

Announcements

CERTIFICATION TABLE HOURS

Wednesday 8am to 5pm – Exhibitor Area

Thursday 8:00-9:00 am – Exhibitor Area

Thursday afternoon – Saturday – come find Debbie

MEET & GREETs

MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT

Thursday 11:45am – 1:00pm – Cardinal

Meet and greet the President. No swimsuits required

LUNCH WITH NEW DELEGATES

Thursday 1:15pm – 2:15 pm

Details will be available at the Delegate Orientation

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

Friday 8:00am – 9:00 am - Guilford G

Meet the candidates running for

USMS At Large Board of Directors Positions

USMS HOSPITALITY SUITE

Snacks and beverages will be provided in the USMS Hospitality Suite throughout the convention. There will be breakfast and lunch items, so if you're pressed for time, or just don't want to spend money for these meals and want to socialize with other USMS volunteers, try the hospitality suite!

PRESENTATIONS

SPORTS MEDICINE

Thursday 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Gilford G

COACHES

During the Saturday 11:30am – 12:30pm workout at the Greensboro Aquatic Center

Members of the Coaches Committee & the High Performance Camp will be providing mini-clinics for the four strokes.

FITNESS BROWN BAG LUNCH

Attention Fitness Chairs and Anyone interested in Fitness! Join other swimmers interested in Fitness activities for a Brown Bag Lunch on **Saturday** (location to be announced). This will be an informal session sponsored by the Fitness Education Committee. The majority of our members swim for Fitness and we hope to spark some new ideas for all of you to take back to your clubs and workout groups. Bring your lunch and plan to share ideas, or learn new ideas, on what the LMSC's are doing for fitness swimmers.

We hope to see lots of you there!

EVENING ACTIVITIES

INSURANCE RECEPTION

Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00 pm

Club Fifth Season

This welcome reception is hosted by Risk Management, our insurance broker. This will take place on the at the hotel night club and there will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

LMSC SOCIAL

North Carolina Barbeque

Thursday 7:30pm - 10:00pm

USMS Hospitality Suite

IMSHOF INDUCTION

Friday 6:00pm – 8:30pm

All USMS delegates are invited (complimentary tickets) to attend the induction of US Masters swimmers Carolyn Boak, Mel Goldstein, Tim Birnie & Paul Krup.

6:00-7:00 pm – Reception (cash bar)

Victoria A

7:15-8:30 pm – Induction Ceremony

Blue Ashe

USAS BANQUET

Saturday 7:00pm

Guilford Ballroom

The food is usually pretty good and everyone dresses up, so men, bring a suit, and ladies, bring something dressy.

Each USAS organization will present their annual awards. USMS presents the **Coach of the Year** Award and the **Ransom Arthur** Award.

Groups of people can reserve banquet tables. If your LMSC or some other group of people doesn't reserve a table, don't worry. Just sit at any open seat.

SWIM WORKOUTS

Thursday & Friday morning and Saturday 11:30am - 12:30pm – Greensboro Aquatic Center

Bus pick-up is 5:40 AM (PROMPTLY!) on Thursday & Friday mornings and at 11:10 AM (PROMPTLY!!) on Saturday from Entry Door "F".

FITNESS SWIM WORKOUT

Attend the Fitness Swim during the Friday morning workout and be pleasantly surprised.

You too can BE FABULOUS!!

The Fitness Swim Workout is sponsored by the Fitness Education Committee in conjunction with the Coaches Committee - Coaches Chris Campbell & Tom Mester.
COME BE SURPRISED.

Announcements

ORIENTATIONS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Pinehurst

If you are a committee chair, CJ Rushman, USMS Secretary, will provide a Committee Chair Orientation on Wednesday. This is where you'll pick up your folder. CJ will explain the procedure for producing minutes and also for getting reimbursement. Zone Chairs should also attend this orientation, since they too will be chairing a meeting. CJ will be sending an email with the forms for you to print out or download to you laptop prior to convention.

DELEGATE

Thursday 9:15 am

Guilford G

Ed Tsuzuki, VP of Local Operations will provide a "USAS Convention Orientation" at the first House of Delegates (HOD) on Thursday. Ed will introduce several members of the USMS leadership and review valuable information to improve your convention experience.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Friday 12:00pm – 1:30 pm

Arrowhead

Dr. Jim Miller, USMS Past President will provide a "New Board Member Orientation" to new members of the USMS Board on Friday. This orientation includes information on your responsibilities as a member of the USMS Board of Directors. This meeting is also open to those who are interested in serving as an officer in the future.

EDUCATION

COACHES CERTIFICATION

Wednesday September 12th

Greensboro Marriott Downtown, Greensboro, NC (one day before the USAS convention)

Level 1 and 2 certification (9am - 5pm), or Level 3 certification (9am - 4pm; Level 2 a prerequisite). Online registration only. Registration closes at midnight pacific time on September 11, 2012 or when the course enrollment reaches 40.

Level 1&2 <https://www.clubassistant.com/club/clinics/reserve.cfm?c=1758&cid=54466>.

Level 3 <https://www.clubassistant.com/club/clinics/reserve.cfm?c=1758&cid=54468>

For more information contact Bill Brenner bill.brenner@usms.org

INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Thursday 10:45-11:30 am - Guilford G

Sandi Blumit our Insurance Broker with Risk Management Services will present an overview of the USMS insurance coverage and answer any questions you may have.

NATIONAL OFFICE SOFTWARE TUTORIALS

Registration, On Line Sanctions, Meet Results & Top 10

Thursday 11:45am - 12:45pm, 2:30pm - 3:30pm, 4:00pm – 5:00 pm - Pinehurst

These one-on-one tutorials are designed for volunteers who use our software to perform their volunteer roles. Need help uploading meet results? Can't figure out how to create a membership report? Trying to approve a sanction request? Stop by at your convenience and get your questions answered by Webmaster Jim Matysek, Web Developer Luke Shaheen, Membership Director Anna Lea Matysek and Julie Austin from Club Assistant.

Announcements

LMSC WORKSHOPS

#1 Effective Meetings in the Virtual World

Friday 10:30am – 11:30am - Sandpiper

This workshop will cover effective meeting techniques such as adapting Roberts Rules of Order for teleconferencing and the importance of the agenda and the role of the facilitator. Then we'll demonstrate some web-based virtual meeting tools including free teleconferencing, survey and voting tools, and scheduling tools to find optimal meeting times.

#2 Managing Member/Volunteer Dynamics in your LMSC

Friday 10:30am - 11:30am - Tanglewood

How to prevent differences from becoming conflicts and how to deal with these situations. What to do when differences need official LMSC/USMS intervention.

#3 Practice Safe Swimming

Friday 10:30am – 11:30am - Pinehurst

Come and join the discussion on safer swimming. This highly interactive session will focus on participant safety concerns as well as real life past incident data to explore safety vulnerabilities and to come up with practical solutions to these potential problems. Participants are encouraged to bring their safety issues, ideas and questions for group discussion and problem solving.

#4 Investing in LMSC Infrastructure, Volunteers, Programs & Services

Friday 12:15pm – 1:15pm - Sandpiper

Begin with a brief overview of how to analyze your financial statements to determine if your LMSC has adequate reserves. Then get ideas for how to maximize the impact of any "extra" assets to temporarily fill volunteer deficits and invest in member services and programs. Bring your own ideas to share, too!

#5 Partnering with USA Swimming

Friday 12:15 – 1:15pm - Tanglewood

The focus of this workshop will be developing a relationship between LMSCs, USA Swimming clubs and Local Swim Committees (LSCs). Presentation to include overview of the swim meet dual sanctioning process, how LMSCs can better help meet hosts understand dual sanction format trade-offs, and ideas for pooling and sharing resources to keep athletes "Swimming for Life" in their transition from USA Swimming to USMS.

#6 USMS & LMSC Web Site Design Best Practices

Friday 12:15pm – 1:15pm - Pinehurst

This interactive workshop will first review key elements and best practices of website design and content and see how the presentation and major features of NGB websites like usms.org, usaswimming.org, usatriathlon.org, usasynchro.org uses them. Then we'll critique LMSC and/or club websites, submitted by attendees in advance, to see how they could better apply the concepts presented initially. If you would like to submit your LMSC's website as a candidate, please send the URL to webmaster@usms.org.

LMSC OFFICERS – LMSC STANDARDS

Saturday 10:00-11:00am – Guilford G

Breakout groups to learn how "Brainwriting" can help us all generate and receive potential solutions to the things that plague us in our volunteer jobs. We'll finish the workshop with a brief overview of the LMSC Standards survey process, an overview of the results and some time for questions and answers.

ARE YOU BRINGING A LAP TOP?

There will be external power supply in the HOD but we will not know the amount of "convenient" outlets. Please bring an extension cord to make sure you can "plug in".

WILL YOU NEED TO RENT A CAR?

USAS has a reservation/registration number with Hertz
Our number is: CV#02RH007



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Attachments

- #1 - Check In & Certification Procedure
- #2 - Rules of the USMS Annual Meeting
- #3 – Who’s Who in USMS
- #4 – Roberts Rules of Order
- #5 – USMS Strategic Plan



USMS Convention Schedule

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

8:30 am - 2:00 pm	BOD	Augusta
2:15 pm -3:30 pm	Convention Staff	USMS Suite
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	USMS Secretary Debrief	Riverdale
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Governance Committee	McCormick
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Finance Committee #1	Olympia
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	E2EEM Task Force	Riverdale
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Committee Chairs Orientation	Pinehurst
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Investment Committee #1	Riverdale
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Policy Committee	McCormick
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Insurance Reception	Club Fifth Season

Thursday, September 13, 2012

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Zone Meetings Breadbasket Colonies Dixie Great Lakes Oceana Northwest South Central Southwest	Bear Creek Edinburgh Pebble Beach Arrowhead Pinehurst St Andrews Olympia Turnberry
9:15 am – 10:45 am	House of Delegates #1 Delegate Orientation, ED Address, Announcements	Guilford G
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Insurance Workshop	Guilford G
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	Rules Committee #1	Meadowbrook
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	National Office Software Tutorials – Registration, Online Sanctions, Meet Results & Top10 - A	Pinehurst
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Officials Committee	Tidewater
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Sports Medicine & Science Committee	Pebble Beach
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Meet with the President	Cardinal
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Finance Committee #2	Olympia

USMS Convention Schedule

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch with New Delegates	
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	National Office Software Tutorials – Registration, Online Sanctions, Meet Results & Top10 - B	Pinehurst
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Long Distance Committee #1	Victoria AB
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Fitness Education Committee	Tidewater
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	LMSC Development Committee #1	Pebble Beach
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Championship Committee #1	Meadowbrook
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Recognition & Awards Committee	Arrowhead
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	National Office Software Tutorials – Registration, Online Sanctions, Meet Results & Top10 - C	Pinehurst
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Open Water Committee #1	Augusta
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	History & Archives Committee	Links
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Legislation Committee #1	Meadowbrook
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Audit Committee	Riverdale
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Rules & Long Distance Open Forum	Guilford G
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm	Sports Medicine Presentation	Guilford G
7:30	LMSC Social	USMS Suite

Friday, September 14, 2012

8:00 am – 9:00 am	House of Delegates – Meet the Candidates	Guilford G
9:15 am - 10:15 am	House of Delegates #2 Elections and Committee Reports time permitting	Guilford G
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Workshop #1 – Effective Meetings in the Virtual World	Sandpiper
	Workshop #2 – Managing Member/Volunteer Dynamics in your LMSC	Tanglewood
	Workshop #3 – Practice Safe Swimming	Pinehurst
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Rules Committee #2	Meadowbrook
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Finance Committee #3	Olympia
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Lunch	
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Legislation Committee #2	Meadowbrook
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Foundation #1	Cardinal
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	New Board Member Orientation	Arrowhead

USMS Convention Schedule

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Workshop #4 – Investing in LMSC Infrastructure, Volunteers, Programs & Services	Sandpiper
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Workshop #5 – Partnering with USA Swimming	Tanglewood
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Workshop #6 – USMS & LMSC Web Site Design Best Practices	Pinehurst
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Long Distance Committee #2	Pebble Beach
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Coaches Committee	Biltmore
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Records & Tabulation Committee	Bear Creek
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Registration Committee	Olympia
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Investment Committee #2	Riverdale
3:00 pm – 5:15 pm	House of Delegates #3 All committee reports from Thur, open forum for Rules and/or LD (if time permits)	Guilford G
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm	BOD to approve Budget as amended	Guilford G
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	International Masters Swimming HOF Induction	Blue Ashe
8:45 pm – 9:30 pm	Rules Committee #3	Meadowbrook

Saturday, September 15, 2012

7:45 am – 8:45 am	Finance Committee #4	Olympia
7:45 am – 8:45 am	LMSC Development Committee #2	Pebble Beach
7:45 am – 8:45 am	Rules Committee #4	Meadowbrook
8:45 am – 9:45 am	Open Water Committee #2	Augusta
8:45 am – 9:45 am	Championship Committee #2	Meadowbrook
8:45 am – 10:00 am	Foundation #2	Cardinal
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Workshop #7 - LMSC Officers – LMSC Standards	Guilford G
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Swim Practice	
12:45 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Rules Committee #5 (USA-S)	Meadowbrook
2:00 pm – 5:30 pm	House of Delegates #4 Committee Reports (F & S), Championship dates, LD Rules,	Guilford G

USMS Convention Schedule

Rules, Legislation

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	USAS Awards Banquet	Grand Ballroom
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Sunday, September 16, 2012

8:00 am – 9:00 am	USAS Board of Trustees	Tidewater
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9:00 am – 10:00 am	Wrap-up Session	Pebble Beach
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10:30 am – 11:30 am	Board of Directors Training	Augusta
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11:30 am – 2:00 pm	Board of Directors	Augusta
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USMS Executive Committee Reports

President - Nadine Day

United States Masters Swimming House of Delegates,

One year ago, the HOD elected me as the President of United States Masters Swimming. It is my goal to continue to embrace this honor and lead the organization in its mission “to promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming.”

I have been fortunate to see first hand the results of many pinnacle events that were planned during the previous years. Spring Nationals was an excellent venue. For this success story, USMS accepted a bid from a national host with blue prints of the pool that did not yet exist. The Marriot Summer Nationals at the Olympic Trial venue is another example of a combined effort of staff and volunteers working together to put together a successful, once in a lifetime opportunity.

Major changes have taken place in USMS over the last four years. Four years ago USMS hired Rob Butcher as our Executive Director. Three years ago we established our national headquarters in Sarasota, FL. Two years ago we trusted the championship committee to accept the bids and make the decisions for hosting our national championships. One year ago I was elected President and the HOD passed the strategic plan.

As President, I have embraced the strategic plan and it has been my guide to lead USMS in that direction. The four main strategic areas are membership, brand and image, partnerships and volunteers.

Membership Strategy: Create and enhance membership value through expanded and improved USMS products, services and delivery infrastructure. We will continue to work to increase value to our members by supporting events such as the excellent venue at Omaha for those that attended and watched via live streaming. We will also work to retain these members by improving communication and education. Educating our members will be a priority through the sports medicine and science committee, fitness education committee, club and coach services. For coaches USMS is providing a coaches certification and in turn the coaches are providing a more valuable service to their swimmers. As coaches start hearing the same unified USMS message and our communication becomes more consistent, we will become stronger at all levels of the organization.

***Brand and Image Strategy:** Increase awareness of and strengthen the U.S. Masters Swimming brand and image in target markets. In the past USMS has focused on swimming with emphasis on competition. As fitness becomes mainstream USMS has an opportunity to add to it's image and become the premier organization to promote fitness through swimming serving everyone over eighteen years old. USMS is a “solution” for a healthier America.

***Partnership Strategy:** Engage and activate partnerships with organizations that align with the USMS Mission, vision and values, for the purpose of increasing benefits for members, enhancing and expanding the USMS brand, building USMS membership and improving access to swimming facilities. USMS is doing better with attracting new sponsors and events have done well recently with partnering with the local community and businesses. Swimming World and Swim Swam have given us more exposure by promoting USMS. We need to facilitate more partnerships and gain an understanding that USMS is in the business of aquatics. We also need to build our relationships internationally.

***Volunteer Strategy:** Enhance the volunteer experience and improve volunteer performance through role clarity, training, recognition and recruitment. The BOD established a volunteer's role task force to help explain every volunteer position in our organization. The task force established a template for every volunteer position. The template helped define the requirements and responsibilities and how that position relates to the organization's mission. USMS is providing more training opportunities for our volunteers through the national office, webinars, tutorials and the coach's certification. These opportunities ensure that USMS is providing a consistent message to our volunteers and members.

I am grateful for our dedicated volunteers. It is inspiring how much time the leaders of the organization devote to swimming and making our organization better. I want to personally thank each and every one of you from club

USMS Executive Committee Reports

volunteers, LMSC volunteers, committee volunteers and the BOD. What you do for our organization makes USMS successful, thank you.

I would also like to thank the staff of USMS. They work for USMS during the day; and they continue to work in a volunteer capacity when their workday is over.

We still have a lot of work to do. I will continue to keep the USMS mission at the forefront and continue to promote the USMS strategic plan. USMS will continue to grow and we, the members of the HOD, need to ensure that we meet the needs of our members. The decisions that we make at convention, will determine our future.

I would like to leave you with this...

Remember our decisions are based on what is good for the organization and let's put USMS First

United States Masters Swimming is FIRST!



Open Meeting:

Come meet with me

Thursday, September 13 at 11:45 am-1:00 pm

Vice President of Administration - Michael Heather

There is little new that I can report about the Administration Division that is not already covered in the respective committee reports. I participated in two task forces this year. One to create descriptions of the various volunteer functions throughout USMS and another to consider and propose new membership products to add value and help with growth and retention of our member base.

There is some information that I would like to share with everyone who takes the time to read the reports. I do not know who developed this, but doff my cap to them. It is a concise and thorough list of 15 things you can do to be happy in life. A noble pursuit, to be sure.

Here is a list of 15 things which, if you give up on them, will make your life a lot easier and much, much happier. We hold on to so many things that cause us a great deal of pain, stress and suffering – and instead of letting those all go, instead of allowing ourselves to be stress free and happy – we cling on to them. Not anymore. Starting today we will give up on all those things that no longer serve us, and we will embrace change. Ready? Here we go:

1. Give up your need to always be right

There are so many of us who can't stand the idea of being wrong – wanting to always be right – even at the risk of ending great relationships or causing a great deal of stress and pain, for us and for others. It's just not worth it. Whenever you feel the 'urgent' need to jump into a fight over who is right and who is wrong, ask yourself this question: "Would I rather be right, or would I rather be kind?" Wayne Dyer. What difference will that make? Is your ego really that big?

2. Give up your need for control

Be willing to give up your need to always control everything that happens to you and around you – situations, events, people, etc. Whether they are loved ones, coworkers, or just strangers you meet on the street – just allow them to be. Allow everything and everyone to be just as they are and you will see how much better will that make you feel.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

“By letting it go it all gets done. The world is won by those who let it go. But when you try and try. The world is beyond winning.” Lao Tzu

3. Give up on blame

Give up on your need to blame others for what you have or don't have, for what you feel or don't feel. Stop giving your powers away and start taking responsibility for your life.

4. Give up your self-defeating self-talk

Oh my. How many people are hurting themselves because of their negative, polluted and repetitive self-defeating mindset? Don't believe everything that your mind is telling you – especially if it's negative and self-defeating. You are better than that.

“The mind is a superb instrument if used rightly. Used wrongly, however, it becomes very destructive.” Eckhart Tolle

5. Give up your limiting beliefs about what you can or cannot do, about what is possible or impossible.

From now on, you are no longer going to allow your limiting beliefs to keep you stuck in the wrong place. Spread your wings and fly! “A belief is not an idea held by the mind, it is an idea that holds the mind” Elly Roselle

6. Give up complaining

Give up your constant need to complain about those many, many, many things – people, situations, events that make you unhappy, sad and depressed. Nobody can make you unhappy; no situation can make you sad or miserable unless you allow it to. It's not the situation that triggers those feelings in you, but how you choose to look at it. Never underestimate the power of positive thinking.

7. Give up the luxury of criticism

Give up your need to criticize things, events or people that are different than you. We are all different, yet we are all the same. We all want to be happy, we all want to love and be loved and we all want to be understood. We all want something, and something is wished by us all.

8. Give up your need to impress others

Stop trying so hard to be something that you're not just to make others like you. It doesn't work this way. The moment you stop trying so hard to be something that you're not, the moment you take off all your masks, the moment you accept and embrace the real you, you will find people will be drawn to you, effortlessly.

9. Give up your resistance to change

Change is good. Change will help you move from A to B. Change will help you make improvements in your life and also the lives of those around you. Follow your bliss, embrace change – don't resist it.

“Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls” Joseph Campbell

10. Give up labels

Stop labeling those things, people or events that you don't understand as being weird or different and try opening your mind, little by little. Minds only work when open. “The highest form of ignorance is when you reject something you don't know anything about.” Wayne Dyer

11. Give up on your fears

Fear is just an illusion, it doesn't exist – you created it. It's all in your mind. Correct the inside and the outside will fall into place.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” Franklin D. Roosevelt

12. Give up your excuses

Send them packing and tell them they’re fired. You no longer need them. A lot of times we limit ourselves because of the many excuses we use. Instead of growing and working on improving ourselves and our lives, we get stuck, lying to ourselves, using all kind of excuses – excuses that 99.9% of the time are not even real.

13. Give up the past

I know, I know. It’s hard. Especially when the past looks so much better than the present and the future looks so frightening, but you have to take into consideration the fact that the present moment is all you have and all you will ever have. The past you are now longing for – the past that you are now dreaming about – was ignored by you when it was present. Stop deluding yourself. Be present in everything you do and enjoy life. After all life is a journey not a destination. Have a clear vision for the future, prepare yourself, but always be present in the now.

14. Give up attachment

This is a concept that, for most of us is so hard to grasp and I have to tell you that it was for me too, (it still is) but it’s not something impossible. You get better and better at with time and practice. The moment you detach yourself from all things, (and that doesn’t mean you give up your love for them – because love and attachment have nothing to do with one another, attachment comes from a place of fear, while love... well, real love is pure, kind, and selfless, where there is love there can’t be fear, and because of that, attachment and love cannot coexist) you become so peaceful, so tolerant, so kind, and so serene. You will get to a place where you will be able to understand all things without even trying; a state beyond words.

15. Give up living your life to other people’s expectations

Way too many people are living a life that is not theirs to live. They live their lives according to what others think is best for them, they live their lives according to what their parents think is best for them, to what their friends, their enemies and their teachers, their government and the media think is best for them. They ignore their inner voice, that inner calling. They are so busy with pleasing everybody, with living up to other people’s expectations, that they lose control over their lives. They forget what makes them happy, what they want, what they need...and eventually they forget about themselves. You have one life – this one right now – you must live it, own it, and especially don’t let other people’s opinions distract you from your path.

