



Irving Davids, Honor Coach, United States of America, 2026



Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award (above).
Please help IMSHOF find a picture of Irving Davids.

Irving Davids started coaching starting in the 1920s in Southern California and his career spanned more than 30 years. He coached these IMSHOF Honorees: 1927 Henry Sullivan the second to complete Catalina, 1960s James Doty the Boston Light swims, and later and Régent Lacoursière 40 km River Platte, Lac St. Jean, Atlantic City and Cabo México.

He is one of the namesakes of the International Swimming Hall of Fame's Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award which recognizes contributions to the administration of open water swimming since 1971. This is one of the most prestigious awards in marathon swimming.

Irving Davids was also a professional marathon swimmer, lifeguard, pilot, historian, archivist and member of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation. He was originally from the Boston area and probably a member of L Street (the Boston swimming club which currently host the Boston Light swim) from 1910-1920 – and completed a 6-mile down river from the Steep Brook Wharf to Fall River Pier in 1915. He was a Navy pilot, government employee (1915 as crew of the U.S. survey schooner Gazelle) and Captain of the United States Life-Saving Service in Massachusetts.

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