

April 16, 2009 Governance Committee Call Notes

Committee members present: Don Mehl, Anthony Thompson, Julie Heather, Michael Moore, Nancy Ridout, Patty Miller

Term Limits

With an introduction by Anthony, we discussed the pros and cons of having term limits for committee chairs and committee members. Ultimately, we decided to add a sentence to 507.2 stating that committee chairs and committee members serve at the pleasure of the president. It should be the fourth sentence in 507.2.

We also decided to place something in the policy manual that addresses the policies for appointing committees and chairs. It should state the premise that it is favorable to have changes in committees while also maintaining experience, and should memorialize current practices such as evaluation system for committee members and chairs, use of committee request forms, and ideal numbers on committees (e.g. just because the rules state a maximum size it doesn't mean you have to appoint the maximum number).

Reports Back from Previous Meeting

Nancy reported on her discussion with Marcia Anziano regarding the "and assess" language in the Fitness and Education Committee description. Marcia said that some language appears to be missing that would have made the description make more sense. The group decided to have Nancy ask Marcia to have the Fitness and Education Committee come up with a more accurate description for a proposed legislative change this year.

Michael Moore spoke with Mark Moore about the requirement in the Championship Committee description that two committee members must never have directed a national championship. Mark directed Michael to Sandi Rousseau. Sandi said the purpose for the requirement was that they didn't want to have a committee with all of the same types of members. So they put in minimum numbers of people with two different types of experience. Others may be appointed without regard to experience either way. Based on that explanation, we decided not to recommend any changes to the committee description.

507.2.10 – Open Water and Long Distance Committee

Patty relayed to the group her discussion with Rob Butcher about the OW/LD responsibilities and what staff is able to do. In short, the national office is not in a position to take on the administration of postals or open water championships at this time. There is an Open Water Task Force, of which the current OW/LD is a member, which is looking at new concepts for open water events. There is nothing in the language of the

current OW/LD description that prevents the National Office from gradually becoming more active in the management of postals or open water championships.

Based on the information from Rob Butcher, our group decided not to change the OW/LD description with regard to championship events (either soliciting bid proposals or coordinating/advising event hosts).

We then discussed whether to make any changes with regard to the committee's rules and records responsibilities. We discussed whether the rules responsibility should be rolled into the current Rules Committee, but decided that open water is distinct enough and important enough to USMS to keep a separate open water rules committee. Sean Fitzgerald will prepare a draft legislative description of the new Open Water Rules Committee, drawing upon both the current rules-related language in the OW/LD description and the Rules Committee description.

The group decided that since OW/LD would be shedding rules responsibilities, it should keep its records and awards responsibilities, which are quite specific to open water (e.g. point system).

Michael noted that currently, Rules, Legislation, Finance and OW/LD have automatic convention delegate status. With the removal of the rules responsibilities, the automatic delegate status should be removed from OW/LD and assigned to Open Water Rules. [Michael – is this in a particular rule or in policy?]

For future discussion: If OW/LD no longer has rules responsibilities, should it have the same requirements regarding size (chair plus no more than 16) and make-up (all zones represented) of the committee?

LMSC Development Committee

Julie had already drafted language for this committee. The group agreed to this language, with the exception of whether the VPLO should be the chair of the committee. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2009.