

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Mollie Grover		
Minutes recorded by:	Claire Letendre	Date/time of meeting:	29 January 2023 / 7:30 PM ET

Actions Taken:

1. MSA to amend articles 101.2.2 and 101.2.3 in accordance with FINA rules effective Jan 1, 2023.
2. MSA to authorize the chair to issue interpretations and opinions without committee input between meetings through the first meeting of the Rules Committee of 2024.

Number of committee members present: # 11	Absent: # 3	Guests: # 0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Mollie Grover (Chair), Kris Wingenroth, Christina Fox (Vice Chair), Kathrine Casey, William Tingley, Marilyn Fink, Jason Weis, C.J. Rushman, Susan Nolte, Barbara Protzman, Claire Letendre (Vice Chair),		
Not present: David Benjamin, Julie Dussliere, Ben Wyckoff		
Ex Officio present: Mike Abegg (USMS Officials Committee), Teri White (USMS Officials Committee) Chris Colburn (VP of Administration), Stephanie Gauzens (USMS Legislation Committee), Onshalee Promchitmart (USMS National Office Staff)		
Ex Officio absent: Allison Abad (USMS National Office Staff)		
Guests: None		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm ET.

1. Committee Member Introductions
 - a. Every member introduced themselves. Mollie Grover is the chair of the committee and Christina Fox, and Claire Letendre are the vice chairs for this year.
2. Committee Conduct and Expectations
 - a. When discussing issues and proposals, remember to be respectful and know that we come to the table with passion for the organization and from different perspectives.
 - b. Committee decisions should be presented as a united front.
3. General Flow of Committee Business
 - a. Future meetings: One in the spring, and then after the proposals are in then we will meet a few weeks in a row and then a few meetings before convention.
 - b. Google Drive for sharing documents
 - i. Jason Weis and Claire Letendre can help with troubleshooting
 - c. Days of the Week:
 - i. Mondays and Wednesdays are not great for Mollie; Wednesdays are not great for Claire
 - ii. Susan Nolte is on the finance committee which usually meets on Tuesday.
 - iii. Executive Committee and Board meetings are Mondays.
 - iv. Kathy will be more available after Boy's Swimming Season.
 - v. We will have to work with Rules, Legislation, and Championship Committees.
 - d. Roll Call vote
 - i. Does not get published. It is for numbers only.
4. Discussion of FINA Rule Change for Breaststroke
 - a. Background: FINA removed the requirement to have the arms and legs in the same horizontal plane when starting the stroke off the walls and start (SW 7.2 and SW 7.4). Swimmer must be towards the breast but

does not have to be horizontal to the bottom of the pool. Arms have to be simultaneous and on the breast.

- b. This was effective Jan 1, 2023 and it is currently the case for all FINA meets and USA Swimming meets.
 - c. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) made a motion to strike “in the horizontal plane” and Bill Tingley (Kentucky) seconded.
 - i. Amend 101.2.2 2nd paragraph remove “and in the same horizontal plane”
 - ii. Amend 101.2.3 1st paragraph remove “and in the same horizontal plane”
 - iii. Motion passes: 10 votes in favor
 - d. Discussion: Marilyn Fink asked about procedure and documentation for this change. Mollie and Kathy indicated that they had received the draft proposal in late 2022 but had not received any final notification. The changes are documented in an explanatory memo from FINA: [2022 FINA Swimming Rules - Explanatory Memo](#)
 - e. Motion to amend articles 101.2.2 and 101.2.3 passes: 10 votes in favor, 0 opposed
 - f. Mollie Grover will write up an official interpretation and online rule book will be updated.
 - g. Marilyn noted that there are additional rule changes in the memo that may need to be considered. Teri White and Mike Abegg indicated that these look to be FINA official interpretations that have been codified but these should be reviewed. A sub-committee will review these FINA official interpretations and changes: Teri White, Bill Tingley, Kathy Casey
- 5. USMS Legislation Interpretation of Olympic/Paralympic Usage
 - a. Letter went out to chairs, vice chairs, sanction chairs, and top 10 chairs which stated to stop granting sanction or recognition to meets with the words Olympic or Paralympic in any manner of marketing.
 - 6. Chair to issue interpretations and opinions without committee input between meetings through the first meeting of the Rules Committee of 2024.
 - a. Motioned: Bill Tingley motioned and Jason Weis seconded.
 - i. Motion passes: 10 votes in favor
 - 7. Motion to adjourn: Jason Weis seconded by Kathy Casey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm ET.