Vice President of Local Operations – Ed Tsuzuki

2012 has been an incredible year of accomplishments in the Local Operations division. The dedication and commitment of our USMS volunteers as well as the contributions from a small but incredibly supportive staff continue to impress me. All of the committees were able to maintain their momentum from 2011 as our new President, Nadine Day, was focused on completing her appointments as soon after convention as possible. This allowed a smooth transition from year to year and has enabled the committees to maximize their productivity. All of the committees completed policy documents this year, which have been published on www.usms.org (in the “[USMS Policies](#)” section of the “Guide to Operations.”

The **Records and Tabulation Committee**, chaired by Chris Stevenson, has completed a major revision to their section of the “[Guide to Operations](#),” which will serve as a reference document that contains all the necessary rules, policies and duties of our Top Ten Recorders as well as the answers to “How do I?” questions as the Top Ten Recorder role and responsibilities have changed with the advent of End-to-end Event Management. The committee manages the widely accessed “Event Results Database” and Mary Beth Windrath and Walt Reid continue in their very important role of collecting, verifying and compiling all Top 10 submissions and record applications for all three courses. The **Recognition and Awards Committee**, chaired by Sally Dillon, continues to oversee all of the USMS service awards and has added clarification to the awards’ requirements and scope. They offer special congratulations to this year’s Ransom Arthur award winner, Doug Church from Indiana, and look forward to announcing the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Awards, USMS Club of the Year Awards, and June Krauser

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Communications Award at convention. The **History and Archives Committee**, chaired by Meegan Wilson, continues to document and preserve USMS history to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. Meegan and Barbara Dunbar co-authored an abstract which was accepted to cover “*Masters Swimming From the Beginning*” at the first International Aquatic History Symposium and Film Festival at the International Hall of Fame. The oral presentation was given by two of our founding members, Judge Robert Beach and John Spannuth on May 10, 2012. June Krauser, our “Mother of Masters Swimming” was also able to attend. The **LMSC Development Committee**, chaired by Paige Buehler, has been restructured with three sub-committees focused on the following topics:

- **Mentoring** – (led by Chris McGiffin) responsible for working with LMSCs, to help them meet LMSC Standards, determining criteria for convention grants, and communicating LMSC Standards survey results.
- **Education** – (led by Rob Copeland) responsible for identifying and/or creating, and managing LMSC volunteer workshops at the annual USAS convention and determining other methods for year-round education to assist LMSCs.
- **Survey** – (led by Rick Noeth) responsible for determining LMSCs’ performance against LMSC Standards efficiently and effectively and for administering and collating convention workshop evaluations.

The committee presented updates to the LMSC Standards document for Board approval. The changes came out of the previous survey cycle to make standards more measurable and clear, while other changes were the result of processes that had changed as well as specific committee requests. The [updated policy](#) is dated 3/27/12 and is available in the Guide to Operations on the USMS website.

One of the major accomplishments of 2012 has been the launch of the on-line event sanction and calendar request tool as part of the **End-to-End Event Management (E2EEM)** initiative. Since February, the enhanced calendar and on-line sanction form has processed almost 400 requests (of which about half are open water) from all but a few LMSCs. USMS now has the ability to track event activity from the sanction request through the tabulation of meet results – leading to much greater event coverage and membership inclusion in the event rankings data base.

I’d also like to thank our 8 **Zone Chairs** (Breadbasket – Stacy Broncucia, Colonies – Jeff Strahota, Dixie – Jerry Clark, Great Lakes – Daniel Cox, Northwest – Wes Edwards who has handed over the reins to Tim Waud, Oceana – Michael Moore, South Central – Tyler Blessing, Southwest – Mary Hull), for providing leadership, recognition and support at a more “local” level, despite the broad geographic areas included in their zone.

As you can see, it has been another exciting and productive year for the Operations Division and I’d like to thank all of our many tremendously committed volunteers who do so much to keep the USMS community so vibrant and “fit”!

Vice President of Programs – David Diehl

INTRODUCTION:

The mission of United States Masters Swimming is to promote health, fitness and wellness in adults by offering and supporting Masters swimming programs. The Vice President for Programs has Executive Committee liaison and oversight responsibility over the National Officials Committee, the National Long Distance Committee and the National Open Water Committee as an ex-officio member of each and shall provide coordination with the Board of Directors and the USMS National Office.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:

The Officials Committee mission is to create a safe, fair and consistent meet experience for all Masters Swimmers across the country and within each LMSC by developing a well trained, knowledgeable core of Masters Officials through recruiting and education. During the past year, the Officials Committee has worked on and completed the following projects:

- Established USMS Officials Committee Forum
- Developed and published the "Officials Committee Liaison to USMS Nationals - Roles and Responsibilities" document.
- Documented and published the "USMS Officials Committee National Championship Stipend Policy" and revised the Policy to address part- time Officials at USMS National Championships.

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- Ordered and distributed USMS Officials pins at both the USMS Spring and Summer Championships.
- Developed and distribute a "USMS/USA Rule Difference Quick Reference Card" for the Officials Briefing each morning at both the Spring and Summer Nationals.
- Updated the LMSC Officials Chair Inventory and posted on the USMS Officials Repository for access by meet directors seeking assistance staffing their local meets.
- Developed and published the "Application to Officiate" for the Spring and Summer National Championships.
- Worked closely with the Meet Referees for Greensboro and Omaha to establish requirements, track tasks to be completed against the liaison timeline
- Established domain name, built and published the USMS Officials Committee Repository to provide a centralized location for Officials to find documents to run Masters Meets

The Committee generally met on a bi-monthly basis to conduct its business through various sub groups.

OPEN WATER COMMITTEE:

The purpose of the Open Water committee is to "...promote the development of and participation in open water swimming..." The Open Water Committee continues to work very closely with, and in conjunction with, the Long Distance Committee to develop the growth of open water swimming through:

- nurturing the development and growth of USMS sanctioned events.
- ensuring the safety and proper management of open water events.
- developing education and training programs for open water event officials and swimmers.

The various activities of the Open Water Committee are as follows: Event Development, Safety, Webinars for Event Officials, Swimmer Clinics, Service Awards, Rules and Legislation

Other activities included: OW Manual Update, Event Results Database, Ranking System, Swimmer Challenge System: OEVT, E2EEM, Marketing & Promotion, Communications Plan, Inter-committee Collaboration.

The Committee met every six to eight weeks and established a number of sub-committees to complete their assigned work.

LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE:

The Long Distance Committee continued working closely with National Championship event hosts to ensure the success of the USMS Open Water and Postal National Championships. The Committee had significant cooperation, inputs, and proposed rule suggestions from the Open Water Committee in furtherance of USMS open water swimming growth and development. The following projects have been worked on during the past year:

- The open water and pool postal rules have been thoroughly reviewed.
- The USMS One Hour Postal National Championship had nearly 3,000 entries. .
- The USMS 5K/10K Postal Championships planning was completed
- The Committee is providing liaison support for all USMS Open Water National Championships
- With the Open Water Committee, all safety plans are critiqued and recommendations made.
- The Committee selected the 2013 national long distance and postal swims.

The Committee met every six to eight weeks and established a number of working groups to complete their assigned work.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Community Services – Jody Smith

My first year as VP of Community Services has been full of learning and getting up to speed. Thank you to those that have educated and mentored me and my sincere gratitude to the outstanding Chairs of the three Community Services Committees for continuing to move their areas forward in support of USMS and our members. All three committees have continued to work and provide support for ongoing projects and are proactive in generating new and interesting ideas for future programming. The Chairs of the three Committees have been working together to bring their different areas of expertise together for projects (events, articles, workouts, etc) that benefit our members. I look forward to the year ahead!

Highlights:

Coaches Committee:

Masters Coach Certification – Levels 2 & 3: The Coaches Committee has been working with Coach & Club Development to complete updates and curriculum for Levels 2 & 3. Level 3 will be offered for the first time at the 2012 Convention. The continued collaboration on this program is evident in the quality of the product that is being provided to those taking the course and the success of the program.

International Coaching: The coaches selected for the Masters World Championship's did a tremendous job and were an outstanding resource to the USMS athletes at the meet.

On-Deck coaching went well for Omaha and is being organized for Convention. The committee is working with Fitness to have a special Fitness Themed workout at Convention.

Fitness Committee:

Convention Items: The committee will be hosting a Brown Bag Lunch on Saturday of the Convention for interested LMSC Fitness Chairs and anyone that would like to join a discussion regarding ideas for Fitness Swimmers.

Working with Coaches Committee to host Fitness focused workout on Friday morning and are planning to provide a "Be Fit, Be Fabulous" flat water bottle to the workout participants.

The committee is instituting a new Fitness Activity aimed at giving swimmers activities to participate in during the year and at the same time draw more attention to the fitness pages on the USMS website. The committee will need to work with USMS Staff to determine the best way to launch this new idea.

Committee continues to communicate and reach out to LMSC Fitness Chairs.

Sports Medicine & Science Committee:

The committee has worked with Swimming Saves Lives to provide screening for skin cancer and spinal alignment at the national championship meets in Greensboro and Omaha.

The committee is working with Coaches Committee to develop educational materials on dry land training and nutrition.

The committee maintains the US Masters Swimming Health Network. Committee members serve as members of the network along with other interested medical and science professionals. Network members review articles with health, medical, or science related information before the articles appear in US Masters Swimming publications. Network professionals also respond to questions from US Masters Swimming members. There is interest in expanding this program.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer – Ralph Davis

United States Masters Swimming continues to be on very solid financial ground. As of July 31, 2012 we had in excess of \$2.5 million in cash and investments. Our 2012 investment returns are forecasted to be 4.5 % to 5.0 % for the year. The Investment Policy implemented in 2011 gives USMS the opportunity to generate a reasonable return for the organization over the long term.

The 2011 Financial Statements are complete and the certified audited financial report will be available on our website by the end of August. Our audit firm is Kerkering, Barberios & Co. of Sarasota, Florida. The USMS tax return for 2011 is completed and approved by the Board and will be filed with the IRS by August 15th.

Secretary – CJ Rushman

Most of what I did this year was much the same as previous predecessors did; ordinary secretary stuff. I have been posting the different committee's conference call minutes to the website as well as schedule their committee calls. I have written and distributed minutes for the Executive Committee, Board of Directors during the past year. I wrote, distributed and posted minutes from all Executive Committee, Board of Directors and other committee meetings held during the year, including the meetings in Peachtree City (Atlanta suburb) and Sarasota. As this 2012 convention has approached, I have been compiling the official list of delegates, and preparing other convention-related materials.

USMS National Office

In addition to this report, the executive director prepares and publishes a national office report preceding the winter and summer Board of Directors meetings. Those reports are available at usms.org.

Our headquarters has been open three years allowing us to continue developing into infrastructure, people, new programs and service provided. With a centralized headquarters, we have found efficiencies and new opportunities that otherwise would not be available.

As we look back on the past year, our many accomplishments have made—and will continue to make—a lasting, positive impact on how we serve.

Financials

- We continue operate with fiscal discipline and under a balanced budget policy.
- The House of Delegates approved the use of our reserve to host our Summer Nationals in the Trials venue. Due to better than projected participants, cost savings, and new sponsorship revenue, the 2012 budget will be net positive meaning no use of reserve for the 2012 budget year.
- Our audit identified the need for a disaster recovery plan. The plan was drafted by staff and adopted by the Audit Committee and Board of Directors. The plan is intended to provide safeguard measures to USMS and provide a road map should we experience a natural disaster, technology disaster or personnel disaster.

Club and Coach Services

- Bill Brenner was hired as Club and Coach Services Director to provide leadership for our Masters coach certification program and club outreach initiatives. Along with club development coordinators Mel Goldstein and Susan Ingraham, our CCS has the following responsibilities:
 1. Outreach to every USMS club and LMSC and, to the best of their ability, ensure on-time club renewal by October 31.
 2. Communicate with clubs, chapters and LMSCs, letting them know Club and Coach Services can help with maintaining and growing their USMS programs.
 3. Schedule, teach and operate our Masters coach certification program
- CCS has worked in partnership with the USMS Coaches Committee to develop Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Masters coach certification. By year's end, approximately 500 coaches will have completed the certification program.
- For 2013, we will schedule approximately 20 Masters coach certification-teaching weekends.

Membership Services

- We are experiencing an approximately 2% increase in membership from 2011.
- Our membership retention rate has increased from 59% in 2009 to 65% in 2012.
- The Board of Directors adopted the Membership Task Force report. The National office is charged with implementing the recommendations.
- Our membership team of Anna Lea Matysek and Tracy Grilli continue to provide tutorials, assistance, and training to many of our LMSC volunteers.
- Our sponsorship program, guided by Kyle Deery, continues to see growth headlined by new partner Marriott. Our partners are providing meaningful benefits to our events and supporting programs such as the Member Loyalty program, Nike Go The Distance, and the Speedo Postal Swims.
- Under Laura Hamel, *SWIMMER* magazine underwent a redesign.
- Our website, usms.org, is likewise in the redesign process.

Information Technology

- We engaged an IT consultant to conduct an independent review of our IT programs including infrastructure, software, security and vendor relationships. The National Office is implementing the recommendations from the report.
- Jeff Perout joined the staff as a full time programmer. Jeff, a long time USMS member, has 25-years experience in IT including programming and hardware.
- Enhancements continue to be made to our online event sanction program, Fitness Logs, and Go The Distance program.

USMS National Office

- Our IT team is leading the redesign of usms.org with an expectations of improved navigation, content management and look/feel of the website
- Once the redesign is complete, a USMS mobile app will be developed

Events

- USMS was responsible for the operation and financial management of the Marriott Summer Nationals. Tom Boak served as our Nationals Director and provided our leadership, along with Championships Committee liaison Sandi Rouseau. We met and exceeded our objectives in hosting the Nationals in the Trials venue were:
 - Raise the awareness for Masters swimming and the USMS brand
 - Enthuse our constituents (i.e. members and sponsor partners)
 - Perform better than the \$73,000 projected investment
- Through our partnership with the Championship Committee, the national office has provided enhanced support to our pool national championship meets. In addition to registration, the national office now provides more services to our championship hosts, including graphic design, promotion through e-communication, merchandise sales during registration, photography, development of the meet program and a daily highlight show.
- Planning is underway for USMS hosting of the 2013 Pan American Masters Championship. We are partnering with the Sarasota YMCA to host the meet. This will be the first time the USA has hosted this prestigious event providing an opportunity for USMS to build international goodwill.

Marketing and Promotion

- USMS-branded swim caps, brochures, bag tags and other items have continued to be very popular with USMS clubs and events.
- The USMS YouTube video channel has received more than 235,000 views.
- The USMS Facebook page has more than 20,000 fans.

On behalf of all our staff, respectfully submitted,



Rob Butcher
Executive Director

USMS Committee Reports & Agendas

Championship

Committee Members

Jeff Roddin, Chair; Sandi Rousseau, Vice Chair

Tyler Blessing, Mark Braun, Ken Brisbin, Debbie Cavanaugh, Kim Crouch, Barry Fasbender, Jack Groselle, Kris Houchens, Mark Moore, Michael Moore, Patty Nardozi, Ed Saltzman, Robin Segnitz, Erin Shields, Jeff Strahota, Lisa Watson.

Ex-Officio: Tom Boak, Jim Clemmons, Michael Heather, Jane Moore, Chris Stevenson.

Introduction

Our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered U.S. Masters Swimming members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and select the sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for U.S. Masters Swimming Corporate Partners.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

Permitted swimmers to enter both distance events at Spring Nationals (20% of swimmers entering either the 1000 or the 1650 entered both). Of note, 21% of swimmers in the meet entered an event on Thursday – the exact same percentage as Mesa. Therefore the option to enter both events did not necessarily attract more distance swimmers but presumably pleased returning swimmers who wanted to swim both.

1. Permitted swimmers to enter both distance events at Spring Nationals (20% of swimmers entering either the 1000 or the 1650 entered both). Of note, 21% of swimmers in the meet entered an event on Thursday – the exact same percentage as Mesa. Therefore the option to enter both events did not necessarily attract more distance swimmers but presumably pleased returning swimmers who wanted to swim both.

2. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2012 USMS clubs

3. Updated sample budget and developed a generic template for bidders

4. Updated Liaison Guidelines and Site Visit checklist

5. Updated Coaches hospitality policy to clarify On-deck coaches only receive complimentary hospitality on the day(s) they work

6. Changed policy to shift financial responsibility for vendor social event tickets from the host to USMS

7. Worked with Sports Medicine and Science committee to offer health screenings and informational materials at Nationals instead of lectures that were often poorly attended. The health screenings have been much more popular.

8. Procedure to allow swimmers to change their seed times after they've entered Nationals but prior to the entry deadline was tabled until at least next year. USMS will have to offer this feature for 2013 Pan Am's so we will observe its implementation to gather ideas.

9. Signed contracts with 2013 hosts and assigned liaisons (Debbie Cavanaugh and Kim Crouch for Spring Nationals and Barry Fasbender and Erin Shields for Summer Nationals)

10. Approved Order of Events for 2013 Summer Nationals (five day meet format warranted a special Order of Events)

11. Determined the Split Request procedure shall be determined on a case by case basis with Automatic Splits being an "opt in" vs the default option (the default option is for swimmers to fill out individual split request forms). However, the overwhelming majority of Nationals' hosts

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will likely use the Automatic Split option but this way the host is made aware of the specific requirements to offer this feature.

12.Submitted eight Rules proposals to Part I of the rulebook. Of note, we propose to eliminate the two-to-a-lane seeding option and to remove the requirement to publish the Nationals entry form in SWIMMER.

Action Items

- 1.Update Championship Committee Policy document
- 2.Update Meet Director's Guide for 2013 hosts
- 3.Evaluate Coaches hospitality policy
- 4.Evaluate Nationals refund policy
- 5.Calculate NQTs for 2013 Nationals
- 6.Submit nominations(s) for the RAM National Championship Award

Championship Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 – Thursday September 13th 2:30pm -3:45pm – Meadowbrook

1. Approve Minutes from last meeting
2. Review/discuss 2012 Nationals:
 - A. Greensboro (Spring)
 - B. Omaha (Summer)
3. Review/discuss status and planning and approve awards for 2013 Nationals:
 - A. Indy (Spring)
 - B. Mission Viejo (Summer)
4. Review/discuss proposed Legislation/Rules changes that affect Championship Committee (Articles 103/104)
5. NQT's

Meeting #2 – Saturday September 15th 8:45am -9:45am – Meadowbrook

1. 2014 Championship Bids
2. Nationals procedures/activities:
 - A. Lane Marshals
 - B. Coaches hospitality
 - C. Officials (coverage, contractual obligations to Host, reimbursement policy)
 - D. Nationals Refund Policy
 - E. Nationals Point of Contact: meet director vs USMS
 - F. Check-in Deadlines (relays, deck seeded events)
 - G. Other (service dogs, clear deck)
3. Goals/Tasks for 2013

Coaches

Committee Members

Scott Bay, Chair; Stu Kahn, Vice Chair
Chris Campbell, Michael Collins, Erik Cozadd, Kristin Gary, Doug Hayden, Emmett Hines, Jacki Hirsty, Heather Howland, Tom Mester, Mark Moore, Ahelee Sue Osborn, Stan Steck, Dennis Tesch, Charlie Tupitza
Ex-Officio: Jody Smith, VP Community Services

Introduction

The coaches committee has developed a number of subcommittees and task forces to both identify and carry out the priorities of the Coaches committee. The following briefs are a synopsis of what has been accomplished so far as well as some priorities for the future.

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Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

USMS CERTIFICATION CLINICS SUBCOMMITTEE- Led by **Stu Khan, Emmett Hines** and **Scott Bay** has worked collaboratively with Club and Coach Services to revise and improve the USMS levels 1 and 2 curriculum. In addition to this project, we have worked together to develop the Level 3 curriculum and Level 4 and 5 requirements all of which will be rolled out at convention. We will have delivered the curriculum 12 times from in locations from California to New England by the start of Convention. In addition, there will be at least 3 more certifications opportunities to close out 2012 with several others pending as well as a reservations being made for 2013. In each presentation, the reviews have been overwhelmingly positive and the program have generated revenue rather than being an expense. In 2012 , 246 coaches have been through the curriculum as of June 2, 2012.

ONLINE COACHING SUBCOMMITTEE- Led by **Stu Kahn**, this committee has selected 7 online coaches to provide workouts via the USMS forum to members. We believe that this will serve a large portion of the USMS population and drive more self coached and multisport athletes to the website and ultimately towards a lasting membership with USMS. All of the coaches selected for this task have been both timely and responsive in this effort. We will be inviting back the coach with the most hits as well as inviting the others to apply again to be renewed. We will also be aggressively soliciting applications for 2013 Online Coaching.

INTERNATIONAL COACHING TASK FORCE- Led by **Heather Howland**, has chosen **Frank Marchinkowski** to be the Head Coach for our efforts in 2012 FINA Worlds Masters Championships in Riccione . Assistant Coaches were chosen by the Task Force Additionally the liaison for this event Kristin Gary has been on the Ground in Riccione already and done a survey of logistical concerns that our swimmers would like to have information about. She is currently preparing her report and will be available prior to convention.

THE LMSC COACHES CHAIR SUBCOMMITTEE- Led by **Ahelee Sue Osborne** assisted by **Chris Campbell** has had a dual function. First of all dissemination of information to Coaches Chairs in their LMSCs and also Identifying and supporting those chairs with information and educational opportunities. Through these efforts we have been able to identify and communicate with all but 6 LMSC Coaches Chairs. The reason for this is that they have either not responded or do not have an identified Coaches Chair. In the latter part of the year this subcommittee has been making a very proactive effort to have a member of the subcommittee personally reach out to each coaches chair to offer assistance, answer questions and take suggestions. This is an ongoing process and one we hope to continue on a regular basis.

USMS NATIONAL EVENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON-DECK COACHING PROGRAM- Led By **Charlie Tupitza** (on leave) assisted by **Chris Campbell** and **Stu Kahn**, had a successful response in Omaha at Summer Nationals after experiencing some difficulties in Greensboro. This Program is successful and popular with the membership especially those swimmers who are at Nationals without the benefit of their club coach or are self coached. This provides a valuable resource for a large segment of the USMS population that competes and support for those without a coach attending our premier events.

PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Led by **Michael Collins** with assistance from **Cokie Lepinski**, has established a working calendar and is ensuring that appropriate content is posted in a timely manner for use in Streamlines and Swimmer Magazine. This group has also been very active in soliciting material from a wide variety of coaches in order to address the needs of all swimmers in USMS. They are also considering possible incentives for those who contribute material.

AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE- Led by **Heather Howland** The Kerry Obrien award has 12 applicants this year and the subcommittee is working on developing a protocol for determining recipients. COTY nominations have also been received and are being reviewed at this time.

HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP- Led by **Stu Kahn** selected coaches Stu Kahn, Frank Marchinkowski, Cokie Lepinski, and Chad Derieaux. They had received and number of applications and as of this writing were finalizing the selections. This is a program we plan to continue for 2013 and want to have the details for 2013 finalized by the end of October 2012 as well as promote it more aggressively through a variety of channels.

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Action Items

1. Select a committee to review applications and portfolios for those coaches pursuing level 4 and level 5 certifications. (By end of Convention)
2. Establish a calendar for submission dates for above items. (By end of Convention)
3. Create a scoring matrix for portfolios and applications for advanced certification levels. (By Dec. 1 2012)

Coaches Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 14th 1:30pm – 2:45pm – Biltmore

1. Chair Welcome- Scott scottbay@usms.org
2. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports
 - a. Certification- Stu/Scott kahnswim@gmail.com, scottbay@usms.org,
 - b. Fitness- Dennis Tesch d.tesch@comcast.net
 - c. International Coaching- Heather heatheraleethea@yahoo.com
 1. Proposed Legislation for 2013 Convention- Team USA
 - d. Awards- Heather
 - e. Publications- Mike C mike@novamasters.com
 - f. Communications- Ahelee aheleesue@gmail.com
 - g. High Performance- Stu
 - h. Web Workouts- Stu
 1. 2013 Coaching Subgroups
 - i. ON Deck/Convention
3. Old Business-
4. New Business-

Fitness

Committee Members:

Marcia Anziano, Chair; Linda Shoenberger, Vice Chair

Mary Jane Caswell, Randy Crutchfield, Pam Dameron, Suzi Green, Ali Hall, Michael McDonnell, Kay Miller, Jon Olsen, Leslie Scott, Dennis Tesch, Greta VanMeeteren, Tricia Wallace, Lisa Ward, Kenneth Winterberger, Jane Moore (liaison to Sports Medicine), Jody Smith (V.P.)

Introduction:

The committee has continued to attempt to introduce a new Fitness Activity designed to draw in more Fitness Swimmers. Details on this will follow. We continue to support Go The Distance, provide monthly articles for the web site, and keep up communication with the LMSCs through our monthly newsletter to the local Fitness Chairs, or LMSC Chairs in the situations where there is not a Fitness Chair. In addition, we decided to make ourselves more prominent at convention this year by sponsoring one of the swim workouts, hosting a brown bag lunch, and sporting our new shirts.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Check off Challenge: Hammerhead Aquatics Swim Team is the host for the 2011 Check Off Challenge. Jon Olsen, the liaison for COC has been supporting them during the year. This has gone well, and Jon has done a great job. We hope to have some final numbers to present at the convention.

Go the Distance: Go the Distance, now 100% driven by the Fitness Logs (FLOGS) and supported by Nike, continues to grow. The major support for this event has moved to the National Office. At this point in time, 6812 swimmers are using the FLOGS to track their workouts, and of these 3132 are participating in Go the Distance. This continues to be a great retention tool for our membership. Mary Jane Caswell continues to be the voice of the email issues, communicating with the National Office (Kyle Deery) and the participants in GTD. We hope to transfer this function at some point, as the majority of questions that come in on this email address are in regard to issues with the awards.

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Fitness Chair Newsletter: Ali Hall continues as our Fitness Chair Coordinator. In this position, Ali writes periodic emails to all LMSC Fitness Chairs. She focuses on fitness activities that are supported at the LMSC level in an attempt to get more attention to the Fitness swimmer at the local level. She solicits ideas for new programs and shares the ideas submitted by the various LMSCs. We hope next year to be able to use some of this information in Streamlines for Coaches as coaches are our link to Fitness Swimmers.

Web Articles: Linda Shoenberger continues to coordinate the articles for the web site.

More Presence at Convention: The committee decided that we needed to make more of a presence at the convention due to the fact that the majority of swimmers in USMS swim for Fitness. We have worked with the Coaches Committee to present a Fitness oriented workout, one that does not stress race pace training, but focuses more on things such as heart rate and exertion. At that workout, special handouts to the participants will be provided. The committee also will be wearing their new shirts stating "Be Fit, Be Fabulous". That is our theme for this year.

Brown Bag Lunch: We wanted to somehow get an informal discussion of ideas for Fitness activities and share this information among Fitness Chairs that are present or any delegates in general. We decided to do this with a brown bag lunch on Saturday. This will be hosted by the Fitness Education Committee, and anyone is welcome. Just bring your lunch and plan to hear about or share ideas for fun Fitness activities. Location will be announced at convention.

New Fitness Activity: We were unsuccessful at launching a new Fitness Activity this past year. We finalized all the details but were unable to get support for this project. We hope to move forward in 2013 with at least a portion of the planned activity and will discuss this further at convention.

Fitness Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 2:30pm – 3:45pm – Tidewater

1. Introductions
2. Check Off Challenge – review all bids, choose a sponsor
3. GTD – review the issues that occurred during 2012.
4. GTD – establish responsibilities for 2013.
5. Articles for Web – establish responsibilities for 2013
6. Workout at Convention
7. Brown Bag Lunch at Convention
8. New Fitness activity for 2013 – status

History and Archives Committee

Committee Members

Meegan Wilson, Chair; Barbara Dunbar, Vice Chair

John Bauman, Peggy Buchannan, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Huting, Susan Nolte, Jennie Quill, and Jim Shaw

Executive Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki (Vice President Local Operations)

Ex-Officio: none

Introduction

The main goal of the USMS History and Archives Committee is to service our members by documenting and preserving USMS history. Various aspects of our ongoing work are stated in the USMS Rule Book, article **507.1.4** -- *The History and Archives Committee shall record, collect and preserve documents, stories, photos, exhibits, oral histories and other memorabilia in an appropriate repository and in durable formats to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The archived information shall be made available.* The History and Archives Committee has been working very hard this year to accomplish these goals, which includes locating missing historical items such as Championship results, USMS IDs and birth dates. USMS

USMS Committee Reports & Agendas

historical data are stored at the International Swimming Hall Of Fame (ISHOF) Henning Library in Ft Lauderdale and on the USMS website.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The History and Archives Policy document was completed and is posted on the website.
http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/h&a_policy.pdf
2. Barbara Dunbar and Meegan Wilson wrote an abstract, *Masters Swimming From the Beginning*, and submitted it to the first International Aquatic History Symposium and Film Festival for consideration. It was accepted and H&A was asked to participate in the Symposium with an Oral Presentation. Two of our founding members, Judge Robert Beach and John Spanuth, gave the “*History of U.S. Masters Swimming*” power point presentation on May 10, 2012. June Krauser, our “Mother of Masters Swimming” was able to attend. Special thanks to Ed Tsuzuki, VPLO, for his help with the presentation. Following the Symposium, Barbara and Meegan have updated the “power point document” with additional names and added a correction note.
3. John Bauman is updating Ester Lyman's data through 2012 and continuing to digitize 1986 and 1987 registration files.
4. John and Barbara continue to locate, correct, and incorporate changes into the Top Ten and National Registration databases such as name duplications, name changes, errata data, and other registration errors. Previously published errata corrections in the Top Tens prior to 1993 continue to be located for incorporation into the Top Ten online database.
5. Barbara has requested the addition of Legacy IDs to the Club Assistant database. Anna Lea Matysek, USMS Membership Director, has linked duplicate IDs to old legacy IDs on the USMS website. Chris Stevenson, Chair of the Records and Tabulation Committee, has been correcting errors in the Top Ten database as they are verified by H&A. Jim Matysek, USMS Webmaster/IT Director, has been searching and eliminating recurring errors in permanent IDs.
6. Barbara and Cheryl Gettelfinger continue the search for Long Distance and Open Water National Championship results (1986 have been located) for posting onto the USMS web site and for clearer copies of pool National Championship results previously posted. We continue to scan the One Hour Postal swims for online posting.
7. Barbara and Meegan continue to add new stories, proof and correct stories added to the H&A stories page from outside sources, and to update existing stories posted on the H&A stories page of the USMS website. Cheryl Gettelfinger and Trisha Commons are currently working on writing new stories.
8. Susan Nolte is checking stories for any new link problems, and determining what USMS SWIMMER magazine links are missing in stories where applicable. USMS SWIMMER stories of individual USMS members can now be linked directly to the swimmer's page 12 months after the story has been published, as per 2011 convention minutes.
9. Meegan has searched convention documents, digitized by Meg Smath, and submitted historical rules changes to Kathy Casey, Rules Chair, as requested.
10. Meegan has scanned six more USMS scrapbooks and re-archived them at the ISHOF Henning library along with other items.
11. Meegan is searching for and compiling a history of convention delegates.
12. Chair Meegan Wilson and Vice Chair Barbara Dunbar communicate regularly to deal with miscellaneous History and Archives business.

Action Items

1. None at this time.

History and Archives Committee Agenda Thursday, September 13th 4:00pm – 5:15pm – Links

1. Call History & Archive Meeting to Order, Sept. 15, 2011, Thursday, 4-5:15 pm
2. Roll Call - Meegan Wilson (C), Barbara Dunbar (VC), John Bauman, Peggy Buchannan, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Huting, Susan Nolte, Jennie (Catherine) Quill, Jim Shaw and Executive Liaison Ed Tsuzuki (VPLO)
3. Introduce and welcome new delegates.
4. Discuss the status of current projects.
5. Discuss other web projects, timelines, and priorities.
6. Adjourn

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Legislation

Committee Members

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair; Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Vice Chair

Joan Alexander, Marcia Anziano, Daniel Cox, Barbara Delanois, Peter Guadagni, Mary Hull, Cathy Kohn, Arni Litt, Jane Masters, Jim Shaw, Meg Smath, Skip Thompson, Meegan Wilson

Appointed: Rob Copeland, Erin Sullivan

Ex-Officio: Kathrine Casey, Susan Ehringer, Michael Heather, Patty Miller

Introduction

2012 is an “off-year” for Legislation Amendments. There are 4 legislation emergency amendment proposals which can be found in another section of this handbook and on the USMS website. We anticipate a few emergency amendments to be proposed by standing committees at the Convention.

The primary focus of the Legislation committee is to review and recommend proposed amendments for the “dry rules” of USMS. We are also responsible for ensuring that our members understand our code. Understanding the legislation ensures that the business conducted is compliant with USMS regulations and bylaws.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Review the Legislation Committee Operating Policies and Procedures
2. Discuss the 4 proposals received by the committee.

Action Items

1. The nature of the Legislation Committee does not lend itself to “Actionable” items outside of the convention.
2. Emergency amendments will be handled at the 2012 Convention while other items will wait for the 2013 Convention.

Legislation Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 Thursday, September 13th 4:00pm – 5:15pm – Meadowbrook

Meeting #2 Friday, September 14th 12:00pm – 1:15pm - Meadowbrook

1. Discuss the 4 Legislation Proposals
2. Discuss any proposals brought forth at Convention
3. Update the Legislation Committee Operating Policies and Procedures

LMSC Development Committee

Committee Members

Paige Buehler, Chair; Rob Copeland, Vice Chair

Stacy Broncucia, Jeff Strahota, Jerry Clark, Daniel Cox, Wes Edwards, Michael Moore, Tyler Blessing, Mary Hull, Lianne Crittenden, Doug Garcia, Syd Latina, Chris McGiffin, Lynn Morrison, Rick Noeth, Barbara Protzman, Rich Seibert, Erin Sullivan, Hans VanMeeteren

Ex-Officio: Ed Tsuzuki

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee is chartered to provide educational opportunities and mentoring for LMSCs to strengthen their governance and operations. It also must review and identify LMSCs that are not meeting LMSC standards as defined by the Board of Directors and assist them in achieving compliance. Lastly, it has jurisdiction over changes to LMSC/Zone boundaries (Appendix D).

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Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. **Committee Structure:** Following 2011 convention President Nadine Day added Zone Chairs to the committee membership increasing it to 21 people. This allowed us to restructure the committee to focus on three areas with sub-committees to manage and deliver projects.
 - Mentoring – responsible for working with LMSCs, especially those struggling to meet LMSC Standards, determining criteria for convention grants, and communicating LMSC Standards survey results.
 - Education – responsible for identifying and/or creating, and managing LMSC volunteer workshops at the annual meeting/convention and determining other methods for year-round education to assist LMSCs.
 - Survey – responsible for determining LMSCs' performance against LMSC Standards efficiently and effectively and for administering and collating convention workshop evaluations.
2. **LMSC Standards:** The committee put significant work into proposing LMSC Standards policy revisions and updates to the Board of Directors. Some of the changes came out of the previous survey cycle to make standards more measurable and clear. Some were the result of processes that had changed, such as the LMSC treasurers now having access to the registration system of record (Club Assistant) to run reports. And some were requested by other committees: Records and Tabulation added standards that tied into the new sanctioning and meet database processes, and Governance asked to add and modify standards in the Bylaws section. The updated policy was published to the LMSCs in early February. There was some feedback especially regarding the addition of vice-chair to the list of required positions and regarding references to rules where re-numbering had occurred in the section covering remediation (the former was retained and the latter was fixed). The current version of the LMSC Standards policy is dated 3/27/12 and is available in the Guide to Operations on the USMS website, specifically at http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/gto_lmsc_standards.pdf.
3. **Committee Policies:** The next project was to develop committee policies mostly concerning the standards surveying process and submissions to make changes to LMSC/Zone boundaries. There was a lot of discussion in how to disseminate the results of the LMSC standards evaluations with a lot of thought going into how to have results be timely and transparent while not impugning the efforts of the volunteer leaders or putting the LMSC Development Committee in a police force role.
4. The committee has benefitted greatly under the leadership and expertise of Rick Noeth in streamlining the Standards survey process. As a result, surveys were much shorter and less ambiguous. They were also only sent to the LMSC chairs who served as the collection point for all the LMSC data. Information that could be obtained from other sources, primarily the National Office and the Top Ten coordinator, was collected. Lots of review from survey sub-committee members and sub-committee chairs made for a very solid survey and process; however, the cycle is a little later than in 2011.
5. Chris McGiffin continued to guide the Mentoring subcommittee, comprised largely of the Zone Chairs, in wrapping up outreach with the LMSCs that scored lowest on the 2011 Standards surveys to ensure that 1) their scores were accurate and, 2) they had plans to correct the most critical gaps. Recently the subcommittee has been working on determining criteria to help Vice President-Local Operations Ed Tsuzuki award convention grants to small LMSCs. Prior to convention, the Zone Chairs will be communicating LMSC standards results to the LMSCs.
6. The Education subcommittee is in its crunch period putting together convention workshops with Rob Copeland at the helm. The subcommittee has also been discussing how to broaden its reach to LMSC volunteers who don't attend convention.

Action Items

1. Approved meeting minutes from 11/13/11, 1/8/12, 3/11/12, 5/20/12, 6/26/12.
2. Adopted committee policies.
3. Updates proposed to USMS Board of Directors' LMSC standards policy.
4. Proposed housekeeping changes to rules 502.10 and 507.1.6 to remove the word "minimum" when referring to LMSC standards.

LMSC Development Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 Thursday, September 13th 2:30pm – 3:45pm – Pebble Beach

Meeting #2 Saturday September 15th 7:45am – 8:45am – Pebble Beach

1. Introductions
2. Survey subcommittee report

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3. LMSC Standards surveys – post mortem
4. Convention workshop evaluations
5. Education subcommittee report - Convention workshops
6. Mentoring subcommittee report - LMSC standards results communication
7. 2012 goals/objectives review & scoring
8. 2013 goals/objectives setting
9. Best Practices project – topics, timelines & owners

Long Distance

Committee Members:

Donn Livoni, Chair; John Traynor, Vice Chair

Bob Bruce, Heather Hagadorn, Ali Hall, Bruce Hopson, Susan Kirk, Karen Reeder, Phyllis Quinn, Tom Spence, Dick Sidner, Ann Svenson, Greta Van Meeteren, Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner, Ex O: Susan Ehringer, Ex O: Lynn Hazlewood, EC: David Diehl

Introduction: In 2012, the Long Distance Committee continued working closely with National Championship event hosts, ensuring the success of six Open Water and five Postal USMS National Championships. In addition, the LDC supports and enforces Part 3 of the USMS Rule Book, keeps the manuals and guidelines as up-to-date as possible, continues to recognize All Americans and All Stars, and develops new programs to help ensure the success of our events.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. **Rules & Legislation** – In 2012, many changes have been proposed and are under consideration by the LDC. The LDC has undertaken an exhaustive process to make the open water and pool postal rules friendly and inviting to participants while at the same time up holding the clarity, integrity and spirit of clearly written rules. The LDC had significant cooperation, inputs, and proposed rule suggestions from the Open Water Committee in furtherance of USMS open water swimming growth and development.
2. **Postal National Championships**
 - The *One Hour Postal (OHP) USMS National Championship* had nearly 3,000 (2306 online and 362 paper) entries. The number of online entries was the largest ever. The host, Blue Wave Aquatics, did an outstanding job. Results and awards were calculated quickly and accurately using Club Assistant's software.
 - The *USMS 5K/10K Postal Championships* are currently underway at the time of this report, and the *3000/6000 Yard Postal Championship* forms and online entries were ready to go three months in advance of the Sept 15th start date.
 - Club Assistant's online entry and reporting processes have really helped the hosts and the Long Distance Committee to quickly and accurately facilitate the event entries, verifications, financials, and results.
 - Our liaisons provide pre-event support and post-event consultation to the event hosts and directors. They help the hosts manage the timelines, edit their entry forms, get up and running on the online entry system, create results, etc.
 - Future: We have standardized all entry forms (both paper and online) and will continue to improve the forms. The postal swims continue to grow in popularity.
3. **Open Water National Championships** –
 - The LDC is coordinating more than ever with all six event hosts to ensure adequate event pre-planning and operational readiness, post-event results reporting, and championship awards distribution. Likewise, the LDC coordinates with the USMS National Office staff for the supply of banners, USMS goodies and USMS Sponsor donations.
 - Our liaisons provide pre-event support and post-event consultation to the event hosts and directors. They help the hosts manage the timelines, edit their entry forms, get up and running on the online entry system, create results, etc. The idea is to bring USMS closer to the event hosts without getting in their way, and to begin to create a consistent look and feel of USMS- sanctioned championship hosted events (recognizing, of course, that each open water venue is very unique and will continue to be that way).

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- All six open water national championships used online entries. Our committee has noticed that results are far more accurate than ever before, and are rarely, if ever, corrected by the swimmers!
- Future: We plan to improve the LDC event liaisons involvement and consultation with event hosts. USMS Sponsors have contributed significantly to the loot that swimmers love to go home with and the LDC desires to grow the sponsors' exposure. 2013 will see six National Championships that are spread-out across the country to provide easier access to USMS members. Safety continues to be a high priority with the LDC and OWC. In all OW NC events, safety plans are critiqued and recommendations made to keep all volunteers, spectators and participants safe and preclude unnecessary risks. The LDC is encouraging all OW events to include cumulative relays (compiled by adding swim times after the event), hoping that this will help grow numbers and increase revenue. Swimmers on winning relays make LD Relay All-American. An informal working group is communicating with the Huntington Mile in Indiana to encourage them to offer a Masters 2-mile cable swim, thereby adding a mid-country cable site. The LDC would like to increase the number of such courses in the country to make such races more available to all swimmers. Cable swims are an excellent introduction to open water swimming for novices.

Action items:

1. Prepare 2014 bid winner summary for announcement at Convention
2. Continue to liaison with the on-going OW and Postal national championships.
3. Track, prepare and submit the 2012 All Americans, All Stars, Postal Series and national records to the website.
4. Evaluate and update host packets and standardized forms.
5. Prepare contracts for, and assign liaisons to the 2013 OW and Postal National Championship events.

Long Distance Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 Thursday, September 13th 2:30pm - 3:45pm – Victoria A

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
3. Announcement of 2014 National Championship hosts
4. Assignment of liaisons for 2013 events (training session TBA)
5. Rules/Legislation Proposals
6. Reports:
 - All-Star Awards & National Office (sponsorship?)
7. Recess

Long Distance Rules Open Forum Thursday, September 13th 5:30pm – 6:30pm –
Guilford G

1. Long Distance Rules Proposals Discussion

Meeting #2 Friday, September 14th 1:30pm – 2:45pm – Pebble Beach

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
3. Finish up any business held over from the first meeting
 - Continued discussion of Rules Items for Submission to HOD
4. New business: Other items
5. Motion to adjourn
6. Adjournment

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Officials

Committee Members:

Edward Saltzman, Chair; Pat Baker, Vice Chair
Charles Cockrell, Ex-Chair; Marilyn Fink, Secretary; Nan Destafney, Steve Goldman, Caroline Lambert,
Fred Pigott, Judy Gillies, Leon Kief, John King, Steve White, Mary Pohlmann, Erin Shield
Ex-Officio: Kathy Casey, Sandi Rousseau, David Diehl, Clark Hammond

Introduction:

The Officials Committee mission is to create a Safe, Fair and Consistent "Masters Meet Experience" for all Masters Swimmers across the country and within each LMSC; by developing a well trained, knowledgeable core of Masters Officials; through Recruiting and Education. The committee has initiated projects to provide these officials with the tools and communications they need to perform their functions while maintaining the highest standards expected by our membership. The committee has also been working hard to strengthen our support for the USMS National Championship meets.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention:

1. Established USMS Officials Committee Forum; registered all committee members and made it our main communications channel. Expanded the Forum to include LMSC Officials Chairs so that they may participate in the discussions and contribute ideas.
2. Developed and published the "Officials Committee Liaison to USMS Nationals - Roles and Responsibilities" document. Document defines purpose, involvement at Nationals, expectations, process description and timeline. A formal Liaison Report form was developed and included to capture best practices in a standardized format that can be passed onto future National Meet Referees for reference.
3. All previous Liaison reports were captured and posted on the Officials Repository for easy access.
4. Documented and published the "USMS Officials Committee National Championship Stipend Policy" which was implemented at the 2012 USMS Spring Nationals in Greensboro. This document defines the purpose of the stipend; How to use it; Roles and Responsibilities; and includes a sample USMS Voucher form. This guideline was used to produce a complete accounting of Officials expenses and reimbursements at the USMS Spring Nationals that was sent to the host and to the USMS Controller.
5. Revised the Stipend Policy to address part time Officials at USMS National Championships.
6. Ordered and distributed USMS Officials pins at both the USMS Spring and Summer Championships.
7. Developed and distributed a "USMS/USA Rule Difference Quick Reference Card" that was manufactured and distributed as part of the Officials Briefing each morning at both the Spring and Summer Nationals. The card was designed to be worn behind the Officials credentials for easy access.
8. Updated the LMSC Officials Chair Inventory and posted on the USMS Officials Repository for access by meet directors seeking assistance staffing their local meets.
9. Developed and published the "Application to Officiate" for the Spring (Greensboro) and Summer (Omaha) National Championships. These applications were posted on the USMS website and distributed to every USA LSC Officials Chair, USMS LMSC Officials Chair, and emailed to Officials who had previously worked a USMS National Championship during the past three years.
10. Worked closely with the Meet Referees for Greensboro and Omaha to establish requirements, track tasks to be completed against the liaison timeline (i.e. - USMS Sanction, USA Observation, OQM Application), provide information, and assist with recruiting.
11. Established domain name, built and published the USMS Officials Committee Repository to provide a centralized location for Officials to find documents to run Masters Meets; Latest rule interpretations;

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Briefing documents; etc. The repository will also serve as a launch platform for the Officials Committee Recruiting, Training and Education efforts.

