

USMS Committee Reports and Agendas

Championship

Committee Members

Jeff Roddin, Chair; Kim Crouch, Vice Chair; Erin Shields, Vice Chair

Tyler Blessing, Debbie Cavanaugh, Jim Clemmons, Barry Fasbender, Don Gilchrist, Jack Groselle, Robert Heath, Mark Moore, Michael Moore, Patty Nardozi, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Charlie Tupitza, Lisa Watson, Jillian Wilkins.

Ex-Officio: Tom Boak, Kyle Deery, Jane Moore

Executive Committee Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki

Introduction

Our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered U.S. Masters Swimming members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and select the sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for U.S. Masters Swimming Corporate Partners.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2014 USMS clubs
2. Removed requirement to require split books at Nationals due to online availability
3. Reviewed financial reports for past Nationals to ensure better consistency
4. Reviewed Nationals entry fee structure (no changes made)
5. Reviewed EMT coverage requirements at Nationals (no changes necessary at this time)
6. Discussed Coaches Hospitality policy to further restrict eligible club coaches to only USMS Recognized coaches (no changes made)
7. Discussed feasibility of coaches being able to sign up for Nationals as coaches (enabling them to receive pre-event notices, be able to sign up for items such as social, shuttle, Gold Medal, merchandise, etc.)
8. Discussed service animal policy at Nationals
9. Updated bid application and sample budget and converted entire bid package to be online
10. Updated meet contracts (re-evaluated bonus criteria and clarified merchandise options) and sent contracts to 2015 hosts
11. Assigned liaisons for 2015 Nationals (Kim Crouch and Tom Boak for San Antonio and Jack Groselle and Jeff Roddin for SPIRE)
12. Approved logos for 2015 hosts
13. Updated Meet Liaison Guidelines and Meet Director's Guide
14. Changed final results mailing policy to have the National Office do this instead of hosts (fees now go to USMS); updated contracts and the Meet Director's Guide and submitted rules proposal to effect this change
15. Discussed changing club scoring policy for Regional Clubs from Top 10 to Top 5
16. Discussed new warm-up hours on distance day policy at Nationals
17. Discussed shortening the entry deadline at Nationals from 35 days prior to the meet to include one more weekend and set it on that Monday instead
18. Discussed removing the Order of Events from the rulebook and instead making this task part of Championship policy (submitted Rules proposal)
19. Discussed changing allowable dates of Long Course Nationals from 8/1-9/15 to 7/15-8/31 (submitted Rules proposal)
20. Discussed changing the bid deadline from July 1 to June 1 (submitted Rules proposal)
21. Submitted rules proposals to remove postmark deadlines, mention of a banquet and requiring the use of a computer to process data at Nationals since these items are antiquated
22. Evaluated past results at Nationals with respect to NQTs and how they may affect the session timelines
23. Discussed posting the pre-event email newsletters to USMS.org so coaches and other can see them and not just registered swimmers

Action Items

24. Update Championship Committee Policy document
25. Update and publish the Meet Director's Guide for 2015 hosts
26. Evaluate alternative Order of Events for 2015 Spring Nationals (San Antonio)
27. Assign 2016 liaisons
28. Pursue hold harmless agreement for service animal owners to sign at Nationals
29. Discuss online relay entry feasibility for Nationals

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30. Discuss change to Regional Club scoring policy
31. Discuss change to Coaches Hospitality policy
32. Discuss online registration feasibility for Coaches
33. Review distance day warm-up policy
34. Review Nationals entry deadline

Championship Committee Agenda Meeting #1 - Thursday 1:45-3:15pm – City Terrace 12

1. Approve Minutes from last meeting(s) as required
2. Recap/debrief 2014 Nationals:
 - A. Santa Clara (Short Course)
 - B. University of Maryland (Long Course)
3. Review/discuss status and planning and approve awards for 2015 Nationals:
 - A. San Antonio (Short Course, April 23-26)
 - B. SPIRE (Long Course, August 6-9)
4. Review/discuss any proposed Legislation/Rules changes that affect Championship Committee (Articles 103/104)
5. NQT's
 - A. Review NQT study (Jillian)
 - B. 2016 Nationals

Meeting #2 – Friday 8:00-9:30am – City Terrace 12

1. 2016 Championship Bids
2. USMS Website Schedule Proposal
 - A. Add listing to Calendar of Events by October 1 (soon after selection)
 - B. Initiate meet landing page (facility links, Order of Events and NQTs) no later than October 15 and January 15 for the upcoming Spring and Summer Nationals, resp.
 - C. Post official Meet Information no later than January 1 and May 1 for the upcoming Spring and Summer Nationals, resp. (coincides with SWIMMER mailing)
 - D. Online entries available no later than February 15 and May 15 for the upcoming Spring and Summer Nationals, resp. (contingent upon host being timely with add-on details)
3. Nationals procedures/activities:
 - A. Service animal policy
 - B. Entry deadline
 - C. Distance day warm-ups
 - D. Online registration for coaches
 - E. Coaches hospitality policy
 - F. Deck seeding/positive check-in policies
 - G. Entrant list (make available prior to entry deadline or not)
 - H. Event Sponsors (add to online entry system?)
 - I. Other
4. Goals/Tasks for 2015
 - A. Online relay entries
 - B. Sixth Event policy – explore alternatives
 - C. Liability waivers

Championship Presentation - Saturday 1:30-2:00pm – Conference Center A

1. 2016 Championship Selections' Presentations to the HOD

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Coaches

Committee Members

Scott Bay, Chair; Cokie Lepinski, Vice Chair

Ken Brisbin, Chris Campbell, Brian Cummings, Matthew Edde, Marty Hendrick, Heather Howland, Bob Jennings, Kimberly Lloyd, Katherine Longwell, Erin Matthews, Sue Nutty, Kerry O'Brien, Dustin Poe, Jillian Wilkins

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, CJ Rushman

Executive Committee Liaison – Jody Smith

Top Three Priorities

1. **Certification/coaches education**
2. **USMS World Clinic**
3. **Publications**

Certification/Coaches Education:

- Level 4 is done and was launched in Early 2014. First application window closes(ed) July 15 and there were 8 applicants with 2 being highly qualified and the rest being asked to provide more documentation. This is requested by Aug 15 or they can resubmit without additional fee for next cycle which is early 2015.
- Coaches evaluating applications are Jim Miller, Stu Kahn, Cokie Lepinski, Emmett (Peggy) Hines, and Kerry O'Brien.
- Scoring guide is very robust and there will be some refinements to the submission process based on this initial effort..
- We are working with other committees and the national office to develop other educational opportunities outside of certification clinics.

Masters World Clinic:

- One of the anticipated factors in bringing our certification program in house was the need to also provide Masters Coaches with educational opportunities outside of regular certification clinics. These both enhance professional knowledge and lead to higher levels of certification.
- According to Club and Coach Services, there is a much higher retention rate in clubs with a certified coach.
- Providing opportunities for those coaches to continue to learn is a priority
- Logistically, a USMS World Clinic can wrap around convention or be a stand alone program.
- The goal is to make it as budget neutral as possible while recognizing that coaches are a driving factor in the growth of the organization so it may be an investment rather than a profit center.

Publications:

- The National Office publications continue to be fully provided for and have articles to select from based on theme and content for several months out. We are very proud of our working relationship led by Cokie.
- The majority of committee members have submitted at least one article with many submitting more than one.
- Several committee members have solicited members of other committees or the larger USMS population to contribute as well.

LMSC Communications:

- We have begun pushing our coaches committee meeting minutes out to coaches' chairs.
- We have created and distributed a survey to coaches chair to solicit feedback for what coaches chairs would like to see from our committee
- We are currently following up with suggestion on some of the feedback and looking at feasibility

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International Coaches:

- Montreal will see a large number of participants from USMS. We are working on an impartial evaluation from members attending that are not members of the coaches committee so we can focus our efforts in the best way possible for Kazan in 2015.
- Used suggestions to help modify our international coaches program and amend the budget to accommodate those changes based on reasonable and customary travel expenses.
- Planning for the 2015 Worlds in Russia

Online Coaches:

- Selected all of our 2014 coaches on time and secured agreements
- Monitoring metrics and looking at possible future offerings

On Deck Coaching:

- Continued using the new sign up method online
- Had fully staffed Spring Nationals and are on track to do the same for summer
- Programming and coordinating workouts for Convention to include stroke/start/turn instruction as well as incorporating a fitness themed workout and an open water component as part of a collaborative effort with Sports Medicine and Science Committee.
- Providing dryland instruction at the hotel at convention in conjunction with Sports Medicine and Science Committee
- Designed, ordered and delivered shirts to venues making on deck coaches easy to identify

High Performance:

- Selected coaches and coordinated with host.
- Created a succession plan to continue the program from year to year that provides continuity and fresh coaching

Awards:

- Collaborated with Recognition and Awards Committee on how to raise the profile and enhance the number of applicants
- Coordinated and selected COTY and KOB Awards

Other Activities:

- Collaborated with the National office to develop a Recognized Coaches Membership outside of certification. To date there are over 1000 recognized coaches generating additional revenue of over \$30k.
- Collaborated with Championship Committee to refine our hospitality policy for coaches at Nationals. Working with them also on ensuring we have consistent safety coverage for all of our national events.

