

September 27, 1997

To: N. Ridout, J. Geoghegan, B. Durrant, J. Ensign, H. Moore, J. Crouse
Fr: Paul Windrath, Chair - International Committee

re: USMS Committee Structure and Purpose

Congratulations on your election as our Officers for the next 2-4 years. I look forward to working with you in whatever manner is the most productive for the organization.

I have served as the International Committee Chair for 2 years during which time USMS hosted the Pan Pacs and the committee developed recommendations to FINA on several topics. I know some of the history of this committee, but not all, so if my ignorance shows, please forgive me as I make the following suggestion.

I believe the International Committee should be discontinued and its roll and responsibilities distributed to the other appropriate Standing Committees. I based this belief on the following points:

- a) Most international communication is handled by the President by choice or by necessity due to the protocol of other countries. Therefore, this roll is one the committee should not fill except as delegated to 1-2 people by the President.
- b) The number of USMS members who compete internationally is small - less than 1% on a regular basis. While their interests are important, they do not justify Standing Committee status with 20 committee members. The concerns about international competition that do develop can be addressed by the Executive Committee or by the appropriate committee (i.e. competition at other country's nationals should be handled by Championship).
- c) In the past 2 years, the involvement by the committee has been primary advisory to me. Although 6 of the committee participated at the Pan Pacs, it appears this committee (myself included) either do not generally have the time or the inclination to compete internationally. Therefore, the productivity of the valuable committee members would be better utilized elsewhere.
- d) The Committee make-up generally does not include enough focus and experience to handle issues that develop. If we are to handle international issues by being liaisons to other committee such as Championship, Finance, Registration, etc., it would be more efficient to expand the perspectives of those committee to include the international scene.
- e) There is not enough work involved - other than "make work" - to justify the Committee Status.

I realize that the recommendation to discontinue the International Committee would be better done in a Legislative year, but I did not feel it appropriate for the Chair of the Committee to make that proposal.

Please don't misinterpret my comments to mean I do not think there is a place in our Organization for International issues. I think it should be done through the other committees whose focus is sharper on the issues. This will lead to a more cost-efficient and productive organization.

Thank you for your time and thoughts on this recommendation. Please call if you have any questions about it.

United States Masters Swimming

International Committee - Convention '97

Rule Proposals to consider at Convention:

A) Current Rule:

102.2. **AGE DETERMINATION DATE** - The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet.

A) Proposed:

102.2. **AGE DETERMINATION DATE** - The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by their age as of December 31 of the year of competition.

Rationale: The rest of the world competes in age groups determined according to the FINA age group guidelines. There is no indication that FINA and the affiliated countries will modify their position. Therefore, to make record keeping easier and eliminate the unfairness of meet date changes affecting swimmers' age groups, USMS should change to match the rest of the world's masters swimming community.

B) Proposed FINA Rule:

MSW 3.8 When using the breaststroke/whip kick during butterfly, the swimmer shall alternate one arm pull and one kick throughout the race.

Rationale: The current FINA technical rules allow a swimmer to complete any of the butterfly distances without performing an arm pull. If the swimmer uses the breaststroke/whip kick, it would be possible for a breaststroke swimmer to kick the butterfly distances using the breaststroke kick. This means that the differentiation of butterfly and breaststroke cease to exist.

Currently, FINA recognizes all of the Masters Swimming Events that USMS recognizes EXCEPT the following:

- 400 Freestyle Relays (Womens, Mens, Mixed)
- 400 Medley Relays (Womens, Mens, Mixed)
- 800 Freestyle Relays (Womens, Mens, Mixed)

At the next FINA Congress, USMS will ask FINA to recognize the above events as official Masters Swimming Events. This will allow World Records to be maintained. It will allow these events to be contested at International and World Championships if all parties agree to do so.

USMS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Members Present: Paul Windrath (Chair), Joe Kurtzman, Ginger Pierson, Peggy Buchanan, Bill Lotz, Walt Reid, Phil Whitten, Bill Tingley, Irene David, Dot Donnelley, Shannon Sullivan

Committee Members Absent: Barr Clayson, Andy Donato, Ted Haartz, Judy Bonning

Discussion:

Pan Pacific Championships:

Committee reviewed the Final Meet Report plus additional reports from Ginger Pierson and Bob Brown regarding the Entry Process and the Meet Officiating.

World Championships:

Walt Reid reviewed the 1998 World Championships in Casablanca as well as commenting on the 2000 Championships in Munich. Key points of the 1998 Championships are relaxed time standards and more events being offered.

