

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Long Distance	<b>Session #:</b>	1	<b>Report #:</b>	1
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Donn Livoni	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Ali Hall		
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Phyllis Quinn	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	1/29/2017		

## Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

## Motions Passed:

1. There was a request to allow a swimmer with a chronic medical condition to wear fins for official entry in the One Hour Swim ePostal event? Ruling: A swim with fins is not permitted for an official entry in a competitive postal event.
2. Goals –
  1. Increase participation by 10 percent over 2016 in total for postal national championships
  2. Identify two LDC members who will collaborate with two different USMS committees for mutual interests
  3. Incorporate diversity/inclusivity language into 2019 LDNC bid documents
  4. Recruit at least one 2019 festival bid
  5. Identify an LDC member to generate a standard entry form (SEF) for use by OWNC hosts and liaisons.

**Number of committee members present: 13**

**Absent: 1**

**Number of other delegates present: 6**

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):** Donn Livoni, Chair, Ali Hall, VC, Jim Davidson, Phyllis Quinn, Laurie Hug, James Biles, Greta van Meeteren, Colleen Discroll, Mike Fanelli, Josie Palmerin, Melinda Greig-Walker, Allison Ware, and Lorena Sims. **Absent:** Jill Wright. **Ex-Officio present:** Chris McGiffin, Bob Bruce, Tracy Grilli, **Absent:** Bill Roach. **Others:** Dawson Hughes, Casey Keiber and Karin Wagner

## Agenda

### Long Distance Committee

#### Call in information

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017 - 8:00pm – 9:30pm ET

Dial In (if Free Long Distance): 530 881-1212 or 518 530-1840 or 701 801-1220 (preferred)

Toll Free (charged to USMS): 855-212-0212

Meeting ID: 397-249-317

Host PIN:7956

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 EDT

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Approval of 12/27 minutes MSP
3. Reports from the chair (Donn) and vice chair (Ali) and vice president (Chris) and **CEO Dawson Hughes**. The National Office is working on new strategies for the ePostals for 2018. He outlined three ideas for the Long Distance and Fitness committees to consider. The first is ways to streamline the registration process. The ePostals are the only events that the swimmer does the swim then registers. How can the NO work with LMSC's, Coaches and Clubs to make these events more popular? How can the NO use social media to promote these events? The Second strategy is to incorporate some type of Cause Marketing into the ePostals like Swimming Saves Lives or Adult Learn to Swim. Can we get people to register and commit before the event is swum. The third strategy is that the name ePostal is "old school". For branding and sponsorship, can we rebrand these events? This will be an ongoing discussion, so send your ideas to Dawson.

#### 4. Response to request for Disability Exemption – **ACTION Item**

Question from a USMS Member: Should a swimmer with a chronic medical condition being granted permission to wear fins for official entry in the One Hour Swim ePostal event?

#### Texts of the Appropriate Rules:

- **306.1:** “Long Distance events conducted in pools must comply with all applicable rules in Part 1 of the rule book, except as noted in article 306.” 306 contains nothing else of relevance to this case.
- **102.12.1C(3):** “No exemption to these restrictions will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.”
- **102.12.1E:** Fins are specifically mentioned as giving a competitive advantage, “No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, ...).”

#### Discussion:

The USMS Long Distance Committee is treading in unknown waters by interpreting rules in Part 1 of the rule book, an area usually interpreted by the USMS Rules Committee. However, LDC standing is established by article 306, and the discussion and ruling applies only to postal events within LDC purview.

Although fins are not technically considered swimwear, the specific rules covering this situation are found in swimwear article 102.12. This specific case involves a swimmer with a chronic neck and back condition which causes pain when swimming without fins. The swimmer has considered a medical exemption in order to participate in the One Hour Swim ePostal event. But even if a medical exemption were granted, that exemption cannot apply to any devices that give a competitive advantage, and fins are specifically mentioned to be such an advantage. This would make the specific exemption request moot.

At issue is fairness for all entrants in a competitive event. One might easily sympathize with the swimmer in this case, but maintaining a level playing field for all participants demands that devices that give a competitive advantage be prohibited.

**Ruling: A swim with fins is not permitted for an official entry in a competitive postal event. If these events were non-competitive events, we might rule differently. ACTION ITEM MSP Unanimously**

There was a discussion on possibly being able to add a “Just for Fun” division to different events. This would be a non-competitive division and would not be eligible for awards. This might increase participation.

5. Rules and Legislative Proposals – Bob- I still haven’t heard from many of you about your assignment to review the Part 3 rules and respond to me with questions, comments, and/or proposals. After your review, even if you have none of these, please let me now that you have completed your assignment (a.k.a. turn in your homework!). Email reply directly to coachbobbruce@gmail.com. I plan to begin discussion and action on specific rules proposals in our February meeting.
6. Working groups – reports (please send your report to all – there may not be many for this meeting, but file a report if you have something to report)
  - a. Rules/Legislation – Bob lead; Donn, Lorena. I would like the LDC to discuss briefly an issue applying to article 303.9.5: “[Swimmers shall be disqualified if they...] Receive assistance by pulling, pushing, or resting on physical features on or near the course other than the bottom. Incidental contact shall not be a basis for disqualification.”  
The issue: Based on potential safety considerations, should we consider removing “**resting**” on physical features from the list of disqualifying offenses?  
We have no proposal, but I would like to get the sense of the LDC before we consider drafting one. There was a discussion on what constitutes resting and also how to police this. Should this be a physical feature that is allowed to rest on. To be continued.