Coaches Committee Agenda

Friday 8:00am – 9:15am – City Terrace 7

1. Chair Welcome- Scott scottbay@usms.org
2. Review of 2014
3. Goals for 2015
4. Subcommittee and Task Force Summaries
 - a. Certification-
 - b. International Coaching-
 - c. Awards-
 - d. Publications-

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- e. Communications-
- f. High Performance-
- g. Web Workouts-
 - 1. 2015 Coaching Subgroups
- h. On Deck/Convention-
- 5. Old Business-
- 6. New Business-

Fitness

Committee Members:

Marcia Anziano, Chair, Linda Shoenberger, Vice Chair

Andrea Block, Pam Dameron, Suzi Green, Ali Hall, Lisa Hiller, Bob Jennings, Mary Jurey, Kay Miller, Leslie Scott, Greta VanMeeteren, Robin Walker, Tricia Wallace-Lilleberg

Executive Committee Liaison: Jody Smith

Introduction: The committee continues to support Go The Distance, but as in the past few years, the majority of this activity is now handled by the National Office. We focused this year on obtaining nominees for the Fitness Award as it has not been awarded the past couple of years. And we also focused on securing bids for the Check off Challenge. We continue to keep up communication with the LMSCs through our monthly newsletter to the local Fitness Chairs. And we will be working to again have a successful Fitness workout (with assistance from the Coaches Committee) and host another Brown Bag lunch at convention.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Check off Challenge: Unfortunately we had no bids for the 2014 Check Off Challenge. However, at the convention, Masters of South Texas stepped up and offered to host the event. Robin Walker has served as liaison this year for this event and has been working very hard to secure bids for 2015. To date, none have been submitted but we are hopeful that this will be temporary as we have received inquiries from two groups asking about the details. Under Robin's guidance, we have worked to advertise this event and tried to get the info out to coaches that might be interested in using it as a fund raising project. We have suggested that they try other items onto which the participant records their swims as we feel that people may just not want to purchase another t-shirt. With any luck we will have bids to review at the convention.

Go the Distance: Go the Distance, 100% driven by the Fitness Logs (FLOGS) and supported by Nike, continues to grow. The major support for this event is the National Office. At this point in time, 10,953 swimmers are using the flogs compared to 8898 last year, and 6812 swimmers in 2012. However, of note, only 3987 are participating in Go the Distance this year, as opposed to 5225 who were participating at this time last year, which was up from 3132 in 2012. On a percentage basis, of those with flogs, only 36% are participating in GTD this year, vs. 58% last year, and 45% the prior year. Suzi Green continues to write small articles on the various participants, however, they no longer appear monthly but are used when the publications see the need.

Fitness Chair Newsletter: Ali Hall continues as our Fitness Chair Newsletter Coordinator. In this position, Ali writes periodic emails to all LMSC Fitness Chairs. She focuses on fitness activities that are supported at the LMSC level in an attempt to get more attention to the Fitness swimmer at the local level. She solicits ideas for new programs and shares the ideas submitted by the various LMSCs. This is also used to advertise both the Fitness Award and the bidding process for the Check Off Challenge.

Presence at Convention: As in the past two years, a Fitness workout will again be offered by the Coaches at the Convention. In addition, the brown bag lunch will be held again, this year being facilitated by Suzi Green and Leslie Scott.

Fitness Award: We received multiple nominations for the award this year, it will be presented at the convention.

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Fitness Committee Agenda Thursday 3:30pm – 4:45 pm – City Terrace 8

1. Introductions
2. Check Off Challenge – review any bids that are presented. Discuss ways to better attract bidders – including using the zones to help support it.
3. Fitness Award – discuss the success as to receiving bids and evaluate the methods used to advertise it.
4. GTD – discuss the drop in participation and ideas on how to get better participation
5. Responsibilities for 2015 – to be assigned.
6. Ideas for new activities.

History and Archives

Committee Members

Meegan Wilson, Chair; Barbara Dunbar, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Vice Chairs
John Bauman, Peggy Buchannan, Trisha Commons, Paul Hutinger, Kim Lloyd, Mike McDonnell, Susan Nolte, Gail Roper, Frank (Skip) Thompson, Steve White
Ex Officio: Anna Lea Matysek
Executive Committee Liaison: Chris Stevenson

Introduction

The USMS History and Archives Committee was formed to help document and preserve USMS history as stated in the USMS Rule Book, article **507.1.4** --*The History and Archives Committee shall record, collect and preserve documents, stories, photos, exhibits, oral histories and other memorabilia in an appropriate repository and in durable formats to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The archived information shall be made available.*

The History and Archives Committee (H&A) has been working very hard to accomplish these goals. Due to the enormous amount of time it takes to locate, scan, digitize and preserve USMS history, most of our projects are ongoing throughout the year and continue from one year to the next. USMS historical data are stored at the International Swimming Hall Of Fame (ISHOF) Henning Library, on the USMS website and on USMS volunteers' computers.

The USMS History and Archives Committee requests that before members discard historical USMS documents such as early registration files, National Open Water and Postal Meet results, etc. please consider donating them to the USMS History and Archives Committee for archival purposes. As more historical donations are located they will be preserved at the Henning Library and/or used to help identify swimmers in the old National Top Ten list and posted on the appropriate USMS pages. We also ask that local LMSCs maintain, document, and archive their history on their local websites.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The Top Ten Relay Project is making progress in reaching our goal to put National Top Ten Relay results prior to 1998 on the USMS website. Work is currently being done on digitizing 1987 relay top ten and supplying missing IDs for the years 1989-1992 in collaboration with Walt Reid and the Records & Tabulation Committee.
2. The arduous task of researching and digitizing USMS registration files through 1988 has been completed, and work is now being done on the 1987 files. So far, 1,775 names have been added.
3. Researching and documenting early National Relay Record Chronology is in progress.
4. Efforts continue to locate and identify swimmers listed in the 1970 – 1992 USMS Top Ten Times, whose permanent IDs are missing. The list can be found at: http://www.usms.org/hist/tt_swimmers_no_id.pdf
5. Locating, scanning and preparing pre-1998 Open Water and Postal National Championship results for posting on the website is ongoing. Needed missing results can be found at: http://www.usms.org/hist/missing_id-ow_results_1974_1991.pdf
6. Work continues on locating and scanning missing, previously published Top Ten booklets for posting on the USMS website where current Top Ten booklets are posted by the Records and Tabulation Committee for member access. They can be found at: <http://www.usms.org/content/top10print>
7. Swim-Master publications continue to be scanned into pdf files for eventual posting on the USMS website.
8. The review of the History and Archives section on the web to locate errors and omissions continues. H&A sends requests for corrections to the National Office. The H&A Committee would appreciate notification of any errors or needed corrections to swimmer's profile pages. Each swimmer can locate their profile page by adding the last

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five characters of their registration number (the permanent ID portion) to this url.

<http://www.usms.org/people/XXXXXX> (replace the Xs with your Swimmer ID).

9. Work continues on receiving, editing, writing and sending stories for eventual posting to the web by the National Office.
10. Maintenance and updates are ongoing for the list of Masters who are also Olympians, found at <http://www.usms.org/hist/oly/>.
11. A list of over 1000 names of USMS members that are deceased is being maintained and updated.

History and Archives Committee Agenda

Thursday 2:00pm – 3:15pm Boardroom 2

1. Call History & Archive Meeting to Order, Sept. 18, 2014, Thursday, 2-3:15 pm
2. Roll Call - Meegan Wilson (C), Barbara Dunbar (VC), Cheryl Gettelfinger (VC), John Bauman, Peggy Buchannan, Trisha Commons,, Paul Hutinger, Kim Lloyd, Mike McDonnell, Susan Nolte, Gail Roper, Frank (Skip) Thompson, Steve White, Anna Lea Matysek, (Ex Officio) and Chris Stevenson (VPLO)
3. Introduce and welcome new delegates.
4. Discuss the status of current projects.
5. Discuss other web projects, time lines, and priorities.
6. Discussion on the potential move of ISHOF and the Henning Library from Ft Lauderdale.
7. Adjourn

Legislation

Committee Members

Meg Smath, Chair; Sean Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

Brian Albright, Joan Alexander, Marcia Anziano, Rob Copeland, Daniel Cox, Barbara Delanois, Richard Garza, Mary Hull, Arni Litt, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund (deceased), Heather Stevenson, Erin Sullivan, Frank (Skip) Thompson

Ex-Officio: Kathrine Casey, Susan Ehringer, Patty Miller, Anna Lea Matysek

Executive Committee Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki

Introduction

The Legislation Committee considers proposed changes to Parts 2, 4, 5, and 6, as well as relevant changes to the Organizing Principles and Glossary. The committee considers all changes submitted to it in odd-numbered years, but only emergency proposals in even-numbered years. As such, this has been an “off” year for Legislation, with little official business.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee discussed emergency legislation proposed by the Board of Directors to amend article 203.3.3 giving the Board of Directors authority to levy the insurance surcharge for open water events in 2014.
2. The committee agreed to further discuss the events leading to the necessity of the above amendment to determine if there is a better way to proceed in the future.

Action Items

1. The committee voted in favor of giving its consent to the emergency legislation proposed by the Board of Directors.

Legislation Committee Agenda

Meeting #1 Thursday 6:45pm – 8:00pm - City Terrace 7

Meeting #2 Saturday 8:00am – 9:00am – City Terrace 12

1. Introductions
2. Determine whether submitted proposals are emergencies
3. Discuss any proposals deemed emergencies, and vote to approve or disapprove
4. Discuss future solutions in regard to article 203.3.3
5. Other business

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LMSC Development

Committee Members

Paige Buehler, Chair; Tom Moore, Vice Chair

Tyler Blessing, Jerry Clark, Daniel Cox, Leianne Crittenden, Randy Crutchfield, Matt Hooper, Mary Hull, Michael Moore, Lynn Morrison, Lori Payne, Jeff Strahota, Erin Sullivan, Tim Waud

Executive Committee Liaison: Chris Stevenson

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee is responsible for managing LMSC boundaries, managing the LMSC standards list and publishing an annual standards scorecard for each LMSC. The committee fosters communication across all LMSCs and LMSC volunteer roles by providing

- online discussion forums for posting questions
- peer-to-peer teleconferences for interactive discussion of issues
- outreach and mentoring through the zone chairs, and
- educational seminars and workshops on selected topics, and
- recommended “best” practices.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Teleconferences:** Since the last convention report the Mentoring subcommittee has organized, advertised and facilitated seven P2P teleconferences: LMSC Chairs, Coaches Chairs, Open Water Chairs/Event Directors, Officials Chairs, Secretaries, and Communications-Editors-Webmasters. This monthly event has been quite well received and reasonably well attended with good information being shared among the attendees. Notes from each session are posted to the most appropriate USMS Discussion Forum (see below) and used to document recommended practices.
2. **Discussion Forums:** Discussion on the forums has been light but there have been lots of views. The committee is still working on generating content and encouraging additional discourse and comments from the LMSC volunteers. The forums can be found as follows:

In the “USMS Administration” section under “LMSC Administration”