USMS Rule Proposal - Change of Age Determination Method

M/S/F proposal to change the USMS Age Determination guidelines to match FINA.

FINA Rule Proposal - Change Butterfly description to require alternating stroke and kick

M/S/A to request FINA add a requirement to Masters Swimming Rules to require butterflyers using the breaststroke kick to alternate one stroke with one breaststroke kick throughout the race.

FINA Rule Proposal - Recognition of 400 and 800 meter relay events

MSA to request that FINA recognize the 400 meter Free Relays, 400 meter medley relays, and 800 Freestyle relays as both long and short course events.

Old Business:

Committee agreed to work towards developing a document that smooths the entry process with regard to handling non-USMS registered athletes. Ginger Pierson and Bill Tingley plus others would lead this effort. This would be done in conjunction with country by country "swim" pals.

Reviewed MSI status as a dead organization with moneys to be distributed to the current MSI countries who are owed refunds on their dues.

New Business:

Tabled discussion on developing a bid for an international short course meters championships.

Tabled discussion on how to encourage non-USMS National Championships to allow USMS athletes to participate.

Paul Windrath

1997 Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships

Final Meet Report (by Paul Windrath)

The 1997 Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships were held at the Lahaina Aquatic Center (on Maui, Hawaii) from June 23 through June 29, 1997. The meet included an Open Water Swim off the Kaanapali shore and two social events (a Luau and a Beach Barbecue).

Each of the key areas of the meet are summarized below. This report will be forwarded to Glenys MacDonald (AUSSIE Masters), USMS Championship and International Committees, the USMS Executive Committee, the USMS Executive Secretary, and other international representatives as appropriate.

This was the first meet proposed and hosted by United States Masters Swimming, Inc. instead of an LMSC or a club within an LMSC. The meet was conducted on Maui where Masters swimming was in its infancy with regard to organized swim meet and championships of this magnitude. Adult volunteers with swim meet experience was minimal. The Aquatic Center, operated by the County of Maui, required considerable work to bring it up to competitive standards. The meet required a great deal of give and take among the active groups in order to run the meet efficiently.

A total of 1,113 swimmers entered the pool competition including 4,183 splashes. The relay count was 252. There was a significant number of no shows - about 22% - from either people not coming to the meet (142) or just deciding not to swim. My impression from other meet write-ups is that this level of no-shows is not unusual.

The number of swimmers coupled with the events spread over 7 days resulted in each day's competition concluding before 2:00 p.m. on five of the seven days. The final day finished before Noon. Depending on the events that you entered, you might have been done even earlier. If you did not swim the 800 m Free, you had the 4th day off completely. This allowed people to do their vacationing during the days of the meet (without being out late) as well as before or after the meet.

Meet Organization:

This meet was to be run by the USMS International Committee. When possible, the Committee's expertise was requested. When necessary, inquiries were made to other USMS Committees to determine the best direction to resolve various issues that developed. Only 6 of the International Committee personnel attended the event. Future meets of this nature that are hosted by USMS should have a meet committee consisting of members from the various standing USMS committees. This ensures exposure throughout USMS and coverage for the different issues that might develop.

Meet Information:

The Meet Information was coordinated by Hawaii Sports who handled the travel packages for the swimmers. Actually, United Vacations did all the printing and mailing on behalf of Hawaii Sports. This additional layer caused several misprints in the meet information because their systems did not read the diskettes that were sent to them containing the Meet Information. Everything was re-entered by hand. The Information was printed on glossy paper with a heavy blue border. While it was attractive, this material made copying and faxing difficult, time consuming, and expensive.

The Meet Information was sent out late because travel packages were not finalized until the latter part of November. When the Information was mailed in mid-December, it was almost 2 months late. This caused the information to miss a number of foreign newsletter mailings. An earlier mailing may have increased attendance, but probably not by much. Most potential swimmers were aware of the event through early advertisement in foreign newsletters such as AUSSI Masters and Masterscrawl.

To solicit the most-likely-to-attend USMS swimmers, a mailing was made to those swimmers who had attended the four previous nationals. This required data base manipulation which Bill and Diane Black performed at a cost to the meet. In addition, the information was mailed to international contacts and travel agencies around the world. Individual entry forms were also mailed to people making requests via phone, fax, and e-mail to Hawaii Sports' website. Overall, more than 15,000 were mailed.

