

USMS Convention — Kansas City, Missouri 2015

Committee Name: Long Distance

Session #: 2

Committee Chair: Donn Livoni

Vice Chair: Ali Hall

Minutes recorded by: Bruce Hopson

Date/time of meeting: 10/02/2015 1:02 PM

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

Motions Passed:

1. None

Number of committee members present: 16

Absent: 1

Number of other delegates present: 27

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Donn Livoni, Ali Hall, James Biles, Denise Brown, Robert Bruce, Rob Copeland, Colleen Driscoll, Michael Fanelli, Bruce Hopson, Rendy Opdycke, Phyllis Quinn, Greta van Meeteren, and Jill Wright; Lynn Hazlewood, Chris McGiffin, and Bill Roach, all *ex officio*.

Committee Members Absent: Robert Zeitner; Tracy Grilli, Elaine Howley, and Jim Miller, the last 3 *ex officio*

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM CDT

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Karin Wagner of Club Assistant addressed the committee to talk about how Club Assistant works with the online entries for the ePostals.
3. Susan Kuhlman, USMS CFO, addressed the Committee on her role and how FOG sets forth the requirements for reimbursements for those conducting USMS business, such as the event liaisons. The chair reminded the liaisons that although reimbursement is in the budget, they still need to submit proposed estimate of their costs ahead of time to prevent incurring over-budget expenses.
4. The Event Host for the 2017 Festival in Chattanooga addressed the committee about the upcoming swims for next season and fielded questions about the events.
5. Liaison for Open Water National Championships.
 - a. The Chair opened a discussion on the evolution of the role of event liaison from event evaluator. He explained how in the past the events were judge in accordance to how well they complied with ministerial tasks such as meeting timelines and properly incorporating the USMS logo into the event. He further stated the role was evolving to focus on making the event not only a quality event but a safe one.
 - b. He also announced that the financial aspect would be overhauled. He explained that many of our events are long-standing ones that frequently included other events not a part of the National Championship. Although revenue is pretty easy to determine because it comes from entry fees, the expense side is more complicated because it involves allocating expenses for such things permits between the National Championship and the other swims associated with the event.
6. Laura Hammel of the National Office also addressed the Committee and explained how the National Office promoted the Long Distance National Championships. Because they have much smaller participation rates, she explained that they are promoted collectively in the Nov-Dec issue of *Swimmer*. She reminded the Committee that the hosts should submit a nice photo of the event with an accompanying blurb describing the event. She also reminded the Committee that there is a drop box for documents and a Google Calendar to mark and remind of important deadlines for the National Office.
7. Review of the 2015 Open Water National Events by the liaisons

- a. Bob Bruce spoke on Del Valle. He reported the event overall went well. Although there were minor technical glitches, they were easily worked out. He also pointed out that this was the 1st multi-day festival held.
 - b. Jill Wright spoke on Lake Foster. She reported the event went really well although there was a boat missing that would have kept other boats away from the course (none of them entered) but made it choppy in places.
 - c. Colleen Driscoll spoke on Lake George. She reported that the event went very well and that there were no safety concerns. The event had a safety monitor who, after having served, had suggestions for the role of Safety Monitor.
 - d. Ali Hall and Bill Roach spoke on Noblesville. She reported the event was well run and could serve as a template for a well-run event. Bill Roach, who was the independent safety monitor, reported that there were no incidents before or during the race. However, an hour after everything was concluded and after the emergency response people had left, an older male swimmer collapsed from what turned out to be a potassium deficiency.
 - e. Ali Hall and Bill Roach spoke on Big Shoulders (Chicago). She reported that things were going well up to about 3 days before the race when the weather took a dramatic turn for the worse. So much so that on the morning of the race the Chicago Park District called the event because the lake had become too unsafe for both the safety personnel and the swimmers. Leading up to the event, the hosts did an excellent job in communicating with the participants. Bill Roach also reported his dealings and how things were handled.
8. The Effects as a result of the Cancellation of Big Shoulders (Alternative Dates and locations and All-Stars, and All-Americans).
- a. The chair explained that unlike an event where the lake does not have enough water, Big Shoulders could not be moved at the last minute because of the logistics and because the other sites probably would be suffering the same weather conditions. The event could not be moved to the next day because there was the Bears-Packers football game and because not everyone would be able to compete on Sunday because of already made travel arrangements.
 - b. The Committee also discussed the impact of the cancellation on All-Stars, which requires the competing in a combination of three events with at least one coming from open water and one from ePostal. The Committee talked about possibly allowing for swimmers to be given credit for having swam but not awarded points. This will be continued for further discussion.
9. New Business
- a. Bob Bruce addressed the Committee about the role of the Independent Safety monitor. He pointed out that it was not the Committee which decided that an ISM could not swim in an event. He further pointed out that it is within the Long Distance Committee's purview to make determinations regarding Part 3 of the USMS rules. He asked that the Committee study this further.
10. Closing Remarks of the Chair and Vice Chair
- a. The Chair thanked the Committee members for their hard work and encouraged them to sign up to be on the committee next year. He also invited members of the audience to do the same
 - b. The Vice-Chair thanked everyone and expressed her appreciation for being the vice-chair.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Solicit bids for the 2018 ePostal and Open Water National Championships and select the winner for event.
2. Assign any unfilled liaisons to the 2016 ePostal and Open Water National Championships
3. Study how to handle the cancellation of Big Shoulders in terms of selecting the 2016 All-Stars, and races in general
4. Further study the role of the Independent Safety Monitor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 PM CDT