1. **Treasurer Forum** / *Finance Practices*
2. **Secretary Forum** / *Governance Practices*
3. **Chair & Vice Chair Forum** / *Volunteer Practices* (recruiting new volunteers, helping volunteers work together effectively, etc) & *Membership Practices* (member satisfaction, outreach to new types of members, etc)
4. **Communications Chair & Webmaster Forum** / *Communication Practices*
5. **Fitness Chair Forum** / *Fitness Event Practices*
6. **Sanctions Chair Forum** / *Pool Competition Practices & Open Water Competition Practices*
7. **Meet Directors Forum** / *Pool Competition Practices*
8. **Open Water Event Directors Forum** / *Open Water Competition Practices*
9. **Top 10 Recorder Forum** / *Top Times Practices*
10. **Registrar Forum** / *Registration Practices* (including welcoming new members, etc.) [**CLOSED-only for registrars**]

In the “USMS Administration” section under “Officials & Officiating”

11. **Officials Chair Forum** / *Pool Competition Practices*

In the “General” section under “Coaching”

12. **Coaches Chair Forum** / *Team & Training Practices*
1. **LMSC Performance Evaluation against LMSC Standards:** The Practices and Standards Subcommittee is on track with the 2014 goal of fully evaluating how LMSCs are doing in meeting all 45 required standards. A survey of 25 questions was sent to LMSC Chairs in April. Other questions were asked of the National

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Office and Top Ten Administration to use data from the systems of record or information already submitted to evaluate the balance of the standards. Preliminary data was sent to the LMSCs on June 16th & 17th with the request to confirm the results by July 15th. As of late June, four LMSCs had not responded to the survey. Final results will be shared with the Board of Directors and covered briefly in the LMSC Development Committee meeting at convention. The areas in which LMSC were least successful serve as the focus areas for mentoring.

2. **Reviewing the LMSC Standards Policy:** The last full review of the policy was in 2011-2012. Changes in processes, especially in registration, merit another full look at the existing policy. When preliminary data was sent out, LMSC Chairs were invited to submit proposals to the LMSC Standards policy. The committee intends to review proposals at its July meeting and discuss them at its annual meeting with audience input.
3. **LMSC Mentoring:** Lynn Morrison stepped up to lead the Mentoring subcommittee, comprised largely of the Zone Chairs, in continuing outreach with all the LMSCs and coordinating the Peer-to-Peer teleconferences. The Zone Chairs are actively working with the LMSCs to determine any changes to their performance against LMSC required standards during the preliminary data review period. The subcommittee continued to assess the policy on financial assistance for LMSCs to send delegates to convention.
4. **Webinars:** The Education subcommittee, under Tim Waud's guidance, organized two workshops so far in 2014. In early January Chris Stevenson held a webinar jokingly called "Forums for Dummies" to show LMSC volunteers how to navigate, post to, subscribe to, and generally use the forums. It was attended by over 25 people. The subcommittee also contracted with JFFixler, a leader in volunteer engagement research and training, to create a webinar especially for LMSC volunteers called "Generational Trends and Issues in Volunteer Engagement." The webinar was presented once in May (~8 attendees) and again in June (~25 attendees).
5. **Convention Workshops:** In addition to the four 60-75 minute workshops on Friday, the LMSC Development Committee will facilitate another peer-to-peer conversation similar to that held in 2012. It will be held on Saturday after the HOD session before lunch.
6. **Recommended Practices:** Progress on documenting recommended practices is going slowly but we have a start with templates and owners and content being generated each month with P2Ps and webinars. We hope to have many of the recommended practice documents posted to the Guide to Operations area of usms.org by year end (if not by mid-September.) The committee is focusing on the following 11 Practice Areas:
 1. **Registration Practices** (including welcoming new members, etc) / Registrar
 2. **Finance Practices** / Treasurer
 3. **Governance Practices** / Secretary
 4. **Volunteer Practices** (recruiting new volunteers, helping volunteers work together effectively, etc) / Chair & Vice Chair
 5. **Membership Practices** (member satisfaction, outreach to new types of members, etc) / Chair & Vice Chair
 6. **Communication Practices** / Communications Chair & Webmaster
 7. **Team & Training Practices** / Coaches Chair
 8. **Fitness Event Practices** / Fitness Chair
 9. **Pool Competition Practices** / Sanctions Chair & Officials Chair & Meet Directors
 10. **Open Water Competition Practices** / Sanctions Chair & Open Water Event Directors
 11. **Top Times Practices** / Top 10 Recorder

The P&S subcommittee is actively seeking volunteers to serve as "point person" in each area to serve as a conduit for more information coming from USMS committees and high functioning LMSCs.

Action Items

1. Approved meeting minutes from 11/17/13, 1/19/14, 3/16/14, 5/21/14.

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LMSC Development Committee Agenda Thursday 3:30pm – 5:00pm – City Terrace 12

1. Introductions
2. Approve July meeting minutes and/or review offline decisions
3. Dispute Resolution Procedures discussion
4. Mentoring subcommittee report
5. Education subcommittee report
6. Practices & Standards subcommittee report
7. Recommended Practices project – next steps
8. Practice Point Volunteers
9. Performance Evaluation against LMSC Standards
10. LMSC Standards policy – review proposed changes to recommend to Board
11. 2014 goals/objectives review & scoring
12. 2015 goals/objectives setting
13. Define scope of LMSC Standards Performance Evaluation for 2015
14. Review action items & Adjourn

Long Distance

Committee Members:

Donn Livoni, Chair,

Bob Bruce, James Biles, Ali Hall, Bruce Hopson, Colleen Driscoll, Rob Copeland, Susan Kirk, Denise Brown, Phyllis Quinn, Dick Sidner, Ann Svenson, Greta Van Meeteren, Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner, Ex O: Susan Ehringer, Ex O: Lynn Hazlewood,

Ex Officio: Bill Roach

Executive Committee Liaison: Chris McGiffin

Introduction: In 2014, the Long Distance Committee continued working closely with National Championship event hosts, ensuring the success of six Open Water and five Postal USMS National Championships. In addition, the LDC supports and enforces Part 3 of the USMS Rule Book, keeps the manuals and guidelines as up-to-date as possible, recognizes All Americans and All Stars, and develops new programs to help ensure the success of our events.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. **Rules & Legislation** – The LDC has undertaken an exhaustive process to make the open water and pool postal rules friendly and inviting to participants while at the same time up holding the clarity, integrity and spirit of clearly written rules. The LDC has had significant cooperation, inputs, and proposed legislation from the Open Water Committee in furtherance of USMS open water swimming growth and development. In 2014, many changes have been proposed and are under consideration by the LDC.
2. **Postal National Championships**
 - The *One Hour Postal (OHP) USMS National Championship* had over 2,400 entries. The host, Indy Swim Fit, did an outstanding job. Results and awards were calculated quickly and accurately using Club Assistant's software.
 - The USMS *5K/10K Postal Championships* are currently underway at the time of this report, and the *3000/6000 Yard Postal Championship* forms and online entries were ready to go three months in advance of the Sept 15th start date.
 - Club Assistant's online entry and reporting processes have really helped the hosts and the Long Distance Committee to quickly and accurately facilitate the event entries, verifications, financials, and results.
 - Our liaisons provide pre-event support and post-event consultation to the event hosts and directors. They help the hosts manage the timelines, edit their entry forms, get up and running on the online entry system, create results, etc.

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- Future: We have standardized all entry forms (both paper and online) and will continue to improve the forms. Starting with the 5K/10K, all postal entries will be available online, with a new name of ePostal.
3. **Open Water National Championships –**
- The LDC has improved its coordination with all six event hosts to ensure adequate event and safety pre-planning and operational readiness, post-event results reporting, and championship awards distribution. Likewise, the LDC coordinates with the USMS National Office staff for the supply of banners, USMS goodies and USMS Sponsor donations.
 - Our liaisons provide pre-event support and post-event consultation to the event hosts and directors. They help the hosts manage the timelines, edit their entry forms, get up and running on the online entry system, create results, etc. The idea is to bring USMS closer to the event hosts without getting in their way, and to begin to create a consistent look and feel of USMS- sanctioned championship hosted events (recognizing, of course, that each open water venue is unique and will continue to be that way).
 - All six open water national championships are required to use an online entry service. Our committee has noticed that results are far more accurate than ever before, and are rarely, if ever, corrected by the swimmers!
 - Future:
 1. We are improving the LDC event liaisons involvement and consultation with event hosts.
 2. USMS Sponsors have contributed to the ‘goodie’ bag placements that advertise the sponsor’s products.
 3. 2015 will see six National Championships that are spread-out across the country to provide easier access to USMS members. One of the events will be a two-day two-event “festival” to be held in Livermore, CA.
 4. Safety continues to be a high priority with the LDC and OWC. In all OW NC events, safety plans are critiqued and recommendations made to keep all volunteers, spectators and participants safe and preclude unnecessary risks.
 5. The LDC is encouraging all OW events to include cumulative relays (compiled by adding swim times after the event), hoping that this will help grow numbers and increase revenue. Swimmers on winning relays make LD Relay All-American.
 6. The LDC would like to increase the number of cable courses in the country to make such races more available to all swimmers. Cable swims are an excellent introduction to open water swimming for novices.
 - The LDC has adopted four goals:
 1. To increase the number of qualified bids received for review for all of the Postal and Open Water National Championships. **As of July 15th we have received 2 bids for ePostal National Championships and 5 bids for Open Water National Championships.**
 2. To restructure the NC bid forms distribution and collection process to streamline the collection and compilation process for the LDC. **This goal is complete with the implementation of the online bid forms on the USMS website. The LDC has received positive comments on the bid forms.**
 3. Begin development of a multiple-day LD festival. **Of the bids received the LDC has received one bid for a multi-day OWNC festival in the eastern region.**
 4. Increase participation in OW and Postal National Championship by 10%. **Our year is not completed, but we have numbers (YTD) for the three events completed: OHP 2013 -- 2491 participants, 2014 -- 2407; 2.4 mile OWNC 2013 – 156, 2014 -- 127; and 1 mile OWNC 2013 – 290, 2014 -- 270.**

Action items:

1. Prepare 2016 bid winner summary for announcement at Convention.
2. Hear reports from the working group regarding festival or combined OW NC events in the 2015 season.
3. Strategic marketing plan for all Long Distance NC events.
4. Continue to liaise with the on-going OW and ePostal national championships.
5. Track, prepare and submit the 2014 All Americans, All Stars, ePostal Series and national records to the website.
6. Evaluate and update host packets and standardized forms.
7. Prepare contracts for, and assign liaisons to the 2015 OW and ePostal National Championship events.