The Meet Information allowed swimmers to enter the pool competition, advance order T-shirts, enter the Open Water Swim, the Socials, etc.. This was more than originally planned which made the entry processing somewhat more laborious than was originally planned. This resulted in delays with processing and some inaccuracies in non-pool event areas as well.

Future meet hosts should consider whether or not this advanced ordering is worth the extra effort. On the one hand it makes the souvenir planning easier and less risky. On the other hand, it is more work for the entry processing people. The trade-off of efficiency vs. confirmed orders must be weighed by each meet committee. Hawaii Sports liked the advanced information at the Pan Pacific Championships.

For future meets, I believe it would be more productive to print the material on black and white regular paper - nothing fancy. This will ensure the costs are low. Send copies to the National offices at least 10 months in advance. This will ensure it gets into their newsletters. Put the information on the Internet and fax copies as necessary.

In addition, travel packages should be kept separate from the Meet Information. This means that the Meet Information should include a Travel Organization who is arranging packages, air fares, accommodations, etc.. This provides possible entrants with travel information without making the Meet Information brochure excessively large.

Entry Processing (Report by G. Pierson and S. Rague to be mailed separately):

All entries were processed in two steps: a) documenting the entry information and processing the money, and b) entering the events into the Hy-Tek software. Two people - Ginger Pierson and Suzanne Rague - were responsible for this aspect of the event. Using this two step process works well - especially for meets that are greater than 1,000 swimmers like this meet or any of the USMS Nationals.

Although an attempt was made to encourage swimmers to enter early, the incentive was not enough because we received as many as 450 entries during the final 7 days of the entry period. This did slow up entry processing as it took time to process both the clean entries as well as those that were incomplete. With an international meet, resolving problems is much more difficult because of time zones and language barriers. The largest problem was waiver signature and proper Masters documentation.

Entry fees could be submitted by check (all in US dollars) or credit card. MBNA provided the credit card processing equipment and the monetary transfers to Norwest Bank (the financial institute of the meet). Processing credit cards was cost effective and efficient for foreign entries and would be recommended for future international events.

For future meets, it is recommended to completely process the problem entries through the entire procedure including entering into Hy-Tek. This reduces last minute delays for the Hy-Tek person. Most problem entries are resolved eventually anyway. To avoid significant delays during registration at the meet, resolve as many problems in advance as possible. This may take more time and money (phone bills, etc.), but it saves a great deal of problems later on during the meet.

Refunds for withdrawals were not processed until after the meet was completed. For future meets, refunds should probably be handled immediately rather than waiting. Handling the refunds immediately makes it easier to evaluate the meet finances during the entry period rather than waiting until after the meet is concluded. The swimmer database can easily be enhanced to include those swimmers who withdrew, but leave their information off final reports used for planning purposes.

After the entry deadline, the entries were seeded. Based on the seedings, the decisions were made to swim one per lane in the distance events and start only from one end. The Heat Sheet was sent to Maui for printing by a local printer. This made sense because the local advertising was combined with the Heat Sheet.

Once the entry deadline closed, other information (Socials, Open Water Swim, T-shirts, and Golf) was sent to Hawaii Sports for commitments they needed to make. This information should not include swimmers who have withdrawn from the meet - even if refunds have not been issued.

Non-swim related ordering (T-shirts, Open Water Swim, Socials, Golf) continued for this meet until June 15. This information was entered into the computer for documentation purposes and provided to the appropriate people upon arrival on Maui. This worked out reasonably well. It was done this way to ensure all moneys were flowing through one source for processing and control reasons. A better way would be to have handled the late orders (for these non-swimming related things) at the meet.

Financial Accounting:

The Pan Pacs were set up to have one person approve all expenditures by the Treasurer and another person co-sign checks written for more than \$1,000. This should be followed for future meets. The meet should use the USMS Auditor and Treasurer as advisors, but not as the actual personnel doing the job. This is because their positions are extremely busy with regular USMS business. Other members of the Finance Committee should be included on the Meet Committee which gives them additional training.

Although it was not done for this meet, expenditures greater than \$2,500 should have documentation as to the agreement and the services to be provided. This will prevent misunderstandings after services have been provided and there is limited recourse for cost savings.

A Meet Budget should be developed early in the development stages. It should be developed based on Small, Medium, and Large attendance. Basing decisions on a budget developed according to a Large attendance is faulty thinking and could expose the meet host to significant financial problems.

