



Roger Parsons, Honor Administrator, Great Britain, 1997



Roger with his wife IMSHOF Honoree Val Parsons

Videos: [Interview 1](#)

Roger Parsons was selected to represent England on the initial FINA Open Water Commission and was largely responsible for adapting the IMSHOF Honor Organizations: the British Long Distance Swimming Association and Channel Swimming Association rules into the FINA Open Water Swimming Rules.

When FINA relaxed its rules on professionalism, Val and her husband IMSHOF Honoree Roger Parsons led the establishment of the International Marathon Swimming Federation (then renamed as Association) in 1991 to incorporate the two historic competing groups: World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation and International Long Distance Swimming Federation. As the FINA open water commitment grew, Roger was appointed to the Open Water Sub-Committee of the Technical Swimming Committee and then to the Technical Open Water Swimming Committee. He later became the executive secretary of the International Marathon Swimming Association (IMSA) and attended all ten IMSA swims in Europe, South and North America. This led to the establishment of the FINA World Series of Marathon Swimming.

Roger was also a marathon swimmer: Lake Windermere 16.9 km and was the breaststroke champion of the British Long Distance Swimming Association for 10 years. He and Val received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2004 for their contribution to the administration of open water swimming.

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

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)