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8. Assign liaisons for the 2016 OW and ePostal National Championship events.

Long Distance Committee Agenda Meeting #1 – Thursday 2:00pm – 3:15pm - City Terrace 9

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair
3. Announcement of 2016 National Championship hosts
4. Assignment of liaisons for 2015.
5. Rules Proposals
6. Reports:
 - 2014 Liaison Reports
 - Working group Reports by leads
7. Recess

Meeting #2 – Friday 8:00am – 9:15am – City Terrace 9

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair
3. Finish up any business held over from the first meeting
 - Continued discussion of Rules Items for Submission to HOD
4. New business: Other items
5. Motion to adjourn
6. Adjournment

Rules/Long Distance Forum – Friday 2:30pm – 5:00pm – Conference Center A

1. Rules Open Forum - Long Distance/Open Water Rules Proposals Discussion

Officials

Committee Members:

Edward Saltzman, Chair; Pat Baker, Vice Chair
Brian Albright, Marilyn Fink, Secretary; John King, Al Ness, Alina Perez de Armas,
Fred Pigott, Mary Pohlmann, Herb Schwab, Sandi Rousseau
Ex-Officio: Kathy Casey, Sandi Rousseau, Laura Hamel, Clark Hammond
Executive Committee Liaison: Chris McGiffin

Introduction:

The Officials Committee mission is to create a Safe, Fair and Consistent "Masters Meet Experience" for all Masters Swimmers across the country and within each LMSC; by developing a well trained, knowledgeable core of Masters Officials; through Recruiting and Education. The committee has initiated projects to provide these officials with the tools and communications they need to perform their functions while maintaining the highest standards expected by our membership. The committee has also been working hard to strengthen our support for the USMS National Championship meets.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention:

- Distributed 2014 USMS Rule changes to LMSC and LSC Officials Chairs as part of our continuing education efforts
- Refreshed the USA vs. USMS Rule Quick Reference Card, produced it, and distributed it at the Spring Nationals, Summer Nationals and IGLA Championship. Also provided reference cards for local LMSC's upon request
- Ordered and distributed USMS Officials pins at both USMS Nationals
- Reviewed Section 103 of the 2014 Rule Book and participated in the Rules Committee review sessions
- Completed succession planning for the position of National Championship Administrative Referee.

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- Completed the Roles and Responsibilities document for USMS Championship Meet Referee and posted in the Officials section of the Guide to Operations
- Completed the Roles and Responsibilities document for USMS Championship Admin Referee and posted in the Officials section of the Guide to Operations
- Began refresh and expansion of all Officials documents in the GTO
- Submitted six officials names to FINA for deck assignments at the 2014 FINA World Championships in Montreal - none were accepted
- At the request of Nadine Day; included a budget item in our 2015 budget request to cover the travel expenses for one official to attend the 2015 FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia
- Participated in the LMSC Development Committee's Peer-to-Peer Teleconference for LMSC Officials Chairs to answer questions and advertise the resources the committee has to offer LMSC Officials Chairs
- Worked closely with the Meet Referee and host for the 2014 USMS Spring Nationals in Santa Clara to develop and distribute the Officials Application to work the meet. Sent out the application to all LSC and LMSC Officials Chairs; posted on the USMS web site and sent copies to officials who have previously worked a USMS National Championship in the last 5 years
- Provided the Meet Referee with action items and a timeline for completion
- Provided Official's Committee Stipends to cover partial travel expenses for eight officials who attended the meet as well as expenses for the Officials Committee Liaison to the meet
- Five members of the Officials Committee worked the deck at the Spring Nationals and served in assigned positions, such as Lead CJ
- Worked closely with the Meet Referee and host for the 2014 USMS Summer Nationals at the University of Maryland to develop and distribute the Officials Application to work the meet. Sent out the application to all LSC and LMSC Officials Chairs; posted on the USMS web site and sent copies to officials who have previously worked a USMS National Championship in the last 5 years
- Provided the Meet Referee with action items and a timeline for completion
- Several members of the Officials Committee will be working the deck at Summer Nationals; including serving as the Lead Chief Judge
- USMS Officials Name Tags were created for the Meet Referee of the 2014 Spring and Summer Nationals, as well as several highly active officials
- Submitted a Rule Change Proposal for Rule 104.5B to clarify the number of officials required for a USMS National Championship
- At the request of the Rules Committee; reviewed several proposed rule changes that effect officials
- Replied to approximately 6 officials questions submitted through the USMS web page
- Worked with the Meet Referee and host of the 2015 USMS Spring Nationals to develop the Application to Officiate for distribution at their LSC Officials clinic in September 2014
- Contributed content to the May-June 2014 Swimmer Magazine disability article called "Leave No Swimmer Behind"
- Updated the Officials Chair section of the LMSC Standards Policy document

Action Items:

1. Assignment of OC Liaisons for the 2015 USMS Spring and Summer Nationals.
2. Review and finalize the updated Master Pre-Meet Briefing document in the GTO.
3. Review and finalize the USMS Deck Officials Roles and Responsibilities document for Meet Officials in the GTO.
4. Review the list of documents in the Officials section of the GTO to determine any additional documents that may be needed.
5. Demo pilot program for training and certification of USMS Officials.
6. Finalize Training and Testing documents for the USMS Officials Certification Process.

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Officials Committee Meeting Agenda Thursday 6:45pm - 7:45pm – City Terrace 12

1. Approve minutes from last meeting
2. Approve 2015 Preliminary Budget Request
3. Discuss Liaison assignments for the 2015 National Championships
 - A. San Antonio, TX - April 23 - 26, 2015
 - B. Spire Institute, Cleveland, OH - August 6 - 9, 2015
4. Discuss 2015 FINA Masters World Championships - Kazan, Russia
5. Approve updated documents in the Officials Section of the GTO - documents to be reviewed pre-convention and changes/suggestions submitted
6. Solicit suggestions for additional documentation to be included in the GTO Officials Section
7. Demonstrate pilot program for USMS Officials Training and Certification.
8. New Business

Open Water

Committee Members

Lynn Hazlewood, Chair; Rob Copeland, Vice Chair

Jim Barber, Bob Bruce, John Carlson, Glenda Carroll, Sandra Frimmerman-Bergquist, Helen Lin, Sue Nutty, Rendy Lynn Opdycke, Dick Pitman, Joanne Wainwright (recording secretary), Jim Wheeler.

Ex-Officio: Donn Livoni, Bill Roach

Executive Committee Liaison: Chris McGiffin.

Introduction

In 2007, USMS open water swimming was underdeveloped. With a few notable exceptions, we had a small number (116) of relatively small events (under 200 swimmers). The Executive Committee expressed the desire to develop USMS open water swimming. The Open Water committee began work in January 2010 with a charge to develop open water swimming, build educational materials and promote opportunities for USMS in open water swimming.

Over the past five years, the committee has engaged in various projects to improve the infrastructure on which development, education and promotion can rest. These projects include: proposing sanction legislation relevant to open water activities; developing rules of competition that open possibilities for interesting events and more inclusion of open water swimmers outside USMS; creating the Open Water Guide to Operations, which serves as a guidelines, regulatory and educational document; building a series of event safety webinars; presenting workshops and in-meeting education at convention; creating an Open Water Service Award; and developing plans for an event results database and swimmer award system. In addition, the committee advises event hosts, swimmers and USMS open water administrators on open water-related problems.

From this point forward, foundation work will continue, but there will be more emphasis on event development and promotion opportunities for USMS. To that end, the committee is supporting two rules proposals: the Independent Safety Monitor proposal and the Open National Championships proposal. We will discuss both proposals and their implications for event development in our convention meeting on Thursday.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. **Open Water Guide to Operations** (Chair Rob Copeland): Last fall, the committee updated the OWGTO to conform to 2014 changes in administrative safety requirements and published a document on "Major Changes for 2014." Part 3: Officials Guidelines is in process. Rob will present a mini-workshop on event management at the convention meeting partially based on the new Officials Guidelines.
 1. **Safety Education** (Chair Jim Wheeler): This year Jim Wheeler initiated an Open Water Safety Education series that includes: Basic Open Water Safety webinars (March 16 and April 13), Swimmer Safety webinar (June 22), Open Water Safety Staffing and Emergency Preparedness webinar (July 20) and Swimmer Preparation for OW Swimming webinar (August). The August webinar will lead into the convention Open Water Workshop, a panel discussion on techniques for open water swimming. Links to all documents and webinar/workshop videos are posted on the USMS Guide to Operations under the Long Distance/Open Water heading.

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2. **Insurance Rebate Panel** (Chair Rob Copeland): The Insurance Rebate Panel is operated by the Open Water committee for USMS to assist needy events with insurance surcharges. The panel had fewer requests and granted less money this year than the previous year.
3. **Sanction Status Reports** (OWCC Bill Roach): Bill Roach kept the committee informed of the status of sanctions for 2014. As of the writing of this report, it looked like we will at least equal last year's total of 57 sanctioned events.
4. **Rules & Legislation** (Chair Bob Bruce): The Open Water committee joined the Long Distance committee for evaluation of rules proposals from inside and outside the committee. Many hours went into this project from both committees.
5. **Open Water National Service Award** (Chair Lynn Hazlewood): The committee collected nominations for the Open Water National Service Award. A ten-person selection committee made up of members from both the Open Water and Long Distance committees voted to select the winner, who will be announced at convention in September. Joanne Wainwright is handling the award acquisition.
6. **Future of USMS Open Water Swimming**—At various times during the spring and summer, the committee engaged in lengthy discussions of the future of the Open Water committee and USMS open water swimming. During the July 13 meeting, the committee agreed to ask the Board of Directors to make a commitment to the future of USMS open water swimming, including a complete education program (for event management, USMS administrators and swimmers), enhanced and consistent IT support (functional databases and a better presence on the web site for education materials), and working with the committee on promotion and development of USMS open water swimming.