All revenue from the meet including side activities such as ad and vendor sales, souvenirs, etc. should flow through one account. At the Pan Pacs, there were essentially 4 different revenue and expense streams because of the organizations involved. It did not work well nor equitably. This led to some groups doing well because they had no expenses to handle, while other groups were forced to absorb losses (Hawaii Sports and the County of Maui). Since USMS did not budget any money for this event, the County agreed to cover the expenses that the meet entry fees did not cover.

The final financial accounting is attached. It does NOT include the activities organized by Hawaii Sports (Open Water Swim, T-shirts, Socials, Travel Packages) and Maui Age Group Swimming (ad sales, some vendor sales).

This event was excellent for the Island of Maui and, to some extent, surrounding islands. This was a sporting event that brought people to Maui who would have gone elsewhere instead. After the meet, many went to other islands. As a result of this event, it is reasonable to estimate that the swimmers and their families/friends spent approx. \$4-5 million getting to, staying, enjoying, and leaving the island. This provided significant economic benefit to the local economy.

Registration:

Initially, Registration was to be handled by Volunteers who would change each day. After the first day, it became obvious that this would not work. At this meet, the Registration Table became the Problem Solving Table, answer table, and the place to go for anything in question. I strongly recommend that future international meets pay for one specific individual to be at Registration throughout the meet. The person should be capable of handling money, making decisions, and fully versed in the meet's operation.

Specific items of note at this meet: a) Japanese contingents come in groups of 20-40 with one person acting as the leader, b) swimmers were asked to document where they are staying and an emergency contact at the meet, c) specific meet information was translated into other languages as possible to ensure people understand how the meet will operate, d) there was limited room for the various admin. functions, and e) we minimized the number of different people working at the table to reduce inconsistencies.

After-the-fact, it was apparent that one swimmer (maybe more) checked in as someone else and swam illegally. This would make it necessary to require picture identification at future international meets.

Relays:

Teams were allowed to enter relays until the day before the specific relay would swim. Changes were allowed until 9:00 am on the day of the relay. This worked relatively smoothly. One person usually handled the relays and the distance check-in area since they were at the same table. This worked out okay as well.

Relays were seeded according to Age Group and then time. The information was loaded onto the Hy-Tek software in the admin. office and then transferred to the deck software for use during the actual event.

Distance Check-in:

At this Meet, the 400 IM was supposed to be pre-seeded in the heat sheets because it was the first event and I did not want to mess with people arriving late. A Psyche Sheet was in the Heat Sheet instead which required posting the 400 IM Heat Sheets around the pool. This did not seem to create much concern among the swimmers since they were informed of this when they registered.

The 800 and 400 Frees required positive check-in anytime before the end of the day preceding the event. Although there were few no shows after check-in, it might be better to require positive check-in ONLY on the day before the event for the 800 or greater races. Keep check-in open only until the end of the previous day's competition.

Distance seeding was done strictly by time without regard for age. Heat Sheets were posted in 5 spots around the pool and delivered to the hotels on the shuttle schedule. Only one missed the check-in for their 800 and 400 Frees, so re-seeding was not necessary.

Officials (for additional information, report by R. Brown (Meet Referee) will be mailed separately):

The cast of Meet Officials was jointly staffed by USS and Japan Masters personnel. Bob Brown was the Meet Referee. Anneliese Eggert was the Administrative Referee. The other USS officials came from various parts of the US mainland, Oahu, and Maui. Japan Masters provided 8 qualified officials during the meet. There were a total of 22 officials which was adequate for the freestyle days, but 5 short on the stroke days.

US mainland officials were reimbursed for some travel expenses (airfare and partial accommodations). The Oahu and Maui officials were reimbursed on a per diem basis. All officials received credentials and a VIP bag. The Japan Masters Officials received a VIP bag, USMS sport shirt, and a variety of other gifts for their help.

The meet was conducted according to FINA rules. Several operating and rules interpretations were different than USMS LC Nationals. The FINA Starting procedure, which utilizes a series of whistles, was used instead of verbal commands. The FINA Butterfly rule was interpreted to allow any number of breaststroke kicks between arm pulls instead of the USMS rule which requires the swimmer to alternate one kick with one pull. The USMS No-False Start procedure was not able to be used because of specific wording in the USMS rule book against it. These situations created some last minute adjustments that were handled in stride by the officials.

With regard to the FINA Butterfly rule, the International Committee will consider the necessity of a rule change proposal to the FINA Meeting in Morocco in June 1998. It will be discussed at the 1997 Convention in Burlingame.