Action Items:

1. Assignment of OC Liaisons for the 2013 USMS Spring and Summer Nationals.
2. Finalize Training and Testing documents for the USMS Officials Certification Process.
3. Assign Training Coordinator and develop backend support structure and tracking mechanisms.
4. Work with the USMS Championship Committee to revisit financial support requirements for Officials at National Championships.

Officials Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 11:45am - 1:00pm – Tidewater

1. Approve minutes from last meeting
2. Approve 2013 Budget Request
3. Discuss Liaison assignments for the 2013 Nationals Championships
 - A. Indianapolis - May 9-12, 2013
 - B. Mission Viejo - August 7-11, 2013
4. Discuss open issues about Officials Committee Support for National Championships
 - A. Goldman proposal - assignment and financial support recommendations
5. Discuss Training program status
 - A. Assign Training Coordinator
 - B. Assign Training sub-committee to develop backend systems
 - C. Discuss launch
 - D. Discuss request from Open Water to collaborate on development of O/W Officials education/training/certification program
6. New Business

Open Water

Committee Members

Lynn Hazlewood, Chair; Frank Marcinkowski, Vice Chair

Lisa Bennett, Bob Bruce, Chuck Burr, Glenda Carroll, Malcolm Cooper, Viki Hill, Laurie Hug, Chris Lundie, Sue Nutty, John Traynor, Jim Wheeler

Ex-Officio: Dave Diehl (EC Liaison), Donn Livoni (LD Chair)

Introduction

Mission

To "...promote the development of and participation in open water swimming..." (*Article 507.1.9, 2012 USMS Rule Book, page 93*)

Objectives

1. To nurture the development and growth of USMS sanctioned events.
2. To ensure the safety and proper management of open water events.
3. To develop education and training programs for open water event officials and swimmers.
4. To create member benefits for open water swimmers and incentives for administrators.

Projects

The projects presented in the following section are intended to create an integrated whole that will support USMS open water development. Many of these projects impact more than one Objective. Therefore, any decisions on individual projects (i.e. to move forward or abandon, change or leave the same, raise or lower priority, invest or withhold resources, etc.) should consider how the decision may impact the individual project, related projects and the Objectives they support.

The following chart shows the projected associations between Projects and Objectives.

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Chart of Associations Between Projects and Objectives

	Event Development	Event Safety	Education & Training	Benefits & Incentives
Event Support	X	X	X	
Safety Program	X	X	X	
Webinars for Event Officials	X	X	X	
Zone Championships/Series	X			X
Swimmer Clinics	X	X	X	X
Other Sanction Types	X			X
OW Service Award				X
Event Results Database	X			X
Swimmer Ranking System	X			X
Swimmer Challenge System	X			X
OW Manual Update	X	X	X	
Rules and Legislation	X	X		X
One-Event Registration	X			X
Marketing and Promotion	X	X	X	X
Communications Plan	X	X	X	X
Inter-committee Collaboration	X	X	X	X

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

The following projects will be the subject of discussion at convention meetings—roughly in the order presented here. Support documents for some of the projects will be posted as attachments on the convention web site prior to convention.

1. **Event Support:** Provide a contact point for Event Directors and LMSC sanction officials on any aspect of USMS-sanctioned open water event organization, sanctions, operations and safety risk management. *Status: Ongoing (assistance can be reached at owsupport@usms.org).*
2. **Safety Program:** Create a Nationwide Safety Program that will ensure that USMS sanctioned events are run in a safe manner and safety guidelines are consistent with industry standards. *Status: The idea has been discussed with the Board of Directors and a concept document is in development for presentation at the 2012 annual meeting.*
3. **Webinars for Event Officials:** Develop/coordinate event management webinars for event officials. Initial offering will be how to plan and run an open water event. *Status: Currently preparing a draft bullet outline of webinar topics.*
4. **OW Zone Championships/Series:** Promote the formation of annually designated USMS Open Water Zone Championship events and/or Event Series for each of the eight USMS Zones. *Status: Draft proposal is in development for distribution to Zones for convention discussion.*
5. **Swimmer Clinics:** Promote the creation of open water swimmer clinics aimed at teaching participants to swim safely and successfully in open water. *Status: A clinic manual is being developed that contains a section on how to put on an open water clinic and a section that includes an update of the 2001 Open Water Clinic Manual. A pilot project was initiated in 2012 that offers \$500 grants for clinics attached to National OW Championship events. The pilot program will be expanded to include Zone Championships in 2013.*
6. **Other Sanction Types:** Create definitions of other types of sanctions that will enable USMS to implement Article 203.1.1C. *Status: Development of definitions for two types of sanctions is in process. Type I is an Approved Sanctioned Event which will be open to events with independent insurance coverage. Type II will define dual sanctions with other governing bodies. The BOD suggested that the committee test the Type I Sanction with a single event to demonstrate viability before releasing the guidelines for others to use.*
7. **OW Service Award:** Create an Open Water Service Award to be presented for the first time during the 2013 annual meeting. *Status: Scheduled for after the 2012 annual meeting.*

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8. **Event Results Database (ERDB):** Create a specification for the data required for an open water ERDB and develop a data upload process. *Status: The specification will be ready by the end of August. Data upload will depend on discussions with the IT staff.*
9. **OW Swimmer Ranking System:** Create a National Open Water Swimmer Ranking System based on points earned in competition. Data for the system will come from the ERDB. *Status: Preliminary concept document has been completed and approved by the committee.*
10. **OW Swimmer Challenge System:** Create a National Open Water Challenge System that is designed to provide a series of challenges that can be achieved by swimmers ranging from novice to elite. Achievement in this system is based on participation. Data for the system will come from the ERDB. *Status: Preliminary concept document has been completed and approved by the committee.*
11. **OW Manual Update:** Update the 2008 Open Water Manual and format for inclusion in the Open Water GTO. *Status: Update needs have been evaluated.*
12. **Rules and Legislation:** Work with the Long Distance Committee (LDC) to prepare rules and legislation proposals for approval during the 2012 annual meeting. *Status: OWC has completed this task for 2012 and passed its recommendations to the LDC.*
13. **OEVT:** Work to achieve a widely available, competitively priced one-event registration. *Status: No actions on this project in 2012. Reconsideration is scheduled for 2013.*
14. **Marketing & Promotion:** Work with National Office staff to develop marketing and promotion for USMS sanctioned events and related products. *Status: Scheduled for discussion in 2013.*
15. **Communications Plan:** Develop a means of communicating on a regular basis with LMSC open water officials, event officials and open water swimmers. *Status: Scheduled for discussion in 2013.*
16. **Inter-committee Collaboration:** Promote cooperation and division of responsibility among the OWC and other committees. Ultimately, all products developed out of OWC work will have to find a permanent home after they go into production. It would be preferable to have those other committees involved as early in the process as possible. *Status: The OWC and LDC have been cooperating for the past three years. Early discussions have been held with the Coaches and Officials committees during 2012.*

Action Items

1. Approve meeting minutes for publication.
2. Create, staff and set goals for the following task forces: Event Development, Safety, Legislation/Rules, End-to-End Event Management, Clinics and Awards.
3. Work on projects as indicated in the status statement for each project listed above.

Open Water Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 - Thursday, September 13, 4:00pm - 5:15 pm - Victoria

Meeting #2 - Saturday, September 15, 8:45am - 9:45 am - Augusta

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair
3. Discussion of items from project list (see Projects section above)
4. Bedtime story—*Life in the Tank* from *The Book of Awakening* by Mark Nepo
5. Adjournment

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Recognition & Awards

Committee Members

Sally Dillon, Chair; Carolyn Boak, Vice Chair

Andrea Block, Peggy Buchannan, Betsy Durant, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Heather Howland, Margie Hutinger, Cheryl Kupan, Hugh Moore, Ray Novitske, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Kelly Sharitt, Laura Val, Robert Zeitner.

Executive Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki (Vice President Local Operations)

Ex-Officio: none

Introduction

The Recognition & Awards Committee oversees all of the USMS service awards even though other committees select some recipients. We accept nominations and select recipients for the Ransom Arthur, Dorothy Donnelly Service, and June Krauser Communications awards. We review and consider for approval proposals for official USMS service awards and maintain a history of the award recipients on the USMS website. The committee membership includes representation from the Coaches, History & Archives, Long Distance, and Records & Tabulation committees.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee held a phone conference in December and minutes are posted on the USMS website. The committee conducted other business by using the R&A Committee's private forum.
2. The first forum discussion asked the question: "Should recipients of USMS service awards be required to have USMS membership?" After a significant period of online discussion, a vote was taken and the committee decided that all three of the awards under our jurisdiction would only be awarded to USMS members. The other award-giving committees had similar discussions and, with the exception of the National Championship Meets Award, decided that their awards would require USMS membership as well.
3. The second discussion for the committee addressed whether we should change the location and procedure for when the initial announcement of the Ransom Arthur Award takes place. Historically, the award has been announced (and presented if the recipient was present) at the Spring Nationals. At the last convention it was suggested that the presentation was an unnecessary interruption to the meet and that a totally different venue should be investigated. Discussion on this topic was lengthy and many ideas were proposed. The committee's decision was to continue presenting at Spring Nationals when the recipient is present, but to just announce by posting the information if they are not. By the time that decision was made, plans for the Greensboro meet were well under way. In working with Jeff Roddin, a good compromise was made that allowed a brief announcement immediately following the second warm-up on Friday. President Nadine Day made a short speech and a photo of the recipient (Doug Church) was displayed on the video screen for all to see. The committee will consider a revision of their decision when they meet at convention.
4. Two other discussions are ongoing on the committee's forum. The first involves the Club of the Year Award and whether the name implies it is only for one year's accomplishments. The intention is that it is not and the information available on the award site has been amended to make that more clear. With the help of Ray Novitske, who will lead the selection committee this year, some changes were made to the nomination form to make it more user friendly. Discussion continues on ways to garner more nominations for this award. The second ongoing discussion involves the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award – and how we can generate more nominations. Some changes have been made to the nomination instructions and as I write this, I can report that the nominations being submitted are much more complete than some that I've seen in the past. A reminder about the deadlines for all USMS awards has been sent to LMSC chairs and vice chairs and I believe it has generated some activity.
5. **The 2012 Capt. Ransom Arthur M.D. Award recipient is Doug Church** and he received his award from USMS President Nadine Day at a meeting in Indianapolis. The other outstanding nominees were John Bauman (Wisconsin), Hill Carrow (North Carolina), Mike Heather (Southern Pacific), Patty Miller (Virginia), Kerry O'Brien (Pacific), and Skip Thompson (Michigan). All past recipients of the award (who are registered with USMS) and the entire R&A Committee participated in the selection of the recipient.
6. **A Policy Manual for the R&A Committee** was developed this year and approved by a vote of the committee. It is posted on the USMS website for all to see.

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Action Items

1. The committee voted to require USMS Membership for recipients of the Ransom Arthur, Dorothy Donnelly Service, and June Krauser Communications awards.
2. The committee voted to continue with the presentation of the Ransom Arthur Award at Spring Nationals, if the recipient is present. If not, a posted announcement would take place.
3. The committee approved its Policy Manual.

Recognition & Awards Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 2:30pm – 3:45pm – Arrowhead

1. The official “Pinning” of the 2012 RJA award honoree – Doug Church.
2. Chair’s report
3. Budget review
4. Review of decisions made through forum discussion
5. Review of annual projects – the awards we coordinate: Ransom Arthur, Dorothy Donnelly Service, and June Krauser Service awards
6. Report from committee regarding the design and ordering of DDSA and RJA pins
7. Report on ISHOF and IMSHOF

A more complete agenda will be available at the meeting.

Records and Tabulation Committee

Committee Members

Chris Stevenson, Chair; Greg Danner, Vice Chair

Barbara Dunbar, Laszlo Eger, Emmett Hines, Donna Hooe, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid (USMS Records Administrator), Jeanne Seidler, Mary Sweat, Mary Beth Windrath (National Swims Administrator)

Executive Liaison: Ed Tsuzuki (Vice President Local Operations)

Ex-Officio: none

Introduction

The Records and Tabulation (R&T) Committee is responsible for the process of recording and verifying Top 10 times, All-American and All-Star rosters, and USMS national records for all three courses. Increasingly this involves setting and implementing policies relating to the upload of Sanctioned and Recognized pool meets in the USMS Events Results Database.

In addition to a chair and vice-chair, the committee includes the National Swims Administrator, who collects, verifies and compiles Top 10 submissions from the LMSCs, and the USMS Records Administrator, who collects and verifies record applications and maintains the USMS records.

The committee works closely with the USMS Webmaster & IT Director for the online publication of lists, rosters and records, and to simplify and automate the compilation and verification of swim performances.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Ongoing: compilation and publication of Top Ten, All-American and All-Star lists, and the USMS records.
2. There have been five conference call meetings since the 2011 Convention, and the minutes have all been posted on the USMS website; a sixth call will probably be held in July-Aug.
3. The committee, in collaboration with Lynn Hazlewood (OW Committee), crafted a statement of purpose for the Events Results Database (ERDB). Based on this statement the committee also created several policies for using the ERDB. Details are in the 10/30/11 meeting minutes, and in the updated R&T policy document.
4. The Guide to Operations was completely rewritten in December-January. As the End-to-End-Event-Management (E2EEM) process evolves, the nature of the LMSC Top Ten Recorder’s (TTR) duties changes. In particular, the TTR is generally responsible for uploading meet results into the ERDB and usually generates Top Ten reports from this database. The LMSC Standards (updated in March 2012) specify that results from all USMS sanctioned/recognized events are to be uploaded to the ERDB within two weeks of the event (item

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S8/SS8 of the LMSC Standards). Timely uploading of results serves our members, and as compliance with this standard increases the “current event rankings” will better mirror the final Top Ten lists, enabling better error-checking and increasing accuracy. The Guide to Operations reflects the fact that uploading and maintaining results in the ERDB is now probably the most important and time-consuming duty of TTRs. Other aspects of the Guide were updated as well, and an additional “versioning” document describing annual changes in the Guide is now included in the Records & Tabulation section of the website; currently it lists changes in 2011 and 2012 and the intention is to update this document every year so that experienced TTRs can be more easily informed of changed rules/policies that affect them.

5. The committee reviewed the case of the 2011 Canadian National SCM Championship, attended by 39 USMS members who swam 202 events; two valid world records were set by a USMS member at the meet. The results were uploaded into the ERDB so that there was an expectation among some members that the meet results would be considered for Top Ten. However, the proper pool measurements were not taken at the meet and, per USMS rules, the times were deemed invalid for USMS purposes (Top Ten or Records). The committee voted against a motion to apply for a rule exception for this case.
6. The Canadian meet outlined another potential problem in using the ERDB to generate Top Ten submissions: this international meet was in the ERDB but did not appear in any TTRs list of meets to create a Top Ten report. The committee formalized a protocol for uploading results from a number of “major” international meets to ensure that they get into the ERDB and that they are submitted for Top Ten consideration in a timely manner. Current rules/policies state that for automatically recognized meets – i.e., those sanctioned by USA-S or another FINA-member NGB – the swimmer is responsible for obtaining measurements and notifying his/her TTR about the results. Assuming the measurements are in order, the TTR then uploads the results of that swimmer into the ERDB and submits them for Top Ten consideration. For meets with a substantial number of USMS members this process is inefficient and can result in multiple copies of the same meet in the ERDB. The committee came up with a list of meets which will be submitted in one block, the process supervised by a committee member who has “superuser” access to the ERDB (i.e., can upload meets for all LMSCs). The meets are: FINA World Masters Championship, Pan American Masters Championship, Canadian Masters National Championship, World Masters Games, and Y Masters Nationals. (Notably, the last meet is not an international meet and is usually submitted by the host LMSC, a committee member simply monitors the process to make sure that upload and submission happens.) The committee member is NOT necessarily responsible for obtaining the appropriate measurements but will contact a swimmer or LMSC officer attending the meet to see if they are taken.
7. Partly to address situations such the Canadian nationals meet, the committee crafted and submitted rule proposals to change the pool measurement requirements for results of USMS members competing in bulkhead pools in sanctioned international meets and USA-S meets. For the international meets, the basic proposal is that, if the time is suitable for FINA records, it would be suitable for USMS top ten and records. For USA-S meets, bulkhead pools would not need to be measured for the results to be considered for Top Ten purposes; the measurement requirements for USMS Records at USA-S would be unchanged. Two other proposed rules, which are not likely to be as controversial, were also submitted.

Action Items

1. Submit updated prioritized list of IT projects to the National Office.
2. Once the tool is available, create a tutorial about how to use the “dynamic records” tool to check for USMS records in a meet (Anna Lea) and add link(s) to GTO area.
3. Update GTO to include information about “record progression” policy; include information about when to submit record applications and when it is not necessary. Also disseminate this information to meet directors.
4. Submit Rule Book corrections, particularly to include page 2 of the pool length certification form in Appendix B.
5. Send email to TTRs to update national database of pool length certifications (eliminate old/modified pools, collect information to add new pools).
6. Correct GTO to address discrepancy about new pool length certification: page 1 says to send files to Walt, Appendix says to keep on file with the LMSC.
7. Ongoing: create/publish top ten lists (including monitoring progress of select “major” international masters meets), publication of All-American and All-Star lists, maintain USMS records.

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Records & Tabulation Committee Meeting Agenda Friday, September 14th 1:30pm – 2:45pm – Bear Creek

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
3. Discussion of rule proposals affecting Records and Tabulation
4. Summary of previous year policy changes and actions affecting Top Ten Recorders, anticipation of future changes in the E2EEM process.
5. Pool measurement database: current and future status.
6. Other goals/tasks for 2013.

Registration

Committee Members

Leo Letendre, Chair; George Simon, Vice Chair

Susan Ehringer, Katy James. Arni Litt, Deborah Malafsky, Pamela Ogden, Nancy Ridout, Greg Weber, Jill Wright,
Ex-Officio: Barbara Protzman, Robin Tracy, Susie Young, Michael Heather

Introduction

Registration Committee was dormant during the year due, in large part, to personal issues with the chairman's family. I wish to apologize to US Masters swimming for my inability to devote the time I anticipated being available when I accepted the position.

The primary accomplishments of the committee were to keep the online registration system functioning, due mainly to the efforts of George Simon and the staff in the persons of Anna Lea Matysek and Tracy Grilli. Modifications were outlined, vetted and tested by these individuals and addressed a number of issues that arose during the year.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The chairman participated in the Membership Products Taskforce which provided the executive committee options for additional and modified membership products.

Action Items

1. No actions items pending outcome of committee meeting.

Registration Committee Meeting Agenda Friday, September 14th 1:30pm – 2:45pm – Meadowbrook

1. Introductions
2. Discussion of current registration issues – Software issues
3. Discussion of current registration issues - Compliance
4. Discussion of needs to be address in coming year
5. Any other business

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Rules

Committee Members

Kathrine Casey, Chair; Leianne Crittenden, Co-Vice Chair; Matt Hooper, Co-Vice Chair; Kris Wingenroth, Secretary

Carolyn Boak, Charlie Cockrell, Sally Ann Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Marilyn Fink, Judy Gillies, Laura Groselle, Brian Hoyt, Robert Mitchell, Jessica Seaton, Kelly Sharitt, Ginny Trimble, Steve Unruh

Ex-Officio: Susan Ehringer, Rule Book Coordinator; Sean Fitzgerald, Legislation Committee Chair; Mike Heather, Executive Committee; Dan McAllen, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee Chair; Ed Saltzman, Officials Committee Chair

Introduction

The Rules Committee has jurisdiction over Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary. Since this is a Rules year, amendments to Part 1 and the Glossary may be passed by a majority vote of the House of Delegates if they are properly submitted and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee. Proposed amendments NOT recommended for approval by the Rules Committee may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates. Proposed rule changes have been submitted by USMS standing committees. None have been submitted by LMSCs. Part 1 is based on articles 101, 102, and 105 of the USA Swimming Technical Rules, which, as amended, govern all Masters swimming competitions. The Rules Committee will make recommendations to the delegates on amendments approved by USA Swimming at this year's convention. The Committee may also recommend that changes made to USA-S article 103 (Facility Standards) also be approved by the USMS House of Delegates for USMS article 107. There are seven USA-S proposed amendments that could impact USMS rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Proofread the 2012 rule book for the correct insertion of:
 - A. adopted USMS amendments
 - B. USA-S approved amendments that were adopted by USMS
 - C. reference numbers throughout the rules
 - D. corrections to the rule book that were reported throughout the year
 - E. additions to the index
2. Updated the "Differences" documents for Appendix B in the 2012 rule book (USA-S, NCAA, FINA, and NFHS rules differences) and submitted the USMS/USA-S rules differences to USA Swimming for publication in their rule book.
3. Submitted rules text for "Major Changes for 2012".
4. The chair attended the "Our Kids Initiative" (OKI) meeting at Convention in September, shared the differences documents of swimming rules between USMS and other swimming governing bodies, and reviewed the USMS rules included in the OKI comparison of rules for all swimming governing bodies.
5. Published articles in *Streamlines* for coaches that address the most frequently asked questions about rules.
6. Reviewed and updated the Rules Committee policies as directed by the USMS Board of Directors.
7. Reviewed the Glossary and all of Part 1 and compared it to the applicable rules of USA Swimming, the Meet Director's Guide and contract for national championship meets, and the Guide to Operations and will present recommendations for changes/updates to the House of Delegates.
8. Provided a Rules Liaison to National Championship meets to assist with rules questions and rules interpretations and provided information for automatic split retrieval for official times.
9. Worked with the USMS National Office and the USA-S Disability Swimming Committee on updated illustrations for USA-S article 105 and USMS article 108 which are a USA-S/USMS proposed amendment that will first be considered by the USA-S House of Delegates. Both USMS and USA-S owe many thanks to Victoria Grilli for her extensive artistic work on the updated illustrations. The chair also attended the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee meeting in June.
10. Established a subcommittee in cooperation with the USMS Sports Medicine and Science Committee to do further research on transsexual athletes and to make recommendations on transsexual athletic eligibility for USMS official times and competition based on gender. The subcommittee chair is Jessica Seaton and other members of the subcommittee are Carolyn Boak, Sally Guthrie, Mary Pohlmann, and Leianne Crittenden. All have extensive careers in the medical or legal fields.
11. Assisted committees with proposed rule changes.