Action Items

1. Action items were discussed in the previous section and recorded in published minutes.

Open Water Committee Agenda Thursday 3:30pm – 4:45pm – City Terrace 7

1. Brief business meeting.
2. Discussion of Critical Rules Proposals.
3. The future of USMS Open Water Swimming
4. Other/New Business

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Ray Novitske, Chair; Sally Dillon, Vice Chair

Carolyn Boak, Rich Burns, Maria Elias-Williams, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Heather Howland, Kerry O'Brien, Lori Payne, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val, Robert Zeitner

Ex-Officio: Tracy Grilli

Executive Committee Liaison: Chris Stevenson

Introduction

The Recognition and Awards Committee oversees all US Masters Swimming volunteer service awards, even though some awards are selected by other committees. The committee receives nominations and selects recipients for the Ransom J. Arthur MD, Dorothy Donnelly Service, June Krauser Communications, and the Club of the Year awards. The committee membership includes representation from the Coaches, History & Archives, Long Distance, and Records & Tabulation committees.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee held conference calls in November and April to discuss projects, assign tasks, and report progress. The minutes are posted on the USMS web site.
2. The committee discussed and undertook several tasks to increase nominations for its service awards.
 - a. A subcommittee prepared press releases/announcements for 2013 recipients of the Dorothy Donnelly Service, Club of the Year, and June Krauser Communications awards and sent them out to the

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- recipients' LMSC webmasters and newsletter editors. It is hoped that increasing visibility of recipients will result in more interest in nominations in the future.
- b. A subcommittee developed a campaign to reach out to members and remind them of the national recognition opportunities. A promotional notice was designed, printed, and included in the Spring National Championship meet package distributed to participants. Reminders of service award nomination deadlines were sent to all LMSC chairs.
 - c. Increased coordination with the publications staff at the National Office resulted in utilizing the USMS Twitter feeds and Facebook postings to announce the Ransom Arthur recipient and to remind of upcoming nomination deadlines for the remaining awards.
 - d. Notices of upcoming nomination deadlines were included in the national magazine, Streamlines, Streamlines for Volunteers, and Streamlines for Coaches.
3. The 2014 Captain Ransom J. Arthur MD Award was presented to Hill Carrow of North Carolina LMSC. USMS President Nadine Day surprised Hill with the award at his club pool in North Carolina. Nadine announced the award decision to the membership at the Spring National Championships in Santa Clara and will present it formally to Hill at the 2014 USAS convention banquet. Past recipients were also recognized at Santa Clara. Two other outstanding contributors were nominated along with Hill: Michael Moore of Pacific LMSC and Michael Heather of Pacific LMSC.
 4. Plans are underway to again prepare press releases for 2014 recipients after the convention presentation and to send them out to their local LMSC and media outlets.
 5. LMSC survey and promotion of recognition of service on the local level. A subcommittee surveyed LMSCs to determine what awards, if any, are presented to volunteers in recognition of their service at the local level. Results indicate that many more LMSCs have a recognition system in place in 2014 than they did when surveyed in 2010. Most of the LMSCs who do not have a system in place indicated that they would appreciate suggestions. Some great ideas have been generated and the subcommittee will prepare a summary of the survey results and offer concrete suggestions, all of which will be distributed to LMSCs and at the convention.
 6. Nominations for the majority of USMS awards were due July 1. The efforts made to encourage nominations this year had some good results with the R&A Committee experiencing more volunteers nominated for most awards.

Recognition and Awards Agenda Thursday 6:45pm – 8:00pm – City Terrace 9

1. The official "Pinning" of the 2014 RJA award honoree – Hill Carrow.
2. Chair's report.
3. Budget review
4. Report on annual projects: Ransom Arthur, Dorothy Donnelly Service, June Krauser Communications, and Club of the Year awards.
5. Report and discussion on year's subcommittees: Increasing Nominations, and Promotion of Recognition at the Local Level.
6. Discussion on projects for the upcoming year.

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

Jeanne Seidler, Chair; Greg Danner, Vice Chair

Michael Abegg, Barbara Dunbar, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid (National Records Administrator), Mary Sweat, Kim Thornton, Hans Van Meeteren, Mary Beth Windrath (National Swims Administrator)

Ex Officio: James Matysek Executive Committee Liaison: Chris Stevenson

Introduction

The Records and Tabulation Committee is responsible for the process of recording and verifying Top 10 times, All-American and All-Star rosters, and USMS national records for all three courses. In addition to a chair and vice-chair, the committee includes the National Swims Administrator, who collects, verifies and compiles Top 10 submissions from the LMSCs, and the USMS Records Administrator, who collects and verifies record applications and maintains the USMS records. The pool measurement process is within the domain of the committee. The committee maintains the USMS List of Measured Pools.

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The committee works closely with the USMS Webmaster & IT Director for the online publication of lists, rosters and records, and to simplify and automate the compilation and verification of all swim performances in pools measured as per USMS pool measurement rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. For the past year, the Records Administrator and Swims Administrator continued their customary roles of verifying, compiling and publishing USMS Records and Top 10 Swims, respectively. The committee chair published the list of Top 10 swims and All-Americans on the USMS website.
2. Committee business was taken up during five conference calls (Nov 10, Dec 16, Jan 19, Feb 16 and July TBD) and electronically through email and the secured Records and Tabulation USMS Administrative Forum defined for this business purpose.
3. The committee was assigned to follow through on two remaining sub-projects in the E2EEM project. One project is to support identification of national records through the Top Ten Tools. The other project is to define the requirements for a certified measured pools database. Both projects are on the IT project list but are not scheduled as yet. Very early preliminary work has been done on the measured pools database.
4. On the topic of publishing Records in Section A of the Rule Book, the committee voted to continue publishing Pool Records in the Rule Book as this is the one consistent reference required for all Pool Meets. Publishing the postal and open water records in the Rule Book was not in the scope of consideration by the RT Committee.
5. The following documents were updated for clarity and accuracy: the Guide to Operations, the list of Committee policies, the Application for USMS and/or World Record and the Pool Length Certification form. In addition, changes were requested for the documents generated from the On-Line Sanction System with references to pool measurement rules. Changes will be made to the Sanction section of the GTO.
6. The USMS List of Measured Pools has been kept up to date with pool measurement documents provided by TTRs. The USMS List is a comprehensive reference of all pools which have been measured for competition. This effort continues as an on-going process.
7. The committee asked for and received an interpretation regarding unregistered swimmers in sanctioned meets and whether or not the whole meet should be rejected from Top Ten consideration. The essence of the interpretation was that the meet would not be rejected from Top Ten consideration.
8. Numerous inquiries were made to the committee, but mostly to the Chair and National Top Ten Administrator regarding various questions related to Top Ten, pool measurement, availability of Top Ten times, and split request listings in the ERDB. Based on numerous questions, changes are noted in the Top Ten General Information to clarify some of the questions. Also, an appeals policy was formulated for Top Ten issues.
9. The committee asked for and received an interpretation of the situation for recording a relay lead-off split at a recognized meet when all members of the relay are not members of the same USMS team and some members might not be USMS members. In this case, the relay lead-off split is an official time if the relay also meets the other rules for relay lead-off splits at a sanctioned meet. This will be noted in the next cycle of publishing in the GTO.
10. The committee is proposing several housekeeping and/or clarification changes to rules for the 2014 Convention.

Action Items

None.

Records and Tabulations Committee Agenda Friday 8:00am – 9:15am – City Terrace 4

1. Introductions.
2. Summarize changes in the past year, new information for Top Ten Recorders published in the Guide to Operations, various issues resolved during the year.
3. Summarize remaining projects in E2EEM.
4. Summarize rules proposals for the 2014 Convention.
5. Open Discussion on RT projects for 2014-2015, potential legislation and policy changes for 2015.
6. Open Feedback Session ... members and audience to discuss the topic of supporting needs of Top Ten Recorders on the LMSC level. (Access to Sanction Information & Other topics from the floor).

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Registration

Committee Members

Leo Letendre, Chair; George Simon, Vice Chair; Susan Ehringer, Vice Chair
Chris Colburn, Dawn-Ann Dykes, Arni Litt, Liz Mason, Robin Tracy, Gregory Weber
Ex-Officio: Anna Lea Matysek
Executive Committee Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki

Introduction

The registration committee was active this year on a number of projects including the oversight of the conversion to the in-house registration system, several policy issues and advising on proposed membership options.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee oversaw, through testing and feedback, the implementation of the in-house registration system. The system has been operating well since the beginning of the registration year. A number of issues were identified and most were addressed by the IT staff.
2. In conjunction with the Staff, options for modifying the membership options for those wishing to join USMS during the latter part of the year were discussed. The committee recommended a “16 month” membership which offers a membership which automatically renews the member at the start of the following registration year having pre-paid for that year.
3. The committee adopted a policy which indicated that registrars shall not provide a registration card to a third party but must deliver (including through the postal system) the card directly to the member since the membership card contains personal identifiable information.
4. The committee received consultation with respect to the new member waiver and provided appropriate feedback.

Action Items

1. None at this time.

Registration Committee Agenda Thursday 6:45pm – 7:45pm – City Terrace 8

1. Welcome
2. Discussion of Registration Issues
 - a. Role of LMSCs in the Lifetime Fitness partnership
3. Discussion of the role and expectations of registrars.
4. Discussion of other membership options
5. Any other business
6. Close

Rules

Committee Members

Kathrine Casey, Chair; Charlie Cockrell, Vice Chair; Kris Wingenroth, Secretary
Carolyn Boak, Sally Dillon, Marilyn Fink, Judy Gillies, Laura Groselle, Mollie Grover, Matt Hooper, Brian Hoyt, John King, Barbara Protzman, Jessica Seaton, Ginny Trimble, Steve Unruh, and Rand Vaillancourt
Ex-Officio: Ed Saltzman, Officials Committee Chair; Susan Ehringer, Rule Book Coordinator; Meg Smath, Legislation Committee Chair; Anna Lea Matysek, National Office; and Dan McAllen, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee Chair
Executive Committee Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki

Introduction

The Rules Committee has jurisdiction over Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary. Since this is a Rules year, amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary may be passed by a majority vote of the House of Delegates if they are properly submitted and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee. Proposed amendments NOT recommended for approval by the Rules Committee may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates. Proposed rule changes

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have been submitted by LMSCs and by USMS standing committees. One proposed change under the jurisdiction of both the Rules and Long Distance committees has been submitted (see 601.4.5 for procedures).