The officials rotated through the On-Deck positions so that they worked approximately 60 minutes followed by a 30 minute break. This was appropriate because of the heat and humidity of the area. The USS officials were in the key positions with the Japan Masters officials providing stroke and turn support. This structure was necessary to ensure good communications amongst the Meet, Deck, and Admin. Referees as well as the Chief Judge.

Administrative Support:

This area included the Colorado Timing System, Hy-Tek, the Results area, and Record processing. The people in these areas were there throughout the meet and knew their jobs very well. They were paid either a per diem or a travel allowance for their time and effort. For a meet being held in an area where the people do not have much Masters experience, bringing in these key positions is recommended.

The Administrative Referee was stationed on the pool deck by the timing and the Hy-Tek systems. Other administrative activity was done in a back room away from the main meet activity. Anneliese Eggert was the Administrative Referee and did a superb job. She does understand Masters and flexes in a very reasonable manner when issues develop.

Meet Communications:

Throughout the Meet, several communication methods were used to keep all meet personnel in touch with each other. The Meet Officials used Radio Shack headsets to communicate technical violations and other swimming related activities. The remainder of the people - involved in the administrative aspects of the meet - communicated with two way hand held radios.

Interpreters were found who could help the communication process between countries. Many swimmers knew enough English to communicate their needs. Several key people were found each day to help with Chinese and Japanese communications.

The Announcer provided heat-by-heat announcing of the swimmers in each lane. In addition, the announcer read advertisements for the vendors, special announcement by the meet hosts, and other important items that came up. The announcing was difficult to hear outside of the immediate pool area due to speaker location and tenting in the outside areas.

Volunteers:

The Volunteers for this meet were coordinated by 2 people who did an exceptional job. They found approximately 350 volunteers to help with timing, awards, registration, hospitality, and miscellaneous things. The volunteers were paid \$10 per session (equaled one day of swimming) and came from the local USS clubs, canoe clubs, senior citizens homes, etc..

Most of the volunteers did not have any experience with masters swimming, so training was completely on-the-job. This seemed to work out pretty well especially once the volunteer coordinators knew the jobs and they did all the training after the first couple of days.

Gifts:

In preparation for the officials and other key meet personnel, 40 special goodie bags were prepared. In addition, laminated credentials were prepared for some, but not all of the key people at the meet which left me feeling a little embarrassed for those I forgot to include. For future meets, the number of gifts should be greatly increased to recognize all the participating countries as well as their official dignitaries. Special effort should be made to prepare for and recognize the countries representing the area of the world the meet is focused upon.

Side Activities and Tourism:

An international meet should be organized to allow swimmers and visitors to see the area of the world they are visiting. A meet that runs well into the late afternoon or early evening defeats this purpose. Social activities are a good way for swimmers to mingle if they are scheduled at good times.

The Pan Pacific Championship was not as big as originally planned which worked out well because swimmers visited many parts of Maui and enjoyed themselves immensely. Although nothing was planned to bring swimmers together in make shift relays, the evening socializing provided that opportunity. During the final social event, swimmers from various countries were encouraged to participate in a talent contest. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Medical:

The medical coverage was similar to a USMS National Championship except that arrangements had to be made in the event a back-up ambulance was not immediately available. This was necessary because there are only 9 ambulances on all of Maui. Rather than face the cost of providing 2 ambulances at all times, it was decided to provide one ACLS crew and ambulance on site at all times. If a transport was necessary and back-up was more than 3 minutes away, the meet would be stopped.

Fortunately, only three situations developed: a) a precautionary transport, b) overheating and dehydration, and c) a bumped head and hurt shoulder. All were handled without stopping the meet.

Ambulance crews were at the pool on time and stayed until 30 minutes after the last heat to allow swimmers to warm down in the competition pool. This worked out well for all concerned.

Safety Marshals were staffed for most of the meet. For the first hour of each day, the pool lifeguards provided the safety marshal coverage with volunteers taking over from there. Due to the aggressive (yet polite) manner of the Safety Marshals with regard to ensuring feet first entry into the water, there were few cases of people diving at inappropriate times. The biggest concern was swimmers doing backstroke starts from any lane at any time because this was not perceived as doing dive starts.

Masters Open Forum:

This was the second large international event where a Masters Open Forum has been held. Due to its' schedule time, the attendance was smaller than desired. This may or may not have affected input. There were several points of business related to the meet that were discussed: conflict of the Open Water and the 200 breaststroke, giving awards to people who did not meet the qualifying times, and inadvertent timing issues on the first day of the meet. This aspect of international meets should be continued.