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12. Began work with the History and Archives Committee and National Office to ensure that libraries of all past USMS rule books are available and that all past proposed rule changes and the accompanying rationales are available on the USMS website.
13. Answered all questions about rules including the following:
 - A.** For breaststroke, a swimmer is not required to take one arm stroke completely back to the legs after the start and after each turn. It is an option; “After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs.” (101.2.2)
 - B.** For breaststroke, a swimmer is prohibited from taking a single dolphin kick before the first arm pull. “After the start and after each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull...” (101.2.3)
 - C.** A swimmer may appoint a counter for individual events of 16 lengths or more except for the individual medley (102.10.6A). A counter is permitted for short course meters 400 freestyle. Note that there is no warning signal for the 400 freestyle, because a starter or designee shall sound a warning signal in events 500 yards or longer (USMS 103.8.7). The count may be in ascending or descending order (102.10.6D).
 - D.** Whistle signals are required for starts (101.1.1, 101.1.2A, and 103.8.5A).
 - E.** Combined events cannot be called “Open” or “Choice” or any other such generic name. They can only be called events that are listed in article 102.5. Events of the same distance 200 yards or longer may be combined, but if the meet is to be seeded with combined events, the meet information must state that and list the event by the distance and the choices of strokes (e.g., free, back, breast, fly, IM) on the meet entry. Each swimmer must enter one of those strokes for that distance in order for the times to count for USMS Top 10 and records. Entering an event called “Open” or “Choice” will not count for USMS Top 10 and records.
 - F.** The meet referee has the authority to combine events by distance and/or stroke without the restriction of 200 yards or longer (102.11.2, Change of Program).
 - G.** Swimmers can wear traditional racing suits such as lycra/polyester briefs for men and hip-to-shoulder suits for women that may not be on the FINA-approved list if they meet the FINA swimsuit specifications: All swimsuits must be made from textile materials and have no fasteners except for a waist tie. Elastic is allowed in ends of the legs and in straps. A suit with a 2009 FINA-approval stamp would be legal if the suit is on the 2012 FINA approved-suit list. Two caps are allowed.
 - H.** If the primary timing system is three watches and two of the watch times are missing or determined to be invalid, the remaining single valid watch time would be the official time for that primary timing system provided it is supported by other information (103.17.3B[4]). (A swimmer is not penalized for the failure of equipment or personnel.)
 - I.** All four swimmers on a relay at a USMS-sanctioned meet must be members of the same USMS-registered club. If four members of a relay at a USMS-recognized meet are also members of the same USMS-registered club, the relay time can be considered for an official USMS time. From 202.2.1E: At a USMS-recognized meet, a relay leadoff split time can be considered for an official USMS time even though the other relay members do not belong to USMS or to the same USMS club as the leadoff swimmer IF the leadoff split time conforms to 103.18.1 and 105.2.2A.
 - J.** For competition at national championship meets, a Regional Club consists of a club made up of those swimmers who represent a USMS-registered club at nationals, but at competitions within their LMSC, they compete for an entity or subgroup (such as a workout group) that is different than the one they compete with at nationals (104.5.6B[1]). A club whose swimmers always compete for the USMS-registered club rather than for a workout group at every meet during the season is a Local Club for competition at national championship meets (104.5.6B[2]).
 - K.** An aid or device such as a snorkel is not allowed (102.12.1E, 102.13.9, and 108.1.2B[3]).
 - L.** In order to get an official time from a split at a meet, a swimmer must notify the referee in writing (e.g., fill out a split request form; 103.18.1, 105.2.2, and 105.3.6). (When automatic splits are done at nationals, the referee is notified in writing that splits are requested for all swimmers for all events except individual backstroke events; backstrokers must fill out individual split requests prior to the requested races. Automatic splits are done at nationals if the meet host and officials agree to do automatic splits and if the technology is available to retrieve automatic splits. Automatic split times from nationals are submitted for USMS Top 10 but individual split times may not appear in the USMS events rankings database).
 - M.** A swimmer who has legitimately transferred clubs close to the start of competition at nationals should notify meet management of that transfer prior to the start of the competition (104.5.4A[3]).

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N. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. Only one breaststroke or whip kick is permitted per arm pull, except that a single breaststroke kick is permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull. A swimmer can do any number of butterfly (dolphin) kicks before and after the single breaststroke kick during one arm pull cycle as long as it does not exceed one breaststroke kick per arm pull.

O. A minimum of two people can fulfill the minimum requirement of four official positions (referee, starter, two stroke and turn judges; the referee and starter cannot be the same person, 103.2.1). A referee must be certified as a referee or, if certified as a starter or stroke and turn judge, must receive training on specific duties of a referee (103.3.1). Uncertified officials may serve as starters or stroke and turn judges if they receive training in the specific duties of the assigned positions and serve under the supervision of a certified official (103.3.2). This rule addresses only the minimum requirements, not specific meet situations.

P. Dual sanctions can be granted by USMS and USA Swimming for meets hosted by either organization (the most common reason is to share resources). Meets can be seeded three ways; 1. combined (all swimmers seeded together as normally would be done and competing according to USA-S rules), 2. parallel (assign a set of lanes to USMS and a set of lanes to USA-S with separate stroke and turn officials for each set if possible and competing according to each organization's rules), and 3. interwoven (seed with complete heats of each organization and competing according to each organization's rules). Each organization must use separate warm up and warm down lanes. A USMS swimmer who is also a USA-S member but wishes to compete as a USMS member at a dual-sanctioned meet must declare so prior to the competition either by entering the dual-sanctioned meet with the USMS number and signing the USMS liability release or by submitting a "Declaration of Intent" form (found in the Guide to Operations) to the meet director and the LMSC Top10 recorder. (See Appendix B of the rule book for more details.)

Q. Neoprene caps are prohibited due to buoyancy (102.12.1E and 103.12.9).

Action Items

1. The Rules Committee approved giving its advice and consent to the USMS Board of Directors to suspend part of article 104.5.4B(2) to allow the long course nationals entry form for individual events and all meet information for the meet in Omaha July 5-8, 2012, to be published in the March-April 2012 issue of SWIMMER magazine instead of the May-June 2012 issue. (Articles in Part 1 can only be suspended between meetings of the House of Delegates by the USMS Board of Directors with the advice and consent of the Rules Committee and legal counsel [506.3.9]).
2. Approved as written; emergency notice of FINA/USA Swimming revised breaststroke interpretation (see text following #4 below).
3. The term "confirmation" in 105.1.7C means "confirmed by measuring".
4. Added the following to the policies and procedures for medical or religious exemptions for swimwear: The swimwear exemption letter presented to the meet referee at USMS-sanctioned meets must be that granted by USMS.

NOTICE TO ALL USMS MEMBERS FROM THE USMS RULES COMMITTEE

BREASTSTROKE Effective March 19, 2012

USA Swimming has issued an updated interpretation of the initiation of the breaststroke arm pull to conform to the FINA interpretation (see box below). USMS Swimming Rules: Part 1 of the USMS Rule Book are based in part upon article 101, "Individual Strokes and Relays", of the USA Swimming Technical Rules which includes the breaststroke rule. **The updated interpretation will apply to USMS competition (USMS article 101.2.3).** See the following text published by Dan McAllen, Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee, March 14, 2012:

Text from USA Swimming:

"On March 7, 2012, FINA issued an interpretation of the breaststroke rule covering the initiation of the arm pull. Obviously, this interpretation also applies to correctly judging the timing of the single butterfly kick which may follow initiation of the arm pull.

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BREASTSTROKE INTERPRETATION

SW 7.1 After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. A single butterfly kick is permitted during the first arm stroke, followed by a breaststroke kick.

Interpretation

The first arm stroke begins with the separation of the hands.

SW 7.2 From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. From the start and throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

Interpretation

A pause after the separation of the hands is not a violation of the rule.

1. This interpretation is substituted for breaststroke interpretations issued on December 8, 2008 and April 14, which are hereby expressly revoked.
2. This interpretation requires “observable separation” to initiate the arm pull. No other action will initiate the arm pull.
3. This interpretation requires additional separation if the swimmer starts or leaves the wall after a turn with the hands already separated.”

Here ends the text from USA Swimming.

Note that the rules quoted in the box are FINA rules. The corresponding USMS rules are 101.2.3 and 101.2.2 respectively. The previous interpretation (any lateral or downward movement of the hands or arms was the initiation of the first arm pull) is no longer in effect and now requires observable separation of the hands to initiate the first arm pull.

Rules Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1, Thursday, September 13, 11:30 am – 1:15 pm - Meadowbrook

1. Review and approve minutes.
2. Review the 2012 budget and 2011 expenditures.
3. Consider proposed amendments and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.

Forum, Thursday, September 13, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Guilford G

1. Rules and Long Distance Open Forum

Meeting #2, Friday, September 14, 10:30 am – 11:45 am – Meadowbrook

1. Consider proposed amendments and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.

Meeting #3, Friday, September 14, 8:45 pm – 9:30 pm - Meadowbrook

1. Consider proposed amendments and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.

Meeting #4, Saturday, September 15, 7:45 am – 8:45 am - Meadowbrook

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1. Consider proposed amendments and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates.
2. Review proposed tasks for 2013: Proofread rule book, update Differences documents, post current interpretations, develop situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems, continue collecting a history of proposed rule changes.

Meeting #5, Saturday, September 15, 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm - Meadowbrook

1. Consider USA Swimming amendments as approved by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and prepare final recommendations for the House of Delegates.

Sports Medicine & Science

Committee Members

Jane Moore, Chair; Sally Guthrie, Vice Chair

Hannah Caldas, Bill Ewan, Kristen Heath, Lisa Hiller, Jane Katz, Kristy King, Lo Knapp, Markell Lacy, Katherine Longwell, Jim Miller, Mary Pohlmann, Diane Rothenberg, Jessica Seaton

Ex-Officio: Jody Smith – Executive Committee

Introduction

The Sports Medicine and Science Committee works to educate members and the public on topics of sports medicine and science. The committee has held meetings via conference call every two months since last convention.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee has worked with Swimming Saves Lives to provide screening for skin cancer and spinal alignment at the national championship meets in Greensboro and Omaha.
2. Committee member Laura (Lo) Knapp, DPT, MS, OCS and her colleagues Patty Trela, DPT, CMPT; Jacob Kretschmar, SPT; and Whitney Meier, DPT, OCS from the University of Utah Orthopaedic Center developed a poster titled “Masters Swimmers and Osteoporosis” that was displayed at the national championship meets.
3. The committee is working with Coaches Committee to develop educational materials on dry land training and nutrition.
4. The committee maintains the US Masters Swimming Health Network. Committee members serve as members of the network along with other interested medical and science professionals. Network members review articles with health, medical, or science related information before the articles appear in US Masters Swimming publications. Network professionals also respond to questions from US Masters Swimming members.
5. Committee members also work with other committees including Rules, Championship, and Fitness on issues related to medicine and science.

Action Items

1. Development of plan to create a web based version of the Health Network.
2. Ideas for health/medical/science-related topics and plan for production of educational displays.
3. Review and update committee goals.

Sports Medicine & Science Committee Meeting Agenda Thursday, September 13th 11:45am – 1:00pm – Pebble Beach

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Education: displays and screenings at national championship meets; other.
3. Health Network: review and planning.
4. Research Projects: updates from past projects; review of new proposals, if any.
5. Committee goals and work plan for 2013.
6. Legislation/Rules/Open Water Proposals: review any with science/medical aspects.
7. Other Business
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

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Breadbasket Zone

Stacy Broncucia, Chair

Introduction

There's been some excitement in the Breadbasket Zone with Nationals being held in Omaha Nebraska this year after the Olympic trials! It sounds as though it was a complete success and I'm excited to hear about it at our meeting. Other major events that occurred were State meets held in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri Valley, Colorado and Nebraska. Ozark held the Breadbasket Zone meet March 31st - April 1st. Open Water Season is underway and many of LMSC's have ongoing open water events.

We made it through the first LMSC Minimum Standard survey and are now working on the second. At this point not all of the LMSC's in the Breadbasket Zone have returned their surveys, but I am hoping they will all go smoothly and we will have good reports to discuss at Convention.

We still strive for a way to stay more connected here in our incredibly large zone. There still hasn't been any luck with getting that Zone jet we need so maybe we can work on a hot air balloon?? But in the meantime, hopefully we can at least get a link to connect our LMSC websites.

Breadbasket Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Bear Creek

1. Introduction and recognition of new delegates
2. Follow up on the success of Summer Nationals
3. Discuss ideas on how to link websites, any volunteers???
4. Discuss Zone funds available and how they might be used.
5. LMSC Minimum Standards
6. Award Zone Meet

Colonies Zone Committee

Jeffrey Strahota, Chair; Deb Morrin-Nordlund, Vice Chair

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. 2012 SCY Zone Championship held April 13-15, 2011, hosted by George Mason University Patriot Masters
2. Zone meeting held April 15, 2012
3. Bid solicitation for 2012 SCM and 2013 Zone Championship Meets (all 3 courses + Open Water); bids due 8/31/12
4. Solicitation for nominations from all LMSCs for Colonies Dot Award – Nominations due 8/15/12
5. LMSC Development Committee projects

Action items:

1. Zone Dot Award Nominations
2. Zone Championship bid collection and distribution

Colonies Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Edinburgh

1. Introductions
2. Approval of April 2012 meeting minutes

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3. Presentation of 2012 Zone Dot Award
4. Zone Championships
 - a. Pool Championships
 - b. Open Water Championships
5. Website/e-mail lists
6. New Business
7. Adjourn

Dixie Zone Committee

Jerry Clark, Chair

Introduction

As of mid-July, there were 6,586 registered swimmers in this zone. Perhaps the most significant event thus far this year has been the hosting of the Spring Nationals in a handsome new facility in Greensboro NC. 1,862 participants enjoyed having two 10 lane courses, which enabled shorter days for the swimmers, staff and officials. Thanks to Don Gilchrist and his co-director Hill Carrow for putting on a great meet.

Our zone championship SCY meet was held in Baton Rouge LA. Our LCM championship meet will be held in Greenville SC and our SCM championship meet is in Orlando FL this fall.

Thanks are expressed to the indefatigable Dick Brewer for managing the Dixie Zone website so proficiently for so many years. Next, Andy Dyer and Ed Saltzman have done yeoman work to bring the Zone records up to date and for maintaining those since they were brought current in the past couple of years. Last but not least, a big Thank You to Barb Protzman for continuously turning out a super zone newsletter.

I thank all the LMSC chairs for being so cooperative with updating their LMSCs to meet the standards the USMS board has recently updated.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. How to fund awards for zone championship meets
2. Monitoring our LMSCs to be sure the required standards are met
3. Creating an LMSC database of pool measurements

Dixie Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Pebble Beach

1. Introductions
2. Financial Report
3. Newsletter-Barb Protzman
4. Top Ten & Records-Ed Saltzman
5. 2013 Meet Calendar and Zone Championship Meets - Jerry Clark
6. Current "Hot" Topics - Anyone
7. Adjourn

Great Lakes Zone

Daniel Cox, Chair

Introduction

This past year we have seen the successful funding of the Great Lake Zone for the first time in many years. This fund will be used to support activities that support swimming throughout the Zone. I hope in the future we will have enough money to seed new meets or sponsor coaches and or swimmer to clinics. I will continue to move forward on driving more traffic to our web site and keep our members informed with my quarterly newsletters. The GLOWS series has become our premier event each year and I see it growing and has become a model for the rest of USMS to follow.

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IN THE ZONE: Lake Erie has or will be hosting a national event now though 2014 and possibly in 2015. This year Lake Erie hosted the USMS coaching clinic at the new Spire aquatic facilities and next year will host the 2013 Senior games SCY events at Cleveland State. Then in 2014 they will host the Gay Games LCM events at Cleveland State. In 2015 Spire has expressed interest in hosting one of the USMS National Championships. Looks like a busy couple of years for the Lake Erie!

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. GLOWS
2. OHIO adding and Open Water event
3. Funding the Zone

Action Items

1. Mentoring help for LMSC
2. GLOWS 2013
3. Other project idea for the Great Lake Zone funds

Great Lakes Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Arrowhead

1. Roll call and introduction of New Delegates
2. Financial Report and funding of the Great Lakes Zone
3. GLOWS Report
4. Newsletter/Website
5. Great Lakes Zone LMSC Updates and Mentoring
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

Northwest Zone

Wes Edwards, Chair

Committee Members: Paige Buehler, Lisa Dahl, Wes Edwards (Chair), Donn Livoni, Hugh Moore, Paula Moores, Jeanne Teisher, Dennis Tesch, Joanne Wainwright, Sara Welch.

Introduction: During the previous year, the Northwest Zone hosted, or will host, Zone championship events in all four event types (SCM, SCY, OW, and LCM). Zone conference calls were conducted on a quarterly basis. The USMS Northwest Zone Discussion Forum page was used to enhance communications within the Zone. The Zone currently has 3,854 registered members, with OR and PN each having over 1000 members each.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Zone Championship Meets
 - a. SCM – Oregon LMSC hosted the SCM Zone Meet November 5-6 in Beaverton, OR at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center.
 - b. SCY – Inland Northwest LMSC hosted the 2012 SCY Zone Meet March 30-April 1 in Moscow, ID as part of their LMSC championship event.
 - c. Open Water – Utah LMSC will host the Zone Open Water 1-Mile Championship August 11th at Deer Creek Reservoir, UT.
 - d. LCM – Oregon LMSC will host the Zone LCM Meet at Mt Hood Community College in Gresham, OR August 24-26.
2. Zone Conference Calls: Quarterly Zone conference calls took place in December and March
3. LMSC Leadership Changes: Wes Edwards is stepping down as the Northwest Zone Chair effective July 15, 2012 and the LMSC Chairs unanimously support Tim Waud from Oregon LMSC as the appointed replacement to fill his unexpired term.
4. The Zone is scheduled to provide funding assistance for three delegates from small LMSCs to attend the

USMS Committee Reports & Agendas

2012 USMS Convention in Greensboro, NC (one each from Alaska, Inland Northwest and Montana).

Action items:

1. Introduction of new Northwest Zone Chair to convention delegates.
2. Discuss Zone funding assistance for small LMSC convention delegates
3. Discuss order of events schedule used for Zone championship pool events

Northwest Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – St Andrews

1. Introductions - New Zone Chair
2. Old Business
 - a. 2012-13 Zone championship meet update
 - i. 2012 SCM – Pacific Northwest LMSC Oct 20-21. Meet information and entry form due at this meeting
 - ii. 2013 SCY – Oregon LMSC. Meet information and entry form due no later than January 15th
 - iii. 2013 LCM – Oregon LMSC. Gil Young Memorial Meet. Meet information and entry due no later than May 15th
 - iv. 2013 OW – Alaska LMSC. Event information and entry form due no later than May 15th
 - v. 2013 SCM – Open for bid to other than Oregon and Pacific Northwest LMSC. Bids due to Zone Chair no later than September 1st
 - b. Update on Zone newsletter
 - c. Update on Zone conference calls
 - d. 2013 Convention - Small LMSCs scheduled for Zone funding assistance
 - i. Snake River
 - ii. Utah
 - iii. Alaska
3. New Business
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Committee report on Zone funding assistance to Small LMSC Delegates
 - c. Discuss order of events schedule used for Zone championship pool events
 - d. Election – USMS at-large Director representing the Northwest Zone
4. LMSC Reports
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Inland Northwest
 - c. Montana
 - d. Oregon
 - e. Pacific Northwest
 - f. Snake River
 - g. Utah
5. USMS Committee Member Reports and Issues
 - a. LMSC Minimum Standards and Surveys
 - b. Other USMS Committee member reports
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

USMS Committee Reports & Agendas

Oceana Zone Committee

Michael Moore, Chair

Introduction

The Oceana Zone includes Hawaii LMSC and Pacific LMSC. The committee meets annually at the U.S. Masters Swimming convention and conducts other business as needed by email.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

The two LMSC only share a contiguous ocean. Both are fairly well run LMSCs and have shown mild growth. We do not have any projects.

Action Items

1. Vote on candidate for At-Large Board of Directors position

Oceana Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Pinehurst

1. Introductions
2. Reports the LMSCs
3. Hearing from Jim Clemmons (announced candidate) and any other candidate for the At-Large Board of Director position
4. Voting for support for a candidate for the At-Large Board of Directors position.
5. Review of proposed Rules and Legislation changes that may be of interest to the Zone.
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

South Central Zone Committee

Tyler Blessing, Chair

Introduction

This is a committee that meets annually at convention and conducts any other business deemed necessary by email during the year. It is comprised of the delegates from the following six LMSCs. (Arkansas, Border, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas and Gulf)

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. 2012 SCY Zone Championship held at (North Texas) CISD Aquatics
2. 2012 LCM Zone Championships held Aug 10-12 at (South Texas) Palo Alto College

Action Items

1. Propose adding a SCM championship along with existing SCY and LCM
2. Review updated zone policies

South Central Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Olympia

1. Award the 2013 Zone Championship meets.
2. Discuss LMSC standards survey responses and participation.
3. Finalize 2012-2013 calendar
4. Discuss valuable usage of excess LMSC funds.
5. New Business

USMS Committee Reports & Agendas

Southwest Zone Committee

Mary Hull, Chair

Introduction

The Southwest Zone includes Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego-Imperial, and the Southern Pacific LMSCs. All four LMSCs have hosted meets this year. Arizona will be hosting the zone's Short Course Yards Championships. Southern Pacific hosted the zone's Short Course Yard's Championships. The zone has also had some open water swims and the Arizona LMSC will be hosting the zone's open water championships this year.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Reimbursement for team awards for Southwest zone championships

Action Items

1. Reimbursed Santa Clarita \$400.00 towards purchase of team awards

Southwest Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 8:00am – 9:00am – Turnberry

1. Introductions
2. LMSC reports: Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego Imperial, Southern Pacific
3. Zone meets for 2013
4. Zone open water for 2013
5. Old business
6. New business

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors



Bruce Hopson – Breadbasket Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Bruce Hopson is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated by Anthony Thompson and received letters of recommendation from Anthony Thompson and Jim Goodwin, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines. These letters are published in the Election section of the USMS web site.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

I first attended the USMS National HOD in 2001 when the meeting was held in Louisville, KY. I have been to every meeting since then.

Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I am interested in this position and believe I would be a good candidate because I have been committed to public service for the last twenty years as a practicing attorney. I believe that my almost 40 years of swimming (15 of which as a Master) along with 15 years of bar service on the local, state and national level would make me a good candidate. In addition to my swimming, my background as both a lawyer and a bar leader would allow me to contribute my critical thinking and organizational skills to USMS.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

I believe the major issues presently facing USMS will be how to sustain itself and maintain its relevancy in era in which people are becoming more and more reluctant to join organizations. In a similar fashion, USMS will need to figure out how it can be competitive or collaborate with other existing organizations and to stay ahead of organizations not currently around. Finally, I see there will still be a continued focus on how to balance the interests of the fitness swimmer against those of the competitive swimmer.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Since 2003, I have served on the Long Distance Committee under the leadership of Peter Crumbine, Marcia Cleveland, Heather Hagadorn and now Donn Livoni. I have previously been on the legal advisors ad hoc committee under Patti Miller, and the records and tabulations committee under Ed Tsuzuki.

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

I served as president of my club, St. Louis Area Masters Swimming from 2000-2006, and chair of the Ozark LMSC from 2004-2006. Additionally, I was co-president of IGLA from 2005-2006. In the non-swimming world, I served from 2011-2012 as president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, which is a 6,000-member voluntary bar.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I believe I would make a good director because I have a long background in swimming as an age group swimmer, an NCAA Division I swimmer and a Masters swimmer. As an attorney, I would be able to provide needed critical thinking to board discussions. Finally, I have had 15 years of bar leadership experience on the local, state and the American Bar Association.

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors



Chris McGiffin - Colonies Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Chris McGiffin is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

Attended 2005 - 2011 HOD Meetings

I. Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

In the last nearly two years serving on the Board of Directors, I am finding that one way to directly contribute to the health and wellness of US Masters Swimming is to become a volunteer. My volunteer experience started in 2004 when I found the time and energy to serve as the Chair of my LMSC. What little training I had paled in comparison to the attraction and appeal to serve the best interests of the membership. Luckily, I picked up a lot of knowledge from the LMSC leaders who preceded and served with me. The practical experience I gained during the five years as Chair continues to grow now as I volunteer at the national level. I am energized to continue to learn as a volunteer, and will look for opportunities to help move US Masters Swimming forward.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

There are a variety of challenges for USMS currently. In the near term, one area of attention lies in supporting the needs and concerns of our volunteers. Even as we gain more National Office staff, the majority of our organization's strength is directly related to the ability to attract and retain effective volunteer leaders, especially at the local LMSC level where USMS growth hangs in the balance. One way to support local volunteers is to share the knowledge of others. As Chair of the Volunteer Roles Task Force (VRTF), I am helping to draft volunteer role templates that we hope will serve to inform and guide our current leaders, and share their experiences with potential future leaders. Enhancing the volunteer experience is one of the key initiatives of the updated US Masters' Strategic Plan. As the efforts of the VRTF proceed, we understand that templates alone will not transform the organization, and that active collaboration among volunteers will be a primary factor in helping to best optimize our contributions for the organization and its members.

Another area of concern for USMS is the limited resource of pool space and time. While many open water swimmers can counter that there are limitless opportunities to organize by heading to the nearest lake, bay or ocean ;-), practically speaking, it is obvious that access to pool facilities remains a central component to the basic needs for most of our members. I do not have the statistics, but I would hazard to guess that for each new club or workout group that forms, there are two or more existing clubs that do not survive. Why? What can we do as an organization to help develop clubs and workout groups that will survive, and thrive?

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

I would like to work with USMS Club Development to get underneath this concern, and examine viable options and actions we can take to address this concern. If our Vision Statement says that “USMS will be the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States and will make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible” how can we take things to the next level so that facilities will see the value of partnering with us to create programs that will benefit them as much as USMS? It’s more than a sales pitch, however. Long-lasting programs exist, and we can see that they last mostly because of the people involved. We have the business models to demonstrate the success, but there is more work to do in order to build clubs that last.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

USMS Legislation Committee member (under Rob Copeland and Sean Fitzgerald): 2005 - 2011

USMS Marketing Committee member (under Tom Boyd): 2006-2007

USMS Marketing Committee Chair: 2008 - 2009

USMS LMSC Development Committee member (currently under Paige Buehler): 2010-present

USMS Board of Directors, At-Large Director, Colonies Zone: 2011-present

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

USMS Member since 1995: Berkeley Aquatic Masters, Berkeley Heights, NJ

National Top Ten finisher

LMSC Record holder

Club Planner for Annual Holiday Party

Club Treasurer

NJ LMSC Chair: 2004 - 2009

NJ LMSC Vice Chair: 2010

NL LMSC Co-Registrar: 2011-present

Facilitated LMSC bylaw updates

Implemented LMSC Membership Promotion Campaign

Developed an LMSC Membership Recognition Awards Program

Helped to create an Annual LMSC Awards Banquet

Led efforts to Sanction the first LMSC Open Water event

Club Development Workshop: Mentor program (Dallas, TX) attendee/graduate

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Chris McGiffin, candidate for At-Large Colonies Zone Director. As a USMS member since 1995, I have served or currently serve in volunteer and leadership positions at the Club, LMSC, and USMS organization levels. I am committed to working with the USMS Board of Directors in promoting the organization’s missions, objectives and goals to serve US Masters Swimming and its members

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors



Maria Elias- Williams – Dixie Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Maria Elias-Williams is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

2011 in Jacksonville
2010 in Dallas
2009 in Chicago
2008 in Atlanta

Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I currently serve as the Dixie Zone rep and am running for re-election. I have an incredible passion for Masters Swimming and want to continue to work to make swimming a viable option for all adults.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Membership retention/growth will always be vital to the health of our organization. We must continue to offer a valuable “product” to our membership and harbor terrific, positive experiences for our members – regardless of what area of involvement (pool, competitive, open water, fitness and health). We must continue to support our local LMSCs and develop the volunteer base.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Rules Committee (Kathy Casey) 2009 – 2010
Convention Coordinator 2012
BOD Task Force: Policy 2011-2012
SC LMSC Vice Chair 2009-2010

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

I am an attorney in South Carolina and have had my solo practice for more than 13 years. I know how to get things done. I am consistent and professional. I have served as a volunteer in many organizations.

Please list any other information you would like included.

While I am a true “chlorine junkie,” I am planning on participating in my first open water swim – and yes, it scares me!!

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Current Dixie Zone Director running for re-election. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the membership. I have the energy and passion for swimming necessary for this position.

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors



Phil Dodson – Great Lakes Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Phil Dodson is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

Michigan - 2006, Anaheim - 2007, Atlanta - 2008, Chicago - 2009, Dallas - 2010, Jacksonville – 2011

I. Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I am interested in the Board position because of my passion for Masters swimming and my belief that I can make a difference.

I have been a self employed CPA, providing financial and management services to small business entrepreneurs since 1991. I bring an entrepreneurial spirit with a fresh and unique business perspective to this Board position. I am also currently engaged with 8 different non profit organizations, providing services ranging from accounting and tax return services to Board advisor and permanent part time CFO management. I am professionally qualified with both, a strong financial management background and a general business operating experience to serve on our policy-making body.

I was one of 5 USMS volunteers who researched and developed the latest USMS Strategic Plan that was adopted by the HOD last September, 2011. I have a clear understanding of the USMS Strategy and how it is supposed to support and improve our organization and our members.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

USMS continues to transition from an all volunteer managed organization to a professionally managed organization. With the majority of Board members' tenure dating before this transition, the Board is susceptible to retaining the old vision and procedures of volunteer management. I frequently ask questions to steer Board thinking towards more business and fiduciary perspectives and actions.

USMS leadership strives for strong membership growth. It is important to remember the goal is not membership growth, rather increased value to the membership. We must not seek growth just for the sake of growth. We must ensure that the value to our core membership improves with our growth. The new strategic plans uses a dual approach to meet this challenge, the volunteer and new products strategies. While the strategic parameters

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

are in place to enhance membership value, it will take strong leadership to keep the organization focused on this path and keep it from reverting back to the same old, same old, volunteer activities and USMS programs.

USMS is developing an entirely new program with a potentially significant financial commitment in the Swimming Save Lives Foundation (SSL). Implementing this concept and properly structuring it within our organization can be a benefit. On the other hand, not integrating SSL in a careful, slow and well managed build up, by over reaching and forging precipitously ahead will prove to be very costly. Each year it could siphon tens of thousands of dollars away from desired USMS programs that directly benefit our membership. I find myself in a small minority of concerned leadership on this issue, but I promise to remain ever vigilant and outspoken. Two years ago I presented the following outline of personal goals I hoped to achieve for the Board, working as a Board member:

- 1) Encourage Board focus on policies, global issues and strategic initiatives, discourage micro management.
- 2) Support, but question, monitor but not interfere, and provide guidance to our professional staff and committees.
- 3) Improve financial reporting to the Board and educate the Board on interpreting financial results and acting thereon.
- 4) Instill a need for cost benefit justifications for major USMS programs.
- 5) Seek development of metrics and follow up procedures for evaluating programs' successes.
- 6) Encourage Board focus on membership value. Use an entrepreneurial approach to develop membership initiatives in: member only web content, group disability and life insurance programs, expanded affinity programs, alliances with other fitness / athletic organizations, club and coach development, joint LMSC program initiatives and open water events.
- 7) Support development of initiatives to create a significant endowment fund.

An honest evaluation concludes that I have made little to no progress in these areas, primarily due to the Board too focused on the management of our volunteers and not enough attention in other fiduciary responsibilities.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Finance Committee, 2007-current under Jeff Moxie, Ralph Davis and Homer Lane
Audit Committee, 2010-current under Jill Gellatly

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

USMS experience:

- My first year on the Finance Committee (FC), I developed budget procedures that focused review on 95% of revenue and expense line items, significantly increasing the productivity of the FC at Convention and quality of its budget approval responsibility.
- I have been involved with the FC annual FOG review and revisions since 2007 culminating in the significant revision at 2009 Convention. This revision fully integrated FOG with the Strategic Plan to transition to a paid professional staff.
- I headed the FC task force to draft the Audit Committee Charter, which was presented and adopted by the Board in January 2010.
- I wrote and presented the Clubs and LMSC Accounting workshop at 2007 convention. The Club portion was updated in Spring 2009 and used by Mel Goldstein in his Club Handbook.
- From May 2011 to September 2011, I was one of 5 members in the Strategic Task Force which developed and presented the USMS Strategic Plan, adopted by the HOD at convention in 2011.

LMSC experience:

- I was Finance Chair for five years before being elected as Treasurer effective May 1, 2010 (and re-elected April 2012). During this period I have improved accounting control procedures, prepared financial statements, tax returns and annual budgets.

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

- I have also guided the fiscal responsibility in ILMSA and reduced ILMSA dues so that total members' dues, including USMS, have only increased \$4 in the last six years!
- In January 2010, I drafted and implemented an investment policy for ILMSA excess reserve funds. I manage the investments and have outperformed the general stock market from Jan 2010 through Dec 2011.

Please list any other information you would like included.

I am 59 years old, married 32 years with three children, 27, 25 and 23. The two oldest are part time LAX coaches and my youngest graduating this May with plans to be a teacher. Besides my passion for swimming, as a 5 time cancer survivor I also enjoy living. I have adopted the Swim Across America cancer awareness and fund raising efforts in Chicago as a personal mission to battle this disease. I have organized the largest fund raising team in Chicago, both by participation and dollars raised and personally been the #1 or #2 individual fund raiser in Chicago for the last 7 years. In the summer of 2011, I started a fund raising effort which utilized SSL "moral" support and successfully funded a learn to swim program for 80 Chicago inner city youth. I have 36 years experience in accounting and financial management. My career experience ranges from working for public accounting, a fortune 500 manufacturing corporation to company start-ups and entrepreneurial businesses. I have been self employed since 1991, with a focus on small businesses. However, my very first client was a non profit, with the same revenue as USMS. Today I still provide them accounting and tax services, meeting with and advising the Board monthly.

I work with several small business owners. While I primarily provide tax and accounting services to them, they value me most as a business advisor. These entrepreneurs have a unique perspective on business and strategic thinking. I have learned a lot from my clients over the years. I look forward to bringing my accounting discipline and entrepreneurial spirit to the Board of USMS.

As a self employed individual, I have the flexibility to commit the time required to involve myself. As an individual driven and motivated to excel, I can make a difference.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I am interested in the Board position because of my passion for Masters swimming and my belief that I can make a difference. I have 36 years of business experience working with both small business entrepreneurs and non profit organizations, an interesting and unique combination. There are major, but achievable challenges facing USMS: transitioning Board focus towards more business and fiduciary thinking, managing membership growth to increase value to core members and carefully planning and managing integration of the SSL initiative so that it serves our membership without being a financial burden. I bring the experience and discipline to serve on our policy-making body to face these challenges.

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors



Hugh Moore – Northwest Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Hugh Moore is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

All HOD Meetings 1985-2011

I. Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I have been involved with Masters swimming administration for over 30 years and am continually looking for ways to serve USMS. I feel that my organizational and communication skills make me an excellent candidate. I also believe that my broad experience at team, LMSC, and national levels enables me to appreciate the diversity of our LMSCs, clubs, and individual members.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Last year USMS adopted a new vision statement: "USMS will be the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States and will make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible." USMS is also developing the Swimming Save Lives Foundation, whose stated purpose is to provide grants that encourage more adults to choose swimming as part of their health, fitness, and lifestyle. The future of USMS will be shaped by how the USMS BOD embraces the new vision statement and guides the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation. As a member of the BOD I will broadly support the vision statement. The sky is the limit in reaching out to the millions of adults who swim in the U.S.

USMS has made significant changes in our Governance structure in recent years with changes in the Board of Directors and a greatly expanded national office, including an Executive Director. There is still room for improvement. We need to ask ourselves - If we started from scratch what would be the "ideal" structure for our committees and coordinators? As a board member I feel that we need to consider if some of committees would be more effective if they reported to and supported the National Office instead of the House of Delegates.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

- Member Governance Committee 2010-present (Anthony Thompson, Chair)
- Member Recognition and Awards Committee 2009-present (Sally Dillon, Chair)
- Member LMSC Development Committee 2009-2010 (Doug Adamavich, Chair)
- Chair Communications Committee, 2000-2009 (Lynn Hazlewood & Mark Gill EC liaison)
- Member Championship Committee, 2007-2009 (Mark Moore, Chair)
- Member, Editorial Board, 2004-2005 (Lynn Hazlewood, Chair)
- Member ad hoc History and Archives Committee 1999-2001 (Carl House Chair)
- Chair Zone Committee 1997-2000

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

- Member, USMS Executive Committee 1997-2000 (Nancy Ridout President)
- Chair ad hoc Professional Management Committee 1998-2000 (Nancy Ridout EC liaison)
- Chair Officials Committee 1993 – 1997 (Suzanne Rague EC Liaison)
- Chair Planning Committee 1991 – 1992

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

My involvement at the team level as president of a 100+ member team, LMSC level as board member for nearly 30 years, Meet Director for four national championship swim meets, USMS delegate for 27 years, USMS Executive Committee for three years, and Board of Directors for the past two years, has provided me with a thorough understanding of issues that face USMS, LMSCs, clubs, and individual members.

Please list any other information you would like included.

Swimming has been a major part of my life for 50 years. I have continually served my team, LMSC, and USMS for nearly 30 years. In recognition of my efforts I have received the Pacific Northwest Distinguished Service Award (1998), National Championship Meet Award (2001), and Ransom Arthur Award (2002).

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Last year USMS adopted a new vision statement: “USMS will be the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States and will make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible.” USMS is also developing the Swimming Save Lives Foundation, whose stated purpose is to provide grants that encourage more adults to choose swimming as part of their health, fitness, and lifestyle. The future of USMS will be shaped by how the USMS BOD embraces the new vision statement and guides the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation. As a member of the BOD I will broadly support the vision statement. The sky is the limit in reaching out to the millions of adults who swim in the U.S.



Jim Clemmons – Oceana Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Jim Clemmons is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

Greensboro, NC, all HOD meetings, September 14-18, 2005
Anaheim, CA, all HOD meetings, September 26-30, 2007
Atlanta, GA, all HOD meetings, September 24-28, 2008
Chicago, IL, all HOD meetings, September 16-20, 2009
Dallas, TX, all HOD meetings, September 15-19, 2010
Jacksonville, FL, all HOD meetings, September 14-18, 2011

Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

I enjoy interacting with all the different personality types who are attracted to swimming, whether it is with the competitive or totally non-competitive swimmer, the fitness and/or “just there for the social aspect part of it” swimmer, the pool swimmer, the open water swimmer and the triathlete. I am interested in representing the organization’s many faceted types of personalities, their interests, and, as I am very much a goal oriented person, I believe I will be helpful with achieving USMS organizational goals going forward.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

I believe there are a number of issues that USMS will be addressing over the next few years, some of them possibly far into the future.

- USMS is undergoing changes, both at the National and the Local levels, within the area of Governance. It will be important that the National office lends guidance to the LMSC’s to assist in creating symmetry in order to avoid conflicting interests.
- Accessibility to pools and programs are becoming problematic as local governments, recreation facilities, schools, etc., struggle with financing of operations. USMS will need to establish working relationships with responsible parties and assist with educating the major decision makers on the advantages of maintaining and providing access to the aquatic facilities.
- As Swimming Saves Lives continues to grow and become more robust, we will need to provide oversight in respect to fiduciary responsibilities. We will need to advertise, solicit funding, process and provide awards, where needed, commensurate with the SSL program vision.
- We will need to continue to address the needs of our membership, support those who volunteer, provide opportunities and training for those who need or want it, and reach out to other organizations which can assist USMS in expanding its positive impact on adult lives and health.
- We are continuing to transition from a volunteer based organization to a business with a paid leadership staff. The paid staff is continuing to grow and, I believe, thrive due to the support from the Executive Committee, At-Large Directors, Committees, and others too numerous to list. We must remain cognizant of the varying levels of participation types aiming for the success of the organization as a whole.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Coaches Committee, Bob Bruce, Mo Chambers, Chris Colburn chair, dates: 2006, 2007 and 2008

Finance Committee, Ralph Davis chair, dates: 2008 and 2009

Championship Committee, Jeff Roddin chair, dates: 2010, currently serving as Appointed

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

- Vice-Chair, Operations, Pacific LMSC
- Board of Directors member on team that I have been swimming with for the past 13 years, Manatee Aquatic Masters, Inc. The MAM team consists of approximately 250 swimmers with a relatively typical breakdown of participation levels with normal swimming related issues and challenges to contend with.
- Operations Manager for a large US defense contractor. Duties include oversight of Facilities, Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and Security functions for offices located in California, New Mexico and Colorado.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I believe that USMS has many great things to offer all swimmers. I also believe that, sometimes, people tend to focus on areas that are more beneficial to themselves, or a select group, and not the parent organization as a whole. I believe that by being more involved, I will be able to assist in helping grow our membership and lend support to ideas that will continue the current trend towards a healthy future. We are currently experiencing significant changes within the organization and it is imperative we communicate anticipated changes to the membership as far in advance as practical. I look forward to working with others to meet these goals.

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

Jill Gellatly South Central Zone



The Election Committee has deemed that Jim Gellatly is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated by Nadine Day and received letters of recommendation from Patty Miller and Tom Boak, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines. These letters are published in the Election section of the USMS web site.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

I have attended all USMS National HOD Meetings from 2006-2011.

Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I would like to continue to elevate my service to USMS by serving on the BOD. Since 2006, I have undertaken increasingly greater volunteer leadership roles and the BOD is the next logical step. These roles, outlined below, coupled with my passion and love for the sport of swimming make me a strong candidate for the At-Large SC Zone BOD position.

My diverse involvement in various committees over the years has exposed me to many facets of USMS and allowed me to gain valuable insight. I would like to apply this insight to help the organization achieve its goals and overcome the potential obstacles we may face in the coming two years.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

I believe two of the major issues facing USMS are increasing and sustaining growth and brand awareness. Steady growth allows an organization to continue to be financially solvent. When an organization is not constrained by financial measures, it allows the organization to explore new opportunities and products. In order to grow, we must continually be striving to change and enhance our offerings to provide additional value to our members. Growth is not solely measured by the number of members but other tangibles such as brand strength and awareness, and an increase in products and services offered.

As we continue to embrace change, we must not forget what has made USMS successful and continue to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to our members. This will continue to be a challenge as we grow but one that cannot be forgotten as volunteers are the backbone of the organization.

As a new member of the BOD, I will evaluate each opportunity and issue faced by the BOD and act in the best interest of our members to support our organization's mission and values.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Long Distance 2007- Chair Marcia Cleveland
Championship Committee 2008 and 2009- Chair Mark Moore
Finance Committee 2010-Current- Chair Homer Lane

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

Audit Committee - 2010-Current- Serve as Chairman
Strategic Task Force Member- 2011- Chair Patty Miller
Membership Product Task Force-2012- Serve as Chairman
South Central Zone Director- 2007-2011

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

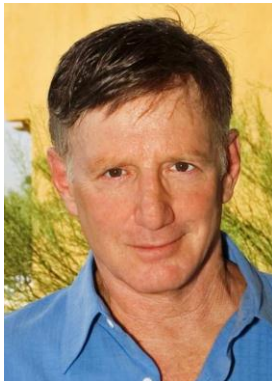
Gulf LMSC Board President 2011-Current
Gulf LMSC Board Secretary- 2006-2010
Bachelors of Business in Accounting- Texas A&M University
Masters Education- Sports Management- University of Georgia
University of Houston- Three years of work experience in various roles within Division One athletic program

Please list any other information you would like included.

Licensed CPA- State of Texas since 1991

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I look forward to the opportunity to serve USMS in a Board of Director capacity for the next two years. It is an exciting time at USMS and I would like to be a part of taking to another level. My past six years of service to the organization has increasingly grown from serving as secretary of the Gulf LMSC to fulfilling numerous leadership roles at the National level. The natural progression for me is to utilize the experiences I have gained at the National and local levels coupled with sports administration education to take USMS to the next level. Given my experience and passion for swimming, I ask for your support in my candidacy.



Phil Whitten - Southwest Zone

The Election Committee has deemed that Phil Whitten is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated that he/she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his/her tenure in office.