Part 1 is based on articles 101, 102, and 105 of the USA Swimming Technical Rules, which, as amended, govern all Masters swimming competitions. The Rules Committee will make recommendations to the delegates on amendments approved by USA Swimming at this year's convention. There are two USA-S proposed amendments that could impact USMS rules and one USA-S proposed housekeeping amendment, all of which will be considered in accordance with 601.4.7A. The committee may also recommend changes made to USA-S article 103 (Facility Standards) to the USMS House of Delegates for USMS article 107 (there are two USA-S proposed amendments that fall into this category).

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Proofread the 2014 rule book for the correct insertion of:
 - A. FINA-approved and USA Swimming-approved amendments that were also adopted by USMS
 - B. USMS-adopted amendments to Parts 2 – 6 as proposed by the Rules Committee
 - C. reference numbers throughout the rules
 - D. corrections to the rule book that were reported throughout the year
 - E. additions to the index
2. Updated the “Differences” documents for Appendix B in the 2014 rule book (USA-S, NCAA, FINA, and NFHS rules differences) and submitted the USMS/USA-S rules differences to USA Swimming for publication in their rule book.
3. Submitted rules text for “Major Changes for 2014”.
4. Reviewed the USMS rules included in the “Our Kids Initiative” (OKI) comparison of rules for all swimming governing bodies.
5. Published several updates of the FINA rule changes that impacted USMS rules.
6. Worked with the Legislation Chair and the Registration Chair to update the adopted amendment to 201.3.4 (unattached rule) as requested by FINA, so the Legislation Committee could give advice and consent to the Board of Directors for emergency action.
7. Published monthly articles in *Streamlines* for coaches that address the most frequently asked questions about rules.
8. Provided a Rules Liaison and a Liaison-in-training to National Championship meets to assist with rules questions and interpretations and assisted with information for automatic split retrieval for official times.
9. Reviewed the Glossary and Part 1 comparing it to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 looking for any missing USA-S changes, as well as to the USMS Meet Director's Guide and contract for national championship meets, and the Guide to Operations. The committee will present recommendations for changes/updates to the House of Delegates.
10. Answered all questions about rules including the following:
 - A. As members of “UC”, unattached swimmers cannot compete in relays (102.9.1), and swimmers who are transferred to UC status for nationals must comply with 104.5.4A(3).
 - B. Only the touch at the wall for turns and finishes on the breaststroke and butterfly have changed. See the underlined language in the rules below.

101.2.4 Turns and Finish—At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

101.3.4 Turns—At each turn the body shall be on the breast. The touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall.

101.3.5 Finish—At the finish, the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

Given the above changes, the breaststroke cycle itself has not changed, and a single dolphin kick is still allowed during or at the completion of the first arm pull (101.2.2). At the last stroke before the turn and finish an arm pull without a leg kick is still permitted (101.2.4). One breaststroke kick per butterfly arm pull is also still allowed (101.3.3).

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- C.** Do not deny a swimmer's request for an initial butterfly split from an IM event unless the swimmer is disqualified from the event. 103.18.2 states, "An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event OR A BUTTERFLY TIME CAN BE ACHIEVED IN AN INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY EVENT). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.
- D.** A swimmer who competes in more than five individual events per day at a USMS-sanctioned meet will be disqualified in all individual events beyond the first five events swum on that day (102.6). Split times do not count as additional events, so initial split times from those five events per day are allowed.
- E.** Foreign Masters swimmers who are registered with their federations are permitted to participate in USMS meets. For example, 104.5.4A(2) states that foreign swimmers are welcome at USMS national championship meets but cannot qualify for USMS Top 10, All-American, or USMS records.
- F.** The competition course has to be measured (all lanes) before the meet if it has not been certified for length and is not on the USMS list or FINA list of certified pools. When entering a dual-sanctioned meet or a USA Swimming meet, if the USA-S meet information states that the pool "has not been certified in accordance with 104.2.2C(4)", that means that the pool is not certified for length with USA-S. If the pool length certification is not on file with USMS either, then all lanes must be measured in order for times to count for USMS purposes (USMS 105.1.6 and 105.1.7A&B). The list of pools certified by USMS can be found on the USMS website in the "Top Ten/Records and Tabulation" section of the Guide to Operations. If the USA-S meet is not dual sanctioned, it is the swimmer's responsibility to ensure that the pool is measured (read "How to get your times to count for records and Top 10 Tabulation" in the same section of the Guide to Operations for details).
- G.** All bulkhead pools must be measured prior to the start of USMS-sanctioned competition either for all lanes if there is not a pool length measurement on file with USMS or FINA or for the two outside lanes and a center lane if the pool length measurement IS on file with USMS or FINA. Otherwise, swimmers may lose all times achieved at the meet as in the following example of a pre-meet measurement of a bulkhead pool showing all lanes short and a post-meet measurement showing all lanes legal: "If the competition was started without adjusting the bulkhead and re-measuring the course prior to the first race, none of the times can be considered for USMS Top 10 and records, because it is unknown at which point in time during the meet each lane adjusted itself to a legal length."
- H.** If the pool length measurement is on file with USMS or FINA, bulkhead measurement IS required to confirm the course length for USMS records at USA Swimming meets and dual-sanctioned meets but not at international meets that are sanctioned by a FINA Masters member federation other than USMS (105.1.7D&E). Dual-sanctioned meets also require confirmation of bulkhead course length for USMS Top 10 as well as for USMS records (105.1.7E).
- I.** All members of a relay must swim without being disqualified in order for the leadoff swimmer's split to be considered for an official USMS time (103.18.1C).
- J.** There is no USMS rule or policy prohibiting officials from also swimming at a meet. That includes USMS national championship meets where a few officials usually compete and officiate. However the deck at meets other than USMS national championship meets must be staffed with the minimum number of personnel: at least TWO people fulfilling FOUR official positions, one (a certified official) as referee and stroke & turn judge and the second person as starter and stroke & turn judge (103.2.1). A referee must be certified as a referee or, if certified as a starter or stroke and turn judge, must receive training on specific duties of a referee (103.3.1). Uncertified officials may serve as starters or stroke and turn judges if they receive training in the specific duties of the assigned positions and serve under the supervision of a certified official (103.3.2). The LMSC Officials chair can provide such training. These rules address only the minimum requirements, not specific meet situations.
- K.** When the primary timing system is manual watches, a minimum of two watches is required, including when switching from automatic to manual primary timing during a 50-meter meet and giving the timers watches for the 50-meter sprints (two timers per lane, each with a watch is required, 102.17.2A[3]). Note that three watches are required for national and world records (exception: split times for national records require automatic timing or semi-automatic with three buttons). A primary system of two watches is only good for USMS Top 10 and FINA Top 10, including split times (103.18.4).
- L.** One watch per lane is the minimum required for the tertiary system for an automatic primary timing system and as such, a valid one-watch time will count as an automatic time for all USMS purposes including records, when adjusted in accordance with 103.17.3C, E, F, G, & table 2, if the automatic and the semi-automatic backup timing all fail or are invalid (103.18.7).

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M. Both parties have to be involved in the dual-sanctioning process of a meet between the local USMS and USA-S organizations (see pages 144-145 of the 2014 USMS Rule Book, “Dual Sanctioned Events”).

N. The following swim attire are all illegal but appeared at USMS Summer and Spring Nationals: zipper suit, female suit or bra top of a two-piece suit with metal or plastic rings in the straps, suit with a plastic clip hooking the straps to the suit in the back, Kinesio tape, illegal male Arena Carbon Pro suit (FINA stamp #AR141364), Speedo Fastskin with the rubber dots on the chest (rubber dots can be carefully peeled off, making that suit legal), and a bra top under a racing suit (modesty wear or garments under racing suits are prohibited). Any kind of tape on the body must be approved by the referee (not just tape for the shoulders but tape on any part of the body) except Kinesio tape. All swimmers with illegal attire expressed either surprise or anger. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to know the rules when participating in a national championship meet. Rules information is readily available on the USMS website, in the *Streamlines* for Coaches, in the USMS Rule Book, in the Guide to Operations, and by contacting the USMS Rules chair (rules@usms.org).

O. Arm bands and leg bands are not considered parts of swimwear (102.12.1E). Items resembling armbands, legbands, and tape (Cho-Pats, bandages, coverage for wounds and injuries) are referred to the referee (102.12.1E) for a decision.

P. Only swimwear exemptions issued by USMS for medical or religious reasons will be accepted for USMS-sanctioned and USMS-recognized competition. Swimwear exemptions granted by other swimming governing bodies will not be accepted. USMS swimwear exemptions must be renewed annually unless granted permanent status. (See Rules Committee Policies.)

Q. At least one foot has to be at the front of the block, but placing the toes of one foot at the forward edge of the block is not required (101.1.1). Both feet cannot be at the back of the platform; at least one foot has to be on the front part of the platform. The front of the platform is, simply, not the back of the platform. It is permissible to place both feet at the front of the block. Once the feet are placed, the swimmer is to remain there (103.8.5A).

R. FINA rules governed the FINA World Masters Swimming Championships in Montreal, Canada. The differences between FINA and USMS rules are in Appendix B, pages 154-156, of the USMS Rule Book.

Action Items

1. Completed proofreading and corrections for the 2014 USMS Rule Book.
2. Submitted proposed changes to the Glossary and Part 1.

Rules Committee Agenda

Meeting #1, Thursday 3:30pm – 4:45pm – City Terrace 9

1. Review and approve minutes.
2. Review the 2015 budget and 2014 expenditures.
3. Consider whether to accept a proposed long distance amendment, that also falls under the jurisdiction of the Rules Committee, as an indivisible package (2/3 committee vote required, 601.4.5A).
4. Consider proposed amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.
5. Consider proposed USA Swimming amendments and prepare potential recommendations for the House of Delegates.