Bob has posted the following for the Open Water and LD committees: Although you are serving on a national committee, your greatest task, bully pulpit strength, and avenue for expressing your passion for long distance swimming lies at the local and LMSC level.

For 2017, what are YOU doing NOW at the local or LMSC level...

1. To spread the word about USMS open water swimming in general, and
2. To encourage USMS open water participation specifically?

Drop me a line and tell me what you're doing: [coachbobbruce@gmail.com](mailto:coachbobbruce@gmail.com). Send a note to Bob if you have ideas.

- b. PARA – Greta, Lead: (Patches & Awards – James & Melinda; All-Americans (AA) - Men – Jim Davidson; (AA) Women - Greta; (AA) Relays - Phyllis & Allison; Records - Jill & Michael, All-Stars – Laurie; Postal Series – James & Laurie Checkers – Mike, Lorena & Josie Pending some checking and finalizing of reports for the National Office the work for 2016 has been finished. I'd like to thank all of the members of this subcommittee for their hard work.
- c. Club Assistant - Colleen & Phyllis Karin W has been working with James on a way to avoid errors when the entries are made to the ePostals. An upgrade in CA systems showed some errors i.e. 55 hours instead of 55 minutes. She proposed a max time limit (1 hour for each 1K) and an error notice that would ask the swimmer to check the entry time. (Donn will send out the draft for this error notice.) This does not apply to the OHP.
- d. Safety – Bill Roach, lead; Bob, Jim, Josie, Melinda
- e. Documents – James, lead; Donn, Phyllis (ePostal Guide – James, Bob, Jill Melinda). (OW Champs Guide James, Phyllis) James has posted the proposed edits to the LDC Operating guide to the forum. Please review again for next meeting.
- f. 2019 NC Selection – Ali, lead; Jim, Colleen, Phyllis, & Allison Ready to move forward with 2019 bid forms and letters.
- g. Communications — Laurie, Lead, Ali
- h. NC Oversight - Donn, lead; James, Ali, Bob (ePostals)
- i. Goals – Ali, lead; James, Colleen, Phyllis

The workgroup formed a general consensus, and proposes the LDC consider and adopt the following: **ACTION ITEM MSP Unanimously.**

1. Increase participation by 10 percent over 2016 in total for postal national championships
2. Identify two LDC members who will collaborate with two different USMS committees for mutual interests
3. Incorporate diversity/inclusivity language into 2019 LDNC bid documents
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5. Identify an LDC member to generate a standard entry form (SEF) for use by OWNC hosts and liaisons.

Discussion on #3 about the diversity language for bid documents. Trying to have before Feb 1 and will go ahead without if not received. My also apply to the bids for pool championships.

Chris will reach out to this group for an update. Please consider volunteering to collaborate with the other USMS committees. Let Donn know if you want to volunteer.

Below is a list of the 2017 LD NC events and the liaisons assigned.

I would like each lead liaison to give a brief written report on the status of their event (sent to the full committee prior to the conference call -- THURSDAY). **LIAISONS—PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL EARLY AND OFTEN FOR MESSAGES.** Please remember to date all the documents you submit with the correct event year and be specific on what the document is.

- Swim Around Lido Key, Sarasota, FL April 24 7 miles
  - o Liaison: James Biles backup: Allison Ware

The beginning planning phases of this has been hampered with rocky communications between host and LDC. Host is behind on timeline requirements but these are easily still achievable to make up. It now appears we are on the same track and moving forward for a successful event. 91 of 110 cap already entered.

- Chattanooga Open Water Swim, Chattanooga, TN June 3 10 miles
  - o Liaison: Ali Hall backup: Laurie HugChattanooga 9.2 and 2.4 mile OWNCs: \*Contracts have been signed. Please note that the USMS OWNC page reflects a change in dates. The shorter swim will be Saturday and the longer on Sunday.
- Chattanooga Open Water Swim, Chattanooga, TN June 4 2.4 miles
  - o Liaison: Ali Hall backup: Laurie Hug
- o Foster Lake, Sweet Home OR June 24 2-mile cable
  - o Liaison: Phyllis Quinn backup: Melinda Grieg-WalkerPerformance bond check requested. Awaiting confirmation of receipt from National Office.
- ELK Lake, Bend, OR July 30 5K (3.1 miles)
  - o Liaison: Jill Wright backup: Jim DavidsonStill awaiting confirmation that performance bond has been received. Initial entry form and safety application have been received and reviewed.
- o Angle Lake, Sea-Tac, WA Sept. 23 1-mile
  - o Liaison: Donn Livoni backup: Michael Fanelli
  - o the contract has been completed and bond \$\$ received.
- OHeP: Ohio Masters Swim Club, Avon, OH
- Liaison: James Biles lead; backup: Mike Fanelli & Allison Ware
- Ongoing. Already getting questions about group entries. Only 255 registered so far. In the past there have been over 1000 by this time. Looks like as we thought, most will still wait until last minute to enter.
- 5,000M/10,000M ePostal: Swim Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, FL
  - o Liaison: Greta van Meeteren lead; backup: Phyllis Quinn & Lorena Sims
  - o Lorena is working with CA on the online entry form for these events.
- 3,000/6,000 ePostal: Loveland Masters Swim Club, Fort Collins, CO
  - o Liaison: Colleen Driscoll, lead; backup: Jim Davidson & Josephine Palmerin

Other business for the good of the order

Next Call –Sunday, Feb. 26 with times of 8 PM EST, 7 PM CST, 6 PM MST, 5 PM PST & 4 PM AST.  
Lorena and Jill have volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.