The candidate is an incumbent and needed no nomination or letters of recommendation, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:
Virtually all since the mid-1990's

Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

My connection with USMS dates back nearly to its inception (1970). I first joined late in 1971 and have been a member ever since. So I have a point of view that places many of our current issues in historical perspective. I have long been one of the more influential proponents of Masters swimming, having published a best-selling book on the subject (*The Complete Book of Swimming*, Random House) as well as numerous articles in swimming, exercise, and health and fitness magazines. My article in *Parade*, the Sunday supplement, in 1978, is said to have put our sport "on the map." I also served as a member of the Boards of Directors in the Connecticut and New England LMSCs; chaired the New England Top 10 committee; While at Harvard University, conducted extensive research

Candidates for USMS At Large Board of Directors

relating to aging and Masters swimming; given the Sports Medicine lecture at convention several years ago; served as Editor-in-Chief of **SWIM Magazine** when it was the official publication of USMS; and served as a member of several committees.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

1. Establishing swimming as the ideal form of exercise for an aging and increasingly obese population.
 - Advocating for building more swimming facilities Insert.
 - In concert with USAS and the NSOF, among others, providing information that will allow for swim facilities to operate profitably.
 - Taking a leadership role in ensuring the safety of open water swimming.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Sports Medicine. Chairs: Dr. Jessica Seaton, Dr. Jim Miller
International.: Dr. Jim Miller

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

I was editor-in-Chief of **Swimming World** magazine from 1992 to 2008; served as Executive Director of the College Swimming Coaches Association of America for three years and am currently a member of the International Relations Committee of United States Swimming.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

My connection with USMS dates back nearly to its inception (1970). I first joined late in 1971 and have been a member ever since. So I have a point of view that places many of our current issues in historical perspective. I have long been one of the more influential proponents of Masters swimming, having published a best-selling book on the subject (***The Complete Book of Swimming***, Random House) as well as numerous articles in swimming, exercise, and health and fitness magazines. My article in ***Parade***, the Sunday supplement, in 1978, is said to have put our sport "on the map." I also served as a member of the Boards of Directors in the Connecticut and New England LMSCs; chaired the New England Top 10 committee; While at Harvard University, conducted extensive research relating to aging and Masters swimming; given the Sports Medicine lecture at convention several years ago; served as Editor-in-Chief of **SWIM Magazine** when it was the official publication of USMS; and served as a member of several committees.

USMS Board Committee Reports & Agendas

Audit

Committee Members

Jill Gellatly, Chair; Elyce Dilworth, Vice Chair
Phil Dodson, Jeanne Ensign, Paul Griffin
Ex-Officio: Ralph Davis, Susan Kuhlman

Introduction

The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is to monitor the reliability and integrity of the financial statements of United States Masters Swimming, Inc. (USMS), monitor compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, monitor and evaluate effectiveness of the organization's operating systems, and monitor the independence and performance of USMS's external auditors.

With regards to the 2011 audit, USMS received an "unqualified" opinion from Kerkerling, Barberio & Co. (K&B).

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Review and recommend approval of the 2011 audited financial statements to the BOD. Included annual meeting of members with K&B in Sarasota.
2. Review and recommend approval of the 990 Tax Forms for the year ending December 31, 2011.
3. Executive Summary report provided to BOD for July mid-year meeting. The report included the results of the 2011 audit process and findings.
4. Review and approval of the implementation of a Disaster Recovery Plan as recommended by the K&B auditors in 2011.

Action Items

1. Communicate to Finance Committee/BOD any recommendations for changes to policy as noted below in discussion items.
2. Recommend approval of K&B engagement letter
3. Recommend to Finance Committee change to capitalization policy per FOG

Audit Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 13th 4:00pm – 5:15pm - Riverdale

1. Discuss contract approval process and determine if any changes to FOG need to be recommended to Finance Committee.
2. Review process of approving grants and disbursement of funds. Make any recommendations to BOD or Finance Committee as deemed appropriate.
3. Discuss budgeting process and determine if any changes to FOG need to be recommended to the Finance Committee.
4. Review the 2012 engagement letter draft provided by K&B and make recommendation to BOD to approve.
5. Open discussion

Compensation & Benefits

Committee Members

Sarah Welch, Chair
Dr. Jim Miller, Vice Chair. Members: Hill Carrow, Ed Coates, and Erika Braun
Ex-officio: Nadine Day

This fall the Committee accepted the resignation of Raena Latina. We solicited interest from qualified HR professionals within USMS and recommended Erika Braun to the Board, whose appointment was approved in June 2012.

The Compensation and Benefits Committee works throughout the year to make recommendations to the BOD in their role overseeing compensation and benefits for the corporation as a whole and specifically regarding aspects of the executive director's compensation. The Committee also makes recommendations regarding Compensation and

USMS Board Committee Reports & Agendas

Benefits plans, policies and programs. We have overall responsibility for evaluating and recommending compensation, including bonus structure and goals, for the executive director for Board of Director consideration.

In the 2011-2012 year since the last annual Convention, the Committee gathered information and presented recommendations to the Board regarding the Executive Director's annual bonus for 2011. Nadine Day performed the annual review with the Executive Director in February 2012.

The committee reviewed the benefits package and did not recommend changes. There were no changes in the corporation's paid time off policy or benefits policy.

Endowment Fund

Jeff Moxie

During the first six months of 2012 the Fund Balance in the Endowment Fund has grown from \$197,881 to \$206,452. This is an increase of 4.3% which is slightly higher than the selected benchmark (U.S Equities which returned 3.5% during the same period). The available funds for grants during 2012 is based on the balance in the fund as of December 31, 2011. The suggested spendable amount is 5% of the balance which amounts to \$9,894. Through July 31, 2012, 100% of these funds have been earmarked (by the U.S. Masters Swimming Board of Directors) for offsetting costs related to the 2012 Summer Nationals in Omaha. Accordingly, no additional grants will be funded for the remainder of 2012. Any agenda items related to the Endowment Fund will be handled as a subset of the Swimming Saves Lives agenda.

Finance

Committee Members

Homer Lane, Chair; Sarah Welch, Vice Chair

Thomas Boak, David Burgio, Joan Campbell, Elyce Dilworth, Phil Dodson, Betsy Durrant, Eger Laszlo (new), Jeanne Ensign, Jill Gellatly, Kildine Harms, Lucy Johnson, Greg Weber (new), and Laura Winslow (new)

Ex-Officio: Ralph Davis and Susan Kuhlman

Introduction

As usual this Committee has been very active during the course of the year and will be conducting a number of pre-convention conference calls to perform preliminary reviews of the 2013 Budget.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

4. Reconstituted the Committee removing a couple of the 2011 members (Rob Copeland and Conrad Johnson) and adding three new members noted above.
5. Received monthly financial reports from the Controller
6. Reviewed forecast and final 2011 operating results.
7. Closely monitored the financial planning for the Omaha Nationals meet.
8. Reviewed the Investment Committee development of USMS Investment reports for the Board.
9. The Chair participated in the development of a Gift Acceptance Policy approved by the Board in early 2012.
10. Reviewed and approved a Spending Policy recommended by the Investment Committee.
11. Reviewed and approved a change in Financial Operating Guidelines (FOG) section VIII Investments, regarding appropriate investment of cash balances.
12. Approved a couple of Over Budget requests.
13. Reviewed the first half 2012 operating results and the forecast for the remainder of the year.

Action Items

1. Approval of the 2012 Budget
2. Approval of various amendments to FOG.

USMS Board Committee Reports & Agendas

Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 Wednesday, September 12th 4:00pm – 5:30pm – Olympia

Meeting #2 Thursday, September 13th 11:45am – 1:00pm – Olympia

Meeting #3 Friday, September 14th 10:30am – 11:45am – Olympia

Meeting #4, Saturday, September 15th 7:45am – 8:45am - Olympia

1. Review all elements of the 2012 budget, recommend amendments, and submit for final approval by the Board and ultimately the HOD
2. Address any recommended amendments (mileage reimbursement rates, cash balance investments, etc.) to the FOG and present them to the HOD for final approval.
3. Receive reports from the Audit and Investment Committees.
4. Handle any other issues related to financial matters in USMS.

Governance

Committee Members

Anthony Thompson, Chair; Patty Miller, Michael Moore, Sean Fitzgerald, Hugh Moore, Dave Diehl, and Jim Wheeler

Introduction

The Governance Committee is responsible for ongoing review and recommendations to enhance the quality of the USMS governance structure, including the Board, committees, local, and regional divisions of USMS. The majority for the work this year has been centered on tools to support, development, and improve the performance of the Board of Directors. Some efforts were directly at the LMSCs and Committees.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. LMSC Minimum Standards Policy reviewed. Some changes of this policy document were developed and others developed by LMSC Development Committee were reviewed.
2. LMSC Bylaws were discussed including assessments being completed by the LMSC Development Committee, lack of tools to support LMSC to meet this standards, and role of Governance Committee to support LMSC Development.
3. USMS Board Assessment of Full Board performance was discussed and created survey questions. Numerous resources were used to create the survey including internal USMS documents from orientation, training, and policy documents, as well as best practices or surveys created by other non-profits.
4. USMS Board Role and Responsibility Policy Document were reviewed documents and discussion held by the Board and Governance Committee over the last three years.
5. Legislation to transform the ad hoc committee to permanent committee of the Board: Investment and Audit Committees.
6. Guidelines for use of social media and communication by USMS Board members based on best practice of non-profits.
7. USMS Board Self-Assessment of Individual Board members was developed based on the evaluation done on the full Board and role/responsibility policy document.
8. Supported the work of the Volunteer Task Force on the roles of the USMS Board.

Action Items

1. Governance submitted recommended changes to LMSC Minimum Standard Policy (now titled LMSC Standards Policy in the LMSC Handbook posted on USMS website revisions in March 2012) to Board.
2. Recommend the removal of model LMSC bylaws from the LMSC Handbook on the USMS website. Other tools to support LMSC bylaws including “General Bylaw Information” and “Model LMSC Grievance Procedures” were recommended to be retained on the USMS website.
3. Administered a USMS Full Board Evaluation and worked with consultant on Board education based on survey results.

USMS Board Committee Reports & Agendas

4. Governance recommend to the Board to approve the 17Feb10 version of the USMS Board Role and Responsibility Policy document.
5. Drafted guideline for use of social media and communications by USMS Board members.
6. Administered a USMS Board Self-Assessment and working on evaluating the results to develop additional training for the USMS Board.

Governance Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 12th 2:30pm – 4:30pm - McCormick

1. Review work completed in 2011-12 season and items assigned but not yet completed.
2. Discussion on assignments to be completed.
3. New Business

Investment

Committee Members

Dave Burgio, Chair; Elyce Dilworth, Vice Chair
[Stan Benson, Ralph Davis, Homer Lane, Bill Sherman]
Ex-Officio: Susan Kuhlman

Introduction

This Committee is responsible for overseeing USMS's Investment Philosophy of investing the financial assets of USMS in excess of needed working capital, consistent with a policy of prudent investment planning and protection of assets according to the established USMS Investment Policy approved by the USMS Board of Directors.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Developed a USMS Portfolio Performance-Benchmark Report for the Investment Committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Directors.
2. Began dialogue on a USMS Spending Policy targeted for BOD action at the upcoming 2012 Convention.
3. Initiated discussion on updated Money Market investment guidelines to be incorporated into FOG for both USMS and the LMSC's planned to be discussed at a 2012 Convention Finance Committee Meeting.
4. Continued USMS Portfolio monthly monitoring by the Investment Committee and quarterly discussions with our Northern Trust Portfolio Manager.
5. Completed investing the total allowable assets authorized by the USMS Board.

Action Items

All the aforementioned projects continue to be carry forward action items.

Investment Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting #1 Wednesday, September 12th 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Riverdale

Meeting #2 Friday, September 14th 1:30pm - 2:45pm - Riverdale

1. Discussion of USMS Portfolio recommendations proposed by our Northern Trust Portfolio Manager.
2. Discussion of Portfolio returns to date.
3. Conference Call with Jim Walker, our Northern Trust Portfolio Manager.
4. Review of Investment Committee Conference call schedule for 2012-2013.
5. Deliberation of recommended changes to the USMS Investment Policy.
6. Other items requiring Investment Committee attention.

USMS Board Committee Reports & Agendas

Policy

Committee Members

Betsy Durrant, Chair

Meg Smath, Maria Elias Williams

Introduction

This committee has worked with the USMS Vice Presidents to gather committee policies to post on the USMS website. Anna Lea Matysek works with us in organizing the material on the website for easy access.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Gathering policies.
2. Editing submissions to conform to USMS Style Guide.

Action Items

1. Posting policy documents for the following committees: History and Archives, Recognition and Awards, Records and Tabulation, Rules.
2. Working with Championship to compile their policy for posting.

Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 12th 5:30pm – 6:30pm - McCormick

1. Review the USMS Policy Document.
2. Review the organization of policies on the website.
3. Discuss recommendations for organization of policies.
4. Discuss what committees, if any, need to create and submit policy.
5. Discuss membership of the committee – is current status sufficient?
6. Any other business.

USMS Special Appointment Reports

Ad Hoc Elections

Committee Members

Michael Moore, Chair

Jerry Clark, Daniel Cox, Susan Kirk

Ex-Officio: None

Introduction

The Committee was appointed by President Nadine Day to slate candidates for the At-Large Board of Directors election that will take place at the 2012 US Masters Swimming annual convention.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee reviewed the Election Operating Guidelines.
2. The Election Committee conducted nominations, in accordance with USMS Election Policy. At the conclusion of the initial nomination process (Note floor nominations at the annual meeting of the HOD are pending), the following candidates have been qualified and are slated for election, awaiting zone endorsement.

Breadbasket:	Bruce Hopson
Colonies:	Chris McGiffin
Dixie:	Maria Elias-Williams
Great Lakes:	Phil Dodson
Northwest:	Hugh Moore
Oceana:	Jim Clemmons
South Central:	Jill Gellatly
Southwest:	Phil Whitten

Action items:

Conduct election.

- I. Assist - Zones meet to endorse Director candidates (09/13/2012)
- II. Assist – Request any floor nominations and approval to determine if all qualifications are met on HOD 1: (9/13/12)
- III. HOD nominations and floor nominations for all positions. (09/14/2010)
- IV. Facilitate - Meet the Candidates opportunities.
- V. Conduct - Elections (09/14/2012)

FINA Liaison

Nancy Ridout

The focus of the FINA Masters Committee in 2012 was the XIV World Championships, Riccione, Italy, June 30/17, 2012. Close to 10,000 swimmers, 2,400 open water, 1,400 water polo players, 596 synchronized swimmers, 297 divers participated in these championships. The facilities in Riccione were outstanding but lacking in space for warm-ups, notably deficient in the indoor pool.

I had responsibilities for both water polo and swimming. Water polo had 101 teams participating. The 7 days were long but well-managed. The open water event was rescheduled to be run over two days to accommodate all the entrants. This rescheduling caused conflicts with the 400m freestyle and refunds were offered to those affected, those who decided not to both on the same day, or those whose travel plans were impacted.

USMS Special Appointment Reports

Over 5,000 of the swimmers were Italians and this was one of the reasons for the huge numbers of participants. Opportunity needs to be weighed against a realistic number that can be managed efficiently and effectively. By the middle of the swimming events, 3500 swimmers were NT's; they did not meet the qualifying standards. This represented 350 heats just halfway through.

All that being said, the Local Organizing Committee did an outstanding job of managing the numbers. The facility had been upgraded with a new pool and a new dressing room for the outdoor pool. The Italian Swimming Federation contributed a large number of officials for swimming and water polo, which was supplemented by international officials as well. They worked from morning through the evening and were professional and pleasant throughout.

The FINA Masters Committee Chair appointed two subcommittees to investigate methods to control the numbers, and the feasibility of combining the Masters World Championships with the elite World Championships.

As Chairman of the subcommittee on Masters Development, I prepared a brochure for distribution at the next FINA Conference in November, in Moscow. It was well received. New photos from Riccione will be used when appropriate. I'm investigating the feasibility of editing the video produced by Pacific Masters, from the Stanford World Championships, to delete the scenes of swimmers in long (now illegal) suits and replace them with action shots from Riccione in today's legal suits, for showing at the Moscow FINA Conference.

The next World Championships will be held in Montreal and the requested dates are July 27-August 10, 2014. Information can be found at www.finamasters2014.org.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the FINA Masters Committee for the past eight years and thank you for the trust and support you have given me. I've tried to represent the perspective and concerns of our membership to the best of my ability and introduce new ideas and opportunities for FINA Masters worldwide. It's now time to step down and give someone else this opportunity to serve the Masters swimming program internationally so that the benefits of *Swimming for Life* can be realized throughout the world. Again, it's been my great pleasure to serve in this capacity and I thank you for the opportunity.

IGLA Liaison

Bruce Hopson

International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) is international organization comprised of masters swimming, open water swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming. Each year, it holds an international championship meet for all of its disciplines. This year's event was held May 30-June 3, 2012 at Reykjavik Iceland. Teams that compete in IGLA are either USMS sanctioned teams such as West Hollywood Aquatics and DC Aquatic Club, or they can be members of a USMS sanctioned team. Swimmers can also compete under an assumed name for the purposes of the IGLA meet but their times are recorded under whatever USMS sanctioned team for which they normally compete.

Future IGLA events are the 2013 IGLA Championships held August 13-18 in Federal Way, WA, and the 2014 Gay Games August 9-16, 2014, in Cleveland, Ohio. Bidding for the 2018 Gay Games has been completed RFP proposals will go out to Amsterdam, Limerick, London, Paris, Rio De Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Orlando, FL. The winner bid will be selected in 2013 at a meeting in Cleveland, OH.

It appears that IGLA is still having problems obtaining recognition for its events from FINA. Although appeals of prior denials may not lead anywhere, research into recognition of future events remains hopeful.

USMS Liaison to ISHOF

Walt Reid

IMSHOF

The 2011 International Masters Swimming Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony was held during the 2011 USAS Convention in Jacksonville, Fla. Rich Abrahams and Jeff Farrell from USMS were inducted as Honor Swimmers into IMSHOF. The Masters Nominees for 2012 Honor Swimmer from USMS are Anne Adams, Carolyn Boak, Tim Birnie, Edward Cazalet, Roger Franks and Paul Krup. The nominee for Honor Contributor is Mel Goldstein. I am

USMS Special Appointment Reports

pleased to announce that the 2012 IMSHOF Inductees will be Carolyn Boak, Tim Birnie, Paul Krup and Mel Goldstein. The 2012 IMSHOF Induction Ceremony will be held during the 2012 USAS Convention in Greensboro N.C.

ISHOF

The 2012 International Swimming Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony was held at the International Swimming Hall Of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale May 11-12, 2012. No Masters were inducted. The nominees for the 2012 “Honor Masters Swimmer” from USMS were Aldo da Rosa, Burwell Jones, Betsy Jordan, Jim McConica, Frank Piemme and Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen.

I attended the 2012 ISHOF Induction Ceremony as the USMS liaison. This gave me the opportunity to spend a lot of time at the ISHOF Museum. I was able to talk to Bob Duenkel (Executive Director) about my position with USMS and some of the things I would like to accomplish.

National Board of Review

Laura Groselle, Chair

Introduction

There were several issues addressed this past year. NBR panel members worked very hard and their efforts are to be commended.

Action Items/Discussion

1. The NBR would like to emphasize how important it is that LMSCs have effective by-laws and a grievance procedure (by-law information and a model grievance procedure can be found at www.usms.org under “Guide to Operations”).
2. The NBR is pleased that there is a Dispute Resolution Task Force underway to examine dispute resolution at multiple levels of USMS.

Rule Book Coordinator

Susan Ehringer

Introduction

I would like to thank the National Office, Tracy Grilli, Anna Lea Matysek and Kyle Deery Walt Reid; the Rules Committee; the Open Water Long Distance Committee; and the Legislation Committee who did a great job in helping to edit and publish the 2012 Rule Book.

Discussions and projects since the last convention

- Published 2012 Rule Book and Mini Rule Book
- Worked with Legislation, Rule Book, Open Water and Long Distance Committees to edit 2012 Rule Book and to correct errors after printing
- Chose Spotlight Graphics of Sarasota, Florida as the printing company for the 2012 printing and shipping of the Rule Book and Mini Rule Book
- Rule Book figures updated by Victoria Grilli

Action items:

- Work with committee chairs to edit various sections 2013 Rule Book
- Estimate the number of 2013 Rule Books and Mini Rule Books for printing
- Edit and publish the 2013 Rule Book and Mini Rule Book
 - October 1 – Receive first edits from committee chairs
 - October 8 –
 - Receive ads from Kyle Deery
 - Receive electronic copy of the cover

USMS Special Appointment Reports

- Send first draft to committees October 15
- November 2 - Receive final approval from committee chairs
- November 9 – Receive records from Walt Reid and Donn Livoni
- November 16 – Final proof reading by respective committee chairs and Membership Coordinator sent to RB Coordinator
- November 20 – approval of printed copy
- November 23 – Send camera ready copy and artwork to RB Printer
- December 1 –
 - Rule Books Shipped
 - Upload 2013 Rule Book to website

At Convention

- Announce at the 2012 Convention the 2013 Rule Book cover winner
- Announce at the 2012 Convention the 2013 Rule Book Dedication
- Recommend Spotlight Graphics to print the 2013 Rule Book.
- Recommend removing Appendix A (Records) and Appendix F (U.S. Masters Swimming History) from the printed Rule Book and moved to online only

UANA Masters Technical Committee

Committee Members

Mel Goldstein, Chair

Jim Miller, MD – voting member (other voting members are from other member federations and aquatic disciplines within UANA)

Introduction

UANA stands for Union Americana de Natacion. It represents the Union of all of the Caribbean, Central, North and South American swimming federations. It is the Continental Federation under which USAS belongs in the scheme of things. All of the Continental Federations unite under FINA (Federation Internationale De Natation), which oversees all of the 5 aquatic disciplines in the world and is a member federation under the IOC. The 5 aquatic disciplines are water polo, synchronized swimming, diving, pool swimming and open water swimming.

USMS puts before USAS nominees to serve on the UANA Masters Technical Committee. Those names are considered by USAS and voted upon. If positively voted the names are then recommended to UANA. It takes a vote by UANA to approve the nominations and be appointed to serve on the Masters Technical Committee.

Mel Goldstein is the current Chair of the UANA Masters Technical Committee and Jim Miller is a voting member also. Mel was reappointed to his second term as chair at the Pan American Championships in March 2012.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

The UANA Masters Technical Committee oversees all of the 5 aquatic disciplines at the masters level. Mel makes on-site inspections of all Pan American Championship sites, coordinates the newsletter, and conducts the business of masters sports via Internet and face to face meetings every two years at the Masters Pan American Championships. Currently, there is a consideration of making the Masters Technical Committee meetings an annual event.

This coming year USMS is hosting the 5th Masters Pan American Championships in Sarasota, Florida from June 1 to 12, 2013. Synchronized Swimming, Pool Swimming and Open Water will be contested during these days of competition with water polo being held June 21-24 at the YMCA Aquatic Center in Orlando Florida. Only diving will be missing from the full complement of events. A Technical Committee meeting will be held one to two days prior to the opening of the Championships. The Masters Technical Committee will discuss the current championship and representatives from the committee assigned to assist/observe the 3 disciplines. In most cases the UANA members will also judge or compete in the Championships.