Meeting #2, Friday 9:30am – 10:30am (no break between this and HOD) – City Terrace 9

1. Consider proposed amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.
2. Review proposed tasks for 2015: Proofread rule book; update Differences documents; post current interpretations; develop situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems; create and maintain historical database of USMS exceptions to USA-S rules, rules rationales, and interpretations; and update transsexual policy.

Rules and Long Distance Forum during HOD #4, Friday 2:30 pm – 5:15 pm (estimate 3:30pm – 4:15pm on the HOD agenda) – Conference Center A

1. Take comments and questions on proposed amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary from the House of Delegates.

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Meeting #3, Saturday 8:00 am – 9:15 am (no break between this and HOD) – City Terrace 9

1. Consider proposed amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.
2. Review proposed tasks for 2015: Proofread rule book; update Differences documents; post current interpretations; develop situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems; create and maintain historical database of USMS exceptions to USA-S rules, rules rationales, and interpretations; and update transsexual policy.

Meeting #4, Saturday 1:00pm – 1:30pm – City Terrace 12

1. Consider USA Swimming amendments as approved by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and prepare final recommendations for the USMS House of Delegates.

Sports Medicine and Science

Committee Members

Jane Moore, Chair; Cathy Fedako, Vice Chair

Sally Berry, Jon Blank, Heide Crino, Melinda Greig Walker, Sally Guthrie, Lisa Hiller, Jane Katz, Lo Knapp, Katherine Longwell, Jim Miller, Ellen Parchen, Mary Pohlmann, Jessica Seaton, Robin Tracy, Phil Whitten

Ex-Officio: Laura Hamel

Executive Committee Liaison: Jody Smith

Introduction

The Sports Medicine and Science Committee educates members and the public on topics of sports medicine and science and works to stimulate and encourage research pertaining to Masters swimming.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The goals for 2013 as tied to the strategic plan were reviewed and discussed. No changes were suggested. If we are interested in higher exposure on a different stage, we should consider having a booth at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting. We would need to work with the National Office on this and might be able to share a booth with USA Swimming.
2. Heide Crino worked on a display and screenings for Spring Nationals at Santa Clara. We had a 10' x 10' booth in the vendor area. A dermatologist was willing to volunteer to perform skin screenings on Saturday afternoon. He required a female chaperone; Heide did this most of the afternoon. The dermatologist was busy during the entire screening time. Heide could have used extra help. She did find one non-swimming person who was willing to help while she was swimming. Samples and materials were purchased to give to swimmers including trial size broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen from Rocky Mountain Sunscreen (500 for \$375 plus 500 free), Green Tree Lip Balm SPF 30 (\$150 for 150 plus 150 free), ABCDE's of Skin Cancer bookmarks from American Academy of Dermatology (200 for \$28), and a \$50 Skin Care Kit from the Skin Cancer Foundation with screening forms, handouts, flyers, posters and brochures. Pipe and drape rental for the skin care screening area was \$183. This expenditure was approved by email vote. In order to get to the meet early Thursday to set up the booth, Heide had to fly to Santa Clara on Wednesday and spend an extra night in the hotel. The display and screenings were very popular; an estimated 800 swimmers visited the display. There was very good promotion in the pre-event newsletters.
3. A similar display and screening is being planned by Heide Crino for Summer Nationals. Sally Guthrie will be attending the meet so will help with arrangements and management. Heide will work on finding a volunteer dermatologist to provide screening. She will also work with Kyle Deery to get booth space and will arrange to get samples for the booth; there are brochures, flyers, and a banner left over from Spring Nationals. We will probably need fewer samples since the meet is indoors. Sally Guthrie will be in charge at the meet; Jim Miller and Mary Pohlmann will both be at part of the meet and can help Sally while there. Laura Hamel will let Kyle know that we plan to continue skin cancer screening at national championship meets; he might be able to use this promotion to leverage a sponsor.
4. Review of articles for Swimmer magazine is ongoing. Jane Moore receives articles and either reviews them or sends to a member of the Health Network for review. Laura has set up a Sports Medicine Calendar. Articles

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approved by the committee can be put on the calendar for publication and can be labeled as coming from the Sports Medicine & Science Committee.

5. An article on results from the dry land training survey is scheduled for the fitness issue of Swimmer Magazine in September-October. Katherine Longwell is working with the author. Sally Guthrie has graduate students working with the data from the survey; they plan to publish results.
6. We discussed choosing a topic and developing a script for a video. The project manager who does videos at national meets could shoot a video. We would need to pay a cameraman for one-half to one day. The video would be posted to the USMS website the night of shooting and would then be publicized through social media. The topic chosen was hydration and nutrition at meets; how and when to replenish for performance. Video will be only 30 seconds so will need to stick to basic principles. Sally Berry worked with Jim Miller and Laura to develop questions. A script has been created. They are thinking of using a committee member to film the video to add credibility; need to find someone who is good on camera and easygoing. We could tie videos in to Healthy Swimmer articles like technique articles that have click-on videos. Laura has some funding in her budget; we might also work with the Coaches Committee as an additional source of funds Laura is continuing to work on coordinating a speaker and the cameraman.
7. A possible longevity study suggested by Sherwin Gormly was discussed. The concept sounds great, but we need more details before we could endorse the study. Jane Moore directed him to the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation which has guidelines for grant proposals.
8. The idea of a Sports Medicine discussion forum or blog was discussed. This could expand the current use of the Health Network so that questions and answers would be available to more people. The forum would need to be moderated to direct questions to an appropriate expert. A forum might result in a much higher number of questions and a greater exposure to liability risk. It would need to be set up so that every post would be reviewed before being made public to avoid lay people answering questions with personal experiences. It could be set up as a medical corner; submitted questions would be reviewed and one picked for response each month. This would provide a public presence for the Sports Medicine and Science Committee and show activity and expertise. Jessica thinks this would be a good member benefit; questions and answers would need to be kept very general; this could provide a place for links to and feeds from health care resources. The committee could approve articles on a regular basis then post or tweet information once a week or once a month. Articles could be stored in Google Drive for committee members to review and approve. Laura sent a link to a sample of her blog. It does not have a forced schedule; no comments are allowed. We could use a similar blog to post items as available. New articles could be reviewed and approved by the committee before posting. People would subscribe to the blog and receive an email message whenever a new item is published. Swimmers questions and answers could be posted. Updates can be added if information becomes outdated. The waiver used in all publications can be used on the blog. A blog would make it easier to find old articles. We will need a systematic method for review of past articles.
9. Sally Berry is organizing the convention presentation. A panel discussion with a nutritionist, an athlete, and a medical person would be good. Jim Miller can be the medical person. We could contact other USAS NGB's to see if they are interested in taking advantage of any speakers brought to convention.
10. Katherine reports that the Coaches Committee would like a presentation on Adaptive Programming – changes needed to coach swimmers with developed conditions such as traumatic brain injury or joint replacement. Other topics might include nutrition and strength training. The Coaches Committee plans to put on clinics, akin to "High Performance" and USA Swimming's "Regional Coaching Clinics". These clinics would rotate around the country and the primary focus would be to educate coaches. The Sports Medicine and Science committee thinks it is important to be able to adapt any presentation to coaches present and to be able to answer specific questions. We will continue to work with the Coaches Committee on this project.

Action Items

1. Approve expenditures within budget for items to hand out at national championship booth. 3/3/14.
2. Approve \$183 for rental of pipe and drape for the skin care screening area at nationals. This expenditure was approved by email vote after 3/3/14 call.
3. Approve reimbursement to Heide Crino for over budget expenses of car rental (\$287.11) and extra hotel night (\$376.06) totaling \$663.17. 6/12/14.

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Sports Medicine and Science Committee Agenda Thursday 2:00pm – 3:15pm – City Terrace 8

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Displays and screenings at national championship meets; report from 2014 Summer Nationals; plans for 2015
3. Convention presentation update
4. Video production update
5. Sports Medicine and Science Blog development update
6. Coaches Clinic presentations
7. Research Projects: updates from past projects; review of new proposals, if any
8. Legislation/Rules/Open Water Proposals: review any with science/medical aspects
9. Committee goals and work plan for 2014
10. Other Business
11. Next Meeting/Conference call
12. Adjourn

Breadbasket Zone

We are happy to say that the BB Zone had a very high performance ranking in the LMSC Surveys this year. That means we are fulfilling our obligations to the National Office. One state still needs help to meet these suggestions and requirements.

Many meets were held with much success, but Colorado seems to know how to have a meet and a party at the same time based on the Grand Junction meet!

Breadbasket Zone Agenda Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – City Terrace 6

1. Roll Call
2. Approve 2013 Minutes
3. Membership numbers
4. Review LMSC Standards and discuss ND status
5. Communication within Zone regarding Facebook and zone website, which USMS does provide space for (we would need to purchase a domain name)
6. Continue to update Places to Swim
7. Zone meet rotation for the next five years

Colonies Zone

Committee Members

Jeff Strahota, Chair; Deb Morrin-Nordlund, Vice Chair

All members in the Colonies Zone LMSCs attending convention (and any LMSC officers not able to make the journey).

Introduction

The Colonies Zone includes 10 LMSCs: Virginia, Potomac Valley, Maryland, Delaware Valley, New Jersey, Metropolitan, Adirondack, Niagara, Connecticut and New England.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

- 1) Zone Championships held: SCM (Boston U), SCY (GMU)
- 2) Bid solicitations for upcoming Zone Championships
- 3) Solicitation for nominations for the Colonies Dot Award
- 4) LMSC Development Projects

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- a) LMSC Scorecards
- b) Peer-to-Peer teleconferences
- 5) Big Meet Guide
- 6) 2014 Marriott USMS Summer National Championship held at University of Maryland, College Park

Action Items (for Convention)

- 1) Awarding the Zone Dot Award
- 2) Nominate At-Large Board of Director(s)

Colonies Zone Agenda

Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – City Terrace 4

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Presentation of 2014 Zone DOT Award
- 3) Zone Election Nomination/ Forum/ Election
- 4) Zone Championship Updates
 - a) 2013 Pool and Open Water Championship Recap
 - b) Bids for 2013 SCM and all 2014 Zone Championships
 - c) Colonies Zone Big Meet Guide update
- 5) LMSC Development Updates
 - a) LMSC Scorecards
 - b) Peer-to-Peer teleconferences
- 6) Zone Website/E-mail list
- 7) New Business
- 8) Adjourn

Dixie Zone

Greetings Dixie Zone. July is here, and USMS's long course season is in full-swing.

