

USMS CONVENTION – San Diego, CA – 2003

Committee Name: Block #1:Championship, Coaches, Rules, Officials, International

Minutes recorded by: Lisa Watson Date/time of this meeting: 9/10/03 7:30 PM

ACTION ITEMS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair: NA

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at: 7:30 PM

1. USMS Secretary Sally Dillon introduced the Block Committee Chairs: Championship-Barry Fasbender; Coaches-Michael Collins; Rules-Leo Lentendre; Officials-David Diehl; International-Phil Whitten. Sally stated that the purpose of the Block meeting was for these committees to discuss current issues and how they relate to our USMS Core Objectives (Serve, Educate, Build).
2. First agenda item concerned how we can provide a consistent competitive environment from local meets to championship meets with respect to the rules of competition. One suggestion was to make sure that rules were enforced correctly at all levels of competition, so swimmers wouldn't be confused when they transitioned from local to higher caliber meets. The question was posed about rules that have loose interpretations. It was suggested that a question/answer series on the website could be used as a source for rule interpretations. LMSCs could purchase the USA rules instructional tape as a source. It was also suggested that possibly USMS could make its own video showing differences in USA and USMS rules. It was also stressed that USA officials at National Championship meets be more cognizant of Masters concerns. Other forms of printed media might be helpful, such as a regular column in SWIM magazine, and regular articles in USMS newsletters by the LMSC Officials Chair. The Officials Committee was commissioned to write up a 1 page guideline of Masters rules and considerations to give to USA officials.
3. Second agenda item focused on the possible upcoming 2006 World Championships at Stanford University and how we can insure the best possible outcome of this meet. Safety concerns for possible terrorism were cited as a major issue. It was stressed that this meet will need an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable meet director and a very large group of support, including numerous USA teams. An ironclad contract must be made with FINA. USMS can help encourage participation in the World Championships by not having a LC Nationals in 2006, since that would be so close to the proposed dates. It was stressed that all swimming disciplines need to be involved, not just our organization.
4. Several ideas were discussed about coaching at the World Championships, such as extensive meet publicity before the meet to let swimmers know coaching is available, having a USA team with T-shirts & caps, a team hospitality area, etc... Our American swimmers would pay a \$25-50 surcharge for the perks of being on the USA team. It was emphasized that coaches would need a complete list of all USA swimmers to have on hand for the meet.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9 PM

TASK FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

1. **Committee Chairs and respective members will continue to explore these issues in the coming months.**