General Meeting:

There was no general meeting for the athletes to ask questions about the meet conduct. Instead, the Registration Table handed out information about the things most swimmers need to know - Starting Procedure, Relay Entry Procedure, Distance Check-in, Meet Timeline, etc.. By having this information translated into the languages of the major countries, it avoided a number of problems. Hand outs in the future should include: Protest procedures, Finalizing results, shuttle schedule, and anything else that might be confusing.

If a general meeting is held in future international events, it will be necessary to have interpreters available to ensure clearly communicated questions and answers.

Miscellaneous Comments:

In the early stages of the meet's development, the County of Maui considered hiring a Meet Director and paying them as much as \$20,000. This was deemed unnecessary for this particular situation. However, should a meet be set-up in an area without the necessary expertise available through the local people, this may be a valid option to ensure a good meet.

Awards:

The Awards were handled by Maxwell Medals and Awards in Traverse City. They were very responsive and helpful to work with. The initial medal order ended up being too large by about 1,000 medals. Maxwell converted 480 to key rings at no charge before shipping them to Hawaii for the meet. After the meet they have continued to work with USMS by exchanging ribbons for key chains for the rest of the medals - about 500 more.

Even though the meet information indicated we would not give out awards to swimmers failing to meet the qualifying times, this meet was small enough that I decided to override that meet requirement. This was commented on during the Open Forum. In evaluating the impact, we did award medals to people who missed the standards. None missed by truly excessive amounts which is what the original requirement was intended to prevent.

Legal Activity:

From the beginning of the planning phase, questions regarding the legality of the proposed rules of the meet were raised. All the questions had to be resolved because, ultimately, if the meet was not conducted in accordance with USMS rules, the insurance coverage was potentially void. This was not a position that USMS wanted to find itself.

The first challenge involved conducting the meet in Hawaii, but, by excluding 19-24 yr. olds, not following the USMS rules. Excluding 19-24 year olds was a conscious decision by Paul Windrath and Mel Goldstein because we felt it necessary to follow generally accepted international competitive standards. Although the issue was presented to Peak Insurance and resolved early in the planning stages, challenges and comments continued to come up for about 12 months.

The next challenge involved the issuing of a sanction to Hawaii Sports for the Open Water Swim. The USMS rules were interpreted to disallow this sanction because Hawaii Sports is a "for profit" company. To resolve this issue, Jeanne Crouse created a document allowing Hawaii Sports to transfer the sanction to USMS and thereby comply with USMS rules.

A further challenge came when Paul Windrath proposed holding "Time Trials" at the end of each day's competition to raise additional revenue when it was obvious the meet was quite small. This concept was not received well for several reasons (not published in the meet information, no rules for time trials). Paul Windrath decided to not plan and manage the additional swims each day to keep the meet less complicated.

Another concern developed with the Open Water Swim regarding liability if swimmers were injured along a stretch of land adjacent to the hotel where the Open Water Swim was held. Again, Jeanne Crouse addressed this concern satisfactorily.

The final concern came up when Paul Windrath asked about approving an Activity Promoter as a vendor. Jeanne Crouse felt that USMS was at too much risk in doing so because the activities being promoted were potentially dangerous (i.e. parasailing, etc.). USMS could potentially be dragged into a legal situation because USMS approved the Activity Promoter as vendor. Fairly quickly, plans to have this vendor included were dropped - mostly because there was insufficient time to resolve the issues.

At several times during the planning phase, the County of Maui requested signature of documents. In all cases, a copy of the documents was sent to Jeanne Crouse for review and discussion. Ultimately, none of the documents were required and no issues developed.

In summary, USMS rules are satisfactory to address the technical and administrative aspects of the organization. However, for the organization to be running meets probably means that some additional legal thought should go into determining how to handle vendors, ad sales, review of contracts with volunteers and paid workers, etc.. The outcome of this thought process may determine how effectively USMS can run meets.

Open Water Swim:

The Open Water Swim was a great addition to the Pan Pacific Championships. There were close to 300 people actually swimming it despite rough waters and a conflict with the 200 Breaststroke scheduled in the pool at the same time. This was an unavoidable conflict for a variety of reasons which were discussed at the Masters Open Forum. The only effective way to avoid the conflict in the future and still hold the Open Water Swim on a weekend is to shorten the pool competition to 6 days.

Maxwell Medals and Awards donated the medals for the Open Water Swim. Much thanks for their generosity.