With this month preparations for USMS's 2014 Convention also notch up. The 2014 Convention is in our zone, once again in Jacksonville, Florida, and will September 17-21. In preparation for that, each Local Master Swimming Committee (LMSC) last month were sent preliminary scores on USMS's 45 standards for LMSC. The standards are designed to help ensure that each LMSC is practicing effectively, and the preliminary scores were sent to help foster discussions within each LMSC on what is recommended by USMS be done (and whether/not it is).

In more direct preparation for Convention, three items to note:

1. This year the Zone will elect a new at-large representative to the USMS Board of Director. This person will be new as our current rep, Maria Elias-Williams is not running for re-election to the position. We currently have one candidate for the election: Sean Fitzgerald. Sean has been a long-time Vice Chair for the Georgia LMSC, and recently just completed 8 years as Chair of USMS Legislation Committee. Further information on Sean (as well as other candidates up for similar positions in USMS's 7 other zones) can be found online here:

<http://www.usms.org/admin/election14/>

2. At Convention, the Zone will elect the hosts for the Zone Championships in 2015. We are looking for 4 championships: short course yards, long course meters, short course meters, and open water. LMSCs please check with your meets/events and see if any are interested in being a Zone championships. If yes, please have them prepare a brief description of their event, including at least: dates of the meet, location and history. Also, it is advisable for someone at Convention to be prepared to answer questions about the event.

3. If anyone has items for the agenda for the Zone's meeting at Convention, please get them to me. They can be emailed to dixie@usms.org.

USMS Committee Reports and Agendas

I hope your summer is going well and good luck in College Park, Montreal and/or wherever your end-of-season meets may take you.

Dixie Zone Agenda

Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – City Terrace 5

1. Roll call/attendance/introductions
2. Reports from chairs
3. Zone Board of Director election discussion
4. 2015 Zone Championships host selection: SCY, LCM, OW & SCM
5. Discuss LMSC Standards reports
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjourn

Great Lakes Zone

Committee Members

Daniel Cox, Chair

All LMSCs in the Great Lake Zone

Introduction

This past year we have seen an increase overall in our membership in USMS and the Great Lakes is no exception. The top three LMSC in the Great Lakes to show 10% growth (as of July 1st) were: Allegany Mountain, Lake Erie and Michigan. Tip of the Hat to those LMSCs for a job well done increasing membership. It is through your efforts that USMS is a thriving and successful organization. This year, the Great Lake Zone will start on a five year drive to build up enough reserves to sponsor a coach or coaches to clinics. This fund will also be used to support activities throughout the Zone. We will continue to move forward on driving more traffic to our website and Face Book page.

IN THE ZONE: Thanks to clubs like Indy Aquatic Masters and Zionsville Aquatic Masters, **Indiana** had a successful start to the Swimming Saves Lives Program. Governor Pence declared April an “adult learn-to-swim” month and former Governor Mitch Daniels helped out with some publicity at Purdue.

GRIN Fitness Chair Robin Walker, and INDY founder Mel Goldstein have spear-headed the program here with assistance from the national office.

ZAM taught 95 adults to swim.

Ohio was able to add swimming to the long list of sporting events at the Arned Schlesinger sporting festival. Nice job expanding USMS swimming!

Issues in the Zone:

GLOWS: It was decided that because so few open water venues are left, the Zone would suspend Glows until such time as more LMSCs have open water events.

FUNDING: With the suspension of Glows, I have recommended that we start developing the Great Lake Zone funds so that we can do things such as sponsor coaches, swimmers and events in the Zone.

Action Items:

1. Build up Zone fund to implement a coaches fund
2. Mentor LMSCs that have issue with compliance
3. Other project ideas for the Great Lake Zone funds
4. Make the face book page more active

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Great Lakes Zone Agenda Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – City Terrace 12

1. Roll Call and introduction of New Delegates
2. Financial Report & funding of the Great Lake Zone
3. Newsletter /website
4. Recommendations to the House of Delegates; candidate for At Large Board Director
5. Elect Great Lake Zone Representative in case current Zone Chair is elected to the Board
6. Great Lake Zone LMSC Updates and mentoring
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

Northwest Zone

Tim Waud, Chair

Committee Members: Matt Bronson (IW), Lisa Dahl (PN), , Donn Livoni (MT), Paula Moores (SR), Jeanne Teisher (OR), Gordon Gridley (UT), Joanne Wainwright (AK), Ken Winterberger (treasurer), Hugh Moore (webmaster)

Introduction

During the previous year, the Northwest Zone hosted, or will host, Zone championship events in three event types (SCM, SCY, and LCM). Zone conference calls were conducted on a quarterly basis. The USMS Northwest Zone Discussion Forum page was used to enhance communications within the Zone. The Zone currently has 4,180 registered members, with OR having over 1000 members and PN having 1500 members respectively.

Discussions and projects since the last convention

1. Zone Championship Meets
 - a. SCM – Alaska LMSC hosted the 2013 SCM Zone Meet on December 14 in Anchorage
 - b. SCY – Pacific Northwest LMSC hosted the 2014 SCY Zone Meet April 12-13 in Federal Way
 - c. Open Water – No Event was held.
 - d. LCM – Oregon LMSC to host the 2013 LCM Zone Meet August 22-24, at Mt Hood
2. Zone Conference Calls: Quarterly Zone calls took place in December, March and July.
3. The Zone is scheduled to provide funding assistance for three delegates from small LMSCs to attend the 2014 USMS Convention in Jacksonville, Florida (one each from Inland Northwest, Snake River, and Montana).
4. The Northwest Zone provided a Club Development Workshop with Bill Brenner Friday August 22, 2014 at Mt. Hood Community College
5. PNA will host a USMS Coach Certification Clinic Level 1 and 2 in the Seattle Area on October 18 followed by a swimmer clinic on October 19th. Bill Brenner and his team will be facilitating. The clinic is open to anyone to attend.

Action items

None

Northwest Zone Agenda Thursday 10:00am-11:00am - City Terrace 8

1. Introductions
2. Old Business
 - a. 2014-15 Zone championship meet update
 - i. 2014 SCM –Oregon LMSC September 26-28, 2014 Grass Valley Aquatic Center Camas, WA.
 - ii. 2015 SCY – Other than Oregon or Pacific Northwest LMSC.

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- Meet information and entry form due no later than January 15th
- iii. 2015 LCM – Oregon LMSC.
Meet information and entry form due no later than May 15th
- iv. 2015 OW – Montana LMSC.
Event information and entry form due no later than May 15th
- v. 2016 SCM – Other than Oregon or Pacific Northwest LMSC.
Bids due to Zone Chair no later than September 1st
- b. Update on Zone newsletter
- c. Update on Zone conference calls
- d. 2015 Convention - Small LMSCs scheduled for Zone funding assistance
 - i. Utah
 - ii. Alaska
 - iii. Inland Northwest
- 3. New Business
 - a. Election-USMS at-large Director representing the Northwest Zone
 - b. Financial Report – Ken Winterberger
- 4. LMSC Reports (3 minutes each)
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Inland Northwest
 - c. Montana
 - d. Oregon
 - e. Pacific Northwest
 - f. Snake River
 - g. Utah
- 5. USMS Committee Member Reports and Issues
 - a. LMSC SCORECARDS
 - b. Other USMS Committee member reports
- 6. Convention “hot topics” and discussion on Legislation items
- 7. Other Business
- 8. Adjourn

Oceana Zone

Committee Members

Michael Moore, Chair

Oceana Zone includes the Pacific and Hawaii LMSCs. From one end of the zone to the other is over 2,700, miles, the greatest distance of any end to end distance of any LMCS. The committee meets annually at the U.S. Masters Swimming convention and conducts other business as needed by email.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

The two LMSCs only share a contiguous ocean. Both are well run LMSCs and have show good year-to-year growth. Hawaii has grown over 5% over last year’s year-end numbers, Pacific is up about 5% on a year to date numbers.. As of the middle of July, there are 11,660 USMS members in the Oceana Zone. Both LMSCs have done well against LMSCs standards and are considered well run organizations.

This year Pacific hosted the USMS 1 Mile Open Water Championships and , the U.S. Masters Swimming Spring Championships were held in Santa Clara. The Spring Championships had the largest number of participants in a National Championships in over 25 years.

Oceana Zone Agenda

Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – Plaza Room

1. Introductions
2. Reports the LMSCs
3. Review of proposed rule changes that may be of interest to the Zone
4. Oceana representation on USMS Committees

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5. New Business
6. Adjournment

South Central Zone

Tyler Blessing, Chair

Introduction

This committee meets annually at convention and to conduct zone functions and any business deemed necessary by email during the year. Its members consist of the delegates from the following six LMSC: Arkansas, Border, Gulf, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas.

2013-2014 Report

The zone held pool championship meets in SCY and LCM. There were no open-water zone championships designated.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. 2014 SCY Zone Championship held March 28-30 at The Woodlands CISD Aquatics center (Gulf)
2. 2014 LCM Zone Championships held July 18-20 at Mansfield ISD Natatorium (North Texas)

Action Items

1. Nominate the South Central Zone at-large director for the 2014 election cycle.
2. Select 2015 zone championship hosts and dates.

South Central Zone Agenda Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – City Terrace 11

1. Review and discuss the 2014 zone championship meets.
2. Receive bids for 2015 zone championship meets (SCY and LCM).
3. Select 2015 zone championship hosts (SCY and LCM).
4. Finalize 2014 -2015 calendar
5. Discuss any new business

Southwest Zone

Mary Hull, Chair

Introduction

The Southwest Zone includes Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego-Imperial, and the Southern Pacific LMSCs. The committee meets annually at the U.S. Masters Swimming convention and conducts other business as needed by email. All four LMSCs have hosted meets this year. The zone has also had some open water swims.

Southwest Zone Agenda Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am – Grand Ballroom 5

1. Introductions
2. LMSC reports:
 - Arizona
 - New Mexico
 - San Diego Imperial
 - Southern Pacific
3. Zone meets for 2015
4. Zone open water for 2015
5. Old business
6. New business