outside their annual event.

Time in a regular race (like Capri-Napoli)

call it “race record”

call it “competition record”

call it “Capri-Napoli Female Speed Record”.

Like the English Channel the finish point has not been the same over the years.

One could also have different associations (example): "CSA English Channel: England to France Male Speed Record".

Then - there are the qualifiers: male/female; channel attire/non-standard (including FINA compression suit in a traditional solo swim); pro/amateur, with disabilities, and probably more.

Ultrarunning has a concept called: FKT- Fastest Known Time. This is mentioned for background – but IMSHOF has no interest in using this concept.

It is likely that the IMSHOF biography would refer to any FINA pool world record set by an Honoree.

First Ever

call it "first ever"

call it "thought to be the first ever")

These would never be called a world record.

IMSHOF will be cautious when subcategories of first ever – like from Berlin, Trans, Black, Japanese, etc. Swimmers should be aware that few recognized organizations name such subcategory firsts – hence the organizations/swimmer takes a big personal risk in such claims – example:

first born in Berlin and never left?

born elsewhere but lived in Berlin when swim was accomplished?

It can get tricky. Kevin Murphy does not appear on the new [Results \(tahoeopenwater.org\)](https://www.tahoeopenwater.org) Lake Tahoe Association list because he did not swim their newly defined course. Kevin doesn't really need any more swims in his biography – but as an example:

call it "First to swim what he believed to be the length of Lake Tahoe – the later established Association defined a different course and lists another swimmer."

Longest/Slowest

MSF publishes list for various longest swims. An example is "Longest Ocean Swim (open currents)" – with the description: "The longest unassisted swim in an ocean or sea, which may benefit from surface currents." This wording would be broadly in line with this IMSHOF October 2021 proposal for IMSHOF biographies.

For slowest – IMSHOF would generally not include it in a biography.

call it "slowest combined time to complete the triple crown".

Jackie Cobbell's English Channel crossing – she is not an Honoree, so this is just an example:

call it "slowest ever English Channel swim"

call it "longest ever time to complete the English Channel 1-way swim"

Youngest/Oldest

call it "youngest"

call it "oldest"

Totals

Examples - most medals, most swims (Thomas Lurz has the most FINA open water world championship medals)

call it "most"

end

Again, please send your thoughts to info@imshof.org