There are several new members to the Committee, so understanding their interests and concerns will be key. The bid process will be reviewed and site visits set up for the 2015 Masters Pan American Championships, which have yet to be awarded.

USMS Special Appointment Reports

Bids go out at least one Championship ahead, allowing for the upcoming Championship to market at the current one i.e. two years in advance.

The UANA budget item is worthy of a brief discussion. Most of Mel and Jim's expenses are picked up by either UANA or the Pan American host. However, there are occasional meetings or expenses that are not covered which are included under the finance line item. An excellent example of an expense item was to support Mel in his trip to Guadalajara for the Pan American Championships in March, 2012. This allowed him to make the formal report of the Masters Technical Committee in person and answer questions about the working of the committee to the newly appointed UANA Executive Committee. There is little doubt that his attendance was a factor in his successful reappointment.

Action Items

1. Actively support the Sarasota Y Sharks in their hosting of the 5th Masters Pan American Championships, which is the first time that these Championships have been in North America.
2. Approval of the UANA Budget – under Finance

Agenda

No meeting is conducted at Convention but both Mel and Jim are open to any inquiries regarding UANA and their positions.

USMS Liaison to USA Swimming

Ted Haartz

The London 2012 Olympics was the culmination of 4 years of great planning, real objectives and very real results. The heartbreak is that USA Swimming has so many talented swimmers who for a tenth of a second or two, did not make the Olympic team.

Their performances were outstanding. The athletes, coaches, staff and volunteers worked in harmony to showcase America's best swimmers to the world.

After some effort, USA Swimming's president, Bruce Stratton, named Jeff Gudman, Vice-President of Program Development at USA Swimming, liaison to the USMS board of Directors. The USMS board approved his appointment, ex-officio, at the July board meeting in Sarasota, FL. Jeff is also a former treasurer of USA Swimming and comes to us with a wealth of knowledge. If you happen to see Jeff in your travels through the convention corridors, say "hi", introduce yourself and welcome him to our organization.

As of the end of 2012, I will step down from my long service as USMS Liaison to USA Swimming. I have enjoyed the periodic challenges it has presented and feel comfortable with our respective presidents, executive directors and vice presidents that they are able to communicate with their peers on matters of mutual interest to both organizations.

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2012 Convention.

Please note that many of the proposed changes are from review work done by the Rules Committee and are a matter of clarifying, reorganizing, maintaining consistency, and updating rules.

The substantive proposals are R 1-15 (Glossary), R 16, R 19, R 25, R 29, R 31-34, R 38, R 41-43, R 46, R 48, R 49-51, R 53-57, R 59-65, R 68, R 70, R 73-79, R 81-89, R 91, and R 93.

R 1	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Arm—that part of the body that extends from the shoulder to the wrist.

Rationale: Define “arm” for purposes of interpretation of the over-the-water recovery in butterfly.

R 2	Glossary	page xi-xii	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

FINA—Federation International de Natation ~~Amateur~~ (International Federation of ~~Amateur~~ Swimming) is the world-wide swimming sports organization that governs swimming, open water swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming, and Masters.

Rationale: Correct the FINA name and expand the definition.

R 3	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Finish—the instant that a swimmer touches the wall at the end of the prescribed distance.

Rationale: “Turn” is defined in the Glossary but “finish” was not; consistent with USA-S language.

R 4	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Forward Start—an entry made while facing the course or a start made while in the water either facing the course or not facing the course.

Rationale: Clarify that a swimmer can face any direction during an in-the-water start.

R 5	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Medic Alert Bracelet—a permissible article worn by a swimmer in competition that identifies medical conditions, emergency contacts or other information necessary to protect the health of the swimmer in USMS competition. Medical alert bracelets are not considered part of swimwear.

Rationale: Clarify that medical alert bracelets are permissible under USMS rules.

R 6	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Official USMS Publication—a printed magazine distributed to USMS members on a regular basis.

Rationale: Clarify that the intent of “an official USMS publication” (104.5.4B[2]) was the USMS magazine.

R 7	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Scissors Kick—use of the top of the instep of one foot and the bottom of the other foot in the propulsive part of the kick.

Rationale: More accurate term as used in the rules.

R 8	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Delete			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

SCN—~~Swimming Canada Natation.~~

Rationale: There is no longer any reference to Canadian Masters Swimming in the rule book.

R 9	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Soft Touch—a swimmer’s touch that does not register a time at the point of contact with the touchpad.

Rationale: The term is not defined in the rules.

R 10	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Team—members of the same club who are participating on a relay (i.e., relay team).

Rationale: Define the term “team” in relation to “club” for purposes of the rules.

R 11	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

UANA—Union Americana de Natacion, the FINA continental association for the Americas that oversees international aquatics competition within North and South America.

Rationale: Add definition for the FINA continental governing body/organization of the Americas for swimming.

R 12	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

USAS—United States Aquatic Sports Inc. affiliated to FINA as the FINA Member Federation for the United States of America and may choose to organize itself by delegations to one or more separate organizations the responsibility for particular disciplines (e.g., USMS for Masters swimming) and notifies FINA of the identity of each such organization and assumes all ultimate responsibility for the actions of such organizations.

Rationale: Clarify that USAS is the FINA member federation and has delegated responsibility for Masters swimming in the United States to USMS but assumes ultimate responsibility for the actions of USMS.

R 13	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

USA-S—USA Swimming, Inc., the national governing body for swimming in the United States.

Rationale: Clarify that USA-S is USA Swimming and USAS is United States Aquatic Sports.

R 14	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

USMS—United States Masters Swimming Inc., the national governing body for Masters swimming in the United States.

Rationale: Expand the definition of USMS.

R 15	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Whip Kick—breaststroke kick.

Rationale: The term is not defined in the rules.

R 16	101.1.1	page 1	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of

whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take and maintain their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge front of the pool deck or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.” ~~Those Swimmers~~ starting in the water should take and maintain their positions on the wall with must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block platform.

Rationale: “and maintain” is consistent with USA-S language and clarifies that a swimmer should not step forward between “Take your mark” and the starting signal. Use parallel language for the edge of the pool and in-the-water starts. Use “platform” as in the previous sentence and in 103.8.5A and C.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.8.5 Start Commands

A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge front of the pool deck or on the wall and remain there. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position (article 101.1.2).

R 17	101.1.1	page 1	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.” Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block and may face any direction.

Rationale: Clarify that a swimmer is not required to face the course for a forward start from the water.

R 18	102.5	page 6	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.5 Events

In planning any meet, careful consideration must be given the demands to be made upon swimmers, officials and spectators, in that order. Meets should be planned to terminate within a reasonable period of time each day. Planning should provide for adequate meal and rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.

Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. Any of the following events may be conducted.

Rationale: Clarify that groups in USMS are age groups.

R 19	102.9.4	page 9	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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102.9.4 First and last names of swimmers eligible to compete in relay events shall be entered in accordance with the meet announcement.

Rationale: Clarify that relay swimmers must be entered in the meet and consistent with USA-S language.

R 20	102.10.1B	page 8	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.1 Seeding Principles for Masters Competition

B Age groups, and/or genders ~~and~~ as well as events of the same distance 200 yards or longer may be combined so that no swimmer has to swim alone and lanes may be filled.

Rationale: Clarify that combining age groups and genders applies to events of all distances, not just events of 200 yards or longer. Without the comma before the conjunction (i.e., age groups, genders and events), it appears that genders can only be combined for distances of 200 yards or more. Modify the language since the USMS Style Guide prohibits use of a comma before the conjunction.

R 21	102.10.2B	page 9	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B Minimum number of swimmers per heat—When there are two or more heats there shall be a minimum of three swimmers or relay teams seeded into the ~~first~~ slowest heat. The fastest heat shall be filled first, then the next fastest heat, etc.

Rationale: Change “first heat” to “slowest heat” since seeding can be either fast-to-slow or slow-to-fast (not the intent to put 3 swimmers in the fast heat of fast-to-slow seeding).

R 22	102.10.4	page 9	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.4 Two-to-a-Lane Seeding in Individual Distance Freestyle Events

Rationale: Clarify that two-to-a-lane seeding does not apply to relay events.

R 23	102.11.3	page 12	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement (except as permitted in .4 below) and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified

and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may and should file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 24	102.11.3	page 12	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may ~~and should~~ file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 25	102.11.3	page 12	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change (on paper or in electronic file) is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. Electronic notice must be sent no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing (on paper or in electronic file) that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may and should file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: To allow for electronic notice.

R 26	102.11.4E&F	page 12	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.11.4 Postponement or Cancellation

E ~~Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet committee, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet committee on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee (national championship meets).~~ Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with article 103.17 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.

F ~~Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with article 103.17 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.~~ Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet committee, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The

decision of the meet committee on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee (national championship meets).

Rationale: Switch the text of E and F; consistent with USA-S language.

R 27	102.12.1A	page 12	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap(s), and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.

Rationale: Clarify that more than one cap is allowed (USMS, USA-S, and FINA). Place a comma after “cap(s)” to clarify that a cap and goggles are separate items (FINA did not approve a cap with built-in goggles).

R 28	102.12	pages 12-13	Rules Committee	Reorganize			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

A The swimsuits worn for competition shall be nontransparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

AB Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.

BC In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor extend below the knees.

~~**C** Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition.~~

D(1) Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

(12) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the U.S. Masters Swimming website.

(23) No exemption to these restrictions will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

(34) The decision of the Rules Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

D Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition.

E 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, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Clarify that exemptions apply only to swimsuits and not to armbands, legbands, or other devices and to more closely match USA-S organization.

R 29 102.12.1E page 13 **Long Distance Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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102.12.1 E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, snorkels, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Both the Rules and Long Distance Committees have consistently interpreted the current rule to prohibit snorkels in pool competition. Snorkels are specifically prohibited in the parallel language of open water rules 303.7.2D and 303.7.3C. As postal swims are governed by Part 1 with exceptions as noted in article 306, 102.12.1E needs to clarify that snorkels are on the list of prohibited gear.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

(R) 102.13.9 page 14

102.13.9 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, snorkels, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 30 102.12.1E page 13 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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E 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, flippers, fins, etc.). ~~Goggles may be worn, and r~~Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Unnecessary language since goggles are specifically permitted in 102.12.1A.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). ~~Goggles may be worn, and r~~Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 31 102.12.1E page 13 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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E 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, ~~flippers~~, fins, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: “Flippers” is redundant (with “fins”) and clarify that the interpretation prohibits neoprene caps.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 32	102.12.1E	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

E 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, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medic alert bracelets are permitted. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: A medic alert bracelet is a doctor’s note providing necessary information about life-threatening medical issues, and it must not be removed for competition.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medic alert bracelets are permitted. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 33	102.12.2	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.12.2 Advertising—Products involving tobacco, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing ~~drugs~~ substances banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser’s name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 34	102.13.3	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.13.3 Any swimmer, coach or spectator who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue may be considered for appropriate action or penalty by the referee.

Rationale: Extend referee’s authority to coaches and spectators.

R 35	102.13.8	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.13.8 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer(s), the referee may allow the affected competitor(s) to reswim the event. In the case of collusion to foul another swimmer, at the referee's discretion, the swimmer for whose aid the foul was committed may be disqualified, as well as the swimmer ~~doing~~ committing the fouling.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 36	102.13.10	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.13.10 Grasping the floating lane line/divider or side wall to assist forward motion is not permitted.

Rationale: More accurate terminology.

R 37	102.13.15	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.13.15 Approved ~~Underwater~~ video replay may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck. The official(s) reviewing the video may only confirm the call made on deck, overrule the call, or advise the referee that the review proved inconclusive.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 38	102.14.2	pages 14-15	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.14.2 Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization in any race shall be made in writing to the meet director or referee before the race is held, and if the meet committee deems it advisable, the swimmer may compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race. The meet committee shall immediately refer such protest to the sanctioning LMSC's officers (local meets) or championship meet protest committee (national championship meets; see article 104.5.9B) having jurisdiction for adjudication at the earliest possible time.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

102.14.5 Any other protest arising from the competition itself shall be made within 30 minutes after the race in which the alleged infraction took place. If the protest is not resolved immediately, the protester shall at that time file a written protest with the chair of the sanctioning LMSC or the chair's representative having jurisdiction over the event. If the sanctioning LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest within 10 days, the protester may appeal in writing to the USMS Rules Committee chair within the next five days for final adjudication, whose decision shall then be binding on all parties.

R 39	103.5	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed by the meet ~~sponsor~~ host. The committee consists of a minimum of the meet director, referee or starter, and a participating athlete, as appointed by the meet director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: More accurate term.

R 40	103.6.1	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6 Referee

103.6.1 The referee shall:

A ~~H~~ave full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them;

B ~~S~~hall enforce all applicable rules, ~~and~~

C ~~S~~hall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; ~~and~~

D ~~C~~ean overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action that the referee has personally observed.

Rationale: Reorganize so the information is easier to read.

R 41	103.6.2	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6.2 The referee has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the referee does not make such a signal, there shall be no ~~penalty~~ disqualification.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 42	103.6.5	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6.5 The referee shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage to ensure that the appropriate racing conditions are observed.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 43	103.6	page 16	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest			
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6.6 When the primary timing system is stopwatches, the referee may assign two (2) additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes or may assign three (3) additional timers per lane on request to record initial distances for world records.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language. Clarify that additional timers dedicated solely to recording splits may be assigned to each lane in addition to the timers recording the final time. Splits can only be recorded by stopwatches for official purposes if the primary timing system is stopwatches. (Splits for USMS records can only be recorded by automatic timing.)

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.18.1

E When the primary timing system is stopwatches, the referee may assign two (2) additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes or may assign three (3) additional timers per lane on request to record initial distances for world records.

R 44	103.6.9	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.6.9 The referee shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to articles 102.10.3 and .4 when conducting events from alternate ends of a 50-meter course or conducting freestyle events longer than 200 meters two-to-a-lane.

Rationale: More accurate rule references.

R 45	103.7.2E	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.7.2 The administrative referee shall be responsible to the referee for:

E Publication and posting of results of each event by gender and ~~USMS~~ age group and scores (scores optional).

Rationale: Unnecessary term.

R 46	103.8.1	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8 Starter

103.8.1 Equipment—The preferred starting device shall be a loudspeaker start system conforming to article 107.14, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all ~~manual~~ timers and for forward and backstroke starts.

Rationale: Unnecessary word.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

107.14 Loudspeaker Starting System

An electronic sound-generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light or similar visual signal located on the starter's side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to ~~manual~~ timers and deaf and hard of hearing swimmers (also see article 108.3). The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and final-lap signal option. [NC]

R 47	103.8.3B	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8.3 Optional Instructions—The starter may:

A Announce the event (recommended),

B Advise the heat ~~when~~ if a swimmer will be attempting to achieve a time at an initial distance,

Rationale: “If” a swimmer will be attempting a split time, the starter may inform the heat of that. “When” is a given; it’s during that heat.

R 48	103.8.5A	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8.5 Start Commands

A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall and remain there. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall ~~return without undue delay to the starting~~ take their positions on the wall without undue delay (article 101.1.2).

Rationale: More accurate description.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

101.1.2 Backstroke Start

A Starting commands—At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear. At the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall ~~return without undue delay to the starting~~ take their positions on the wall without undue delay.

R 49	103.8.5C	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8.5 Start Commands

C On the starter’s command “Take your mark,” ~~the each~~ swimmer shall immediately assume a starting position ~~with at least one~~ that does not move the front foot at from the initial position at the front of the starting platform; ~~or at the edge front of the pool deck or on the wall~~. A swimmer starting in the water must have at least one foot

on the wall and at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

Rationale: Clarify that the swimmer's front foot is to remain in position and the swimmer should not step forward between "Take your mark" and the starting signal. (In the "old" days, USS swimmers had to stay at the back of the blocks and couldn't step forward until "Take your mark", so a USMS exemption allowed swimmers to step forward before "Take your mark" and get in position on the block right away, avoiding difficulty getting into a good starting position in time and avoiding a possible safety issue.)

R 50	103.8.5D	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

D When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "Take your mark," the starter shall immediately release all swimmers with a command, upon which the swimmers may stand up, step off the blocks or leave the wall.

Rationale: Starters give a command such as "Stand", "Stand up", or "Relax" when releasing swimmers. It could also be a hand signal for hard of hearing. Regardless, the swimmers don't "relax", etc., until the starter gives a command.

R 51	103.8.7	page 19	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8.7 Warning Signal—With the exception of relays and the individual medley, in freestyle events ~~500 yards~~ 400 meters or longer the starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus 5 yards or 5 meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each lane by a lane judge or timer in that lane.

Rationale: To allow a warning signal for the 400 meter freestyle (see 102.10.6A) since counters are allowed for that event.

R 52	103.10.6	page 20	Rules Committee	Delete			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

~~**103.10.6 Infraction Signal**—Either the referee or the stroke, turn or relay takeoff judge shall immediately raise one hand overhead with open palm upon observing an infraction within that judge's jurisdiction. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.~~

~~**Exception:** Relay takeoff judges as outlined in article 103.10.5B and the referee as outlined in article 103.6.2.~~

Rationale: This rule appears in 102.13.1 and this deletion is consistent with USA-S rules.

R 53	103.11.2A&D	page 20	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.11.2 Head Lane Timer—The head lane timer shall:

A Determine whether the swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct lane, heat and event, and that relay swimmers are swimming in the order listed. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

B ...

C...

D Determine and report if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touchpad at the finish, or there is reason to believe the semiautomatic or manual times may be inaccurate. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

Rationale: To ensure that timers' duties other than timing are covered when overhead video cameras replace timers. In Omaha lane marshals and the Omega timing crew covered these duties.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.11.3 Lane Timers—...

A...

B Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish to observe a touch above, at or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semiautomatic system button when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

R 54	103.17.2C	page 22	Championship Committee				Modify	
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.17.2 Timing System Designation

C Tertiary system – Unless the primary system consists of stopwatches or the secondary system is a fully integrated video system or includes at least one stopwatch per lane, a tertiary system of at least one stopwatch per lane shall be provided.

Rationale: This rule change would make USMS rules consistent with USA Swimming rules regarding the use of video timing equipment. Last year at convention the HOD approved a one-time suspension to permit backup cameras, but the Rule was not changed since it was not a Rules year and this wasn't deemed an emergency. We are now proposing a permanent change to permit backup cameras.

R 55	103.17.3A	page 22	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

A Automatic timing—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time. If there is a touchpad malfunction and fully integrated, stationary overhead video cameras are operating properly as the secondary system, then the video camera time shall be the official time without adjustment.

Rationale: Provide for the timing capabilities of fully integrated, stationary overhead video cameras as a secondary timing system.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.17.3D&E

D Adjustment for the timing system difference—When the referee determines that there is a malfunction of the primary timing system, the backup time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference prior to integrating them with accurate primary times in establishing the official times and determining the results. The adjustment for timing system difference is determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the valid primary and backup systems used at that meet. Exception: Fully integrated, stationary overhead video cameras as the secondary timing system for automatic timing (103.17.3A).

E Adjustment for malfunction on a lane—When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat or, if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane where the malfunction occurred. Exception: Fully integrated, stationary overhead video cameras as the secondary timing system for automatic timing (103.17.3A).

R 56	103.17.3B	pages 22-23	Rules Committee				Modify
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

A Automatic timing—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.

B Semiautomatic or manual timing—Whenever semiautomatic or manual timing is used, only valid times shall be used in calculating the official time. The times shall be determined as follows:

- (1) If two of the three button or three watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.
- (2) If three valid buttons or three watches disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.
- (3) If only two valid button or two valid watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two buttons or the average of the two watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.
- (4) If only one button or one watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system provided it is supported by other information.

Rationale: Clarify that buttons and watches cannot be mixed or combined to create a primary timing system (e.g., two buttons and one watch or two watches and one button cannot be combined for an official time).

R 57	103.18.1	page 25	Rules Committee				Modify
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.18 Official Time

103.18.1 An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1F[1] for sanctioned meets and article 202.2.1E which lists rules that affect the validity of official times at recognized meets).

Rationale: Clarify the reasons for the two rule references, clarify the reason for the list of rules in 202.2.1E, and encourage LMSCs to read the list of rules for recognized meets.

R 58	103.18.2	pages 25-26	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.18 Official Time

103.18.2 Official Time—An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

Rationale: Delete the subtitle since it is also the title of the entire section.

R 59	103.19	pages 26-27	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.19 Scoring

103.19.4 LMSC Options—For non-standard events the LMSC and/or meet host may establish the scoring point values to suit the format of the meet. These point values shall be stated in the meet announcement.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language and allows for other scoring options.

R 60	104.4.2	page 28	Championship Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.4.2 Payments—Prior to the meet, USMS shall withhold from payments to the meet host an amount per entrant to be determined by the Championship Committee and stipulated in the contract. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the meet contract, an amount per entrant shall be returned as stipulated in the contract. Noncompliance with said conditions, as determined by the meet evaluation committee ~~within 30 days of the receipt of the final meet report~~, shall result in forfeiture of part or all of the final payment.

Rationale: The 30-day period is misleading. USMS has 60 days to make this final payment to the Host after the host submits the Final Report. The internal deadline for the Evaluation Committee to facilitate this final payment should not be mandated by a USMS rule.

R 61	104.4.5	pages 28-29	Championship Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.4.5 Meet Report – The meet director of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Championship Committee within 60 days of the end of competition. This report shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, final results ~~(an electronic file plus hard copy)~~ and any other information, lessons learned, or suggestions ~~information~~ that may be helpful to future meet directors.

Rationale: The stricken language refers to the HY-TEK file, which we do not receive from the host (it comes from either the HY-TEK contractor from the meet or the Administrative Referee). Also, the written report needs to be better defined; for instance, it includes the “lessons learned” portion of this report.

R 62	104.5.2B(3)	page 31	Championship Committee	Delete and renumber			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.2 B Rotation of meet schedules

~~(3) Full days on the schedule may be interchanged so that the 400/500 freestyle and the 1500/1650 freestyle shall not be swum on consecutive days.~~

Rationale: It is policy not to end the last day with a relay or a 50, so this rule, if maintained, would need more information to stipulate that swapping days also requires not ending the last day with a relay and/or a 50. This rule impacts many other events: the 400 IM and 200 free must always be on Friday because the 500 free is on Sat/Sun which means the 100/200 IM must always be on Sat/Sun and the 50/100 free must always be Sat/Sun, etc., and many distance swimmers swim the 400 IM, so they still have “distance” events on consecutive days.

R 63	104.5.3C(2)	page 32	Championship Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.3 Event limit

C National Qualifying Times – There shall be qualifying times approval of the House of Delegates.

(2) Event Limit – When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying standards. The Championship Committee may limit participation in either the 800/~~1000 meter~~ or the 1500/~~1650 meter~~ freestyle to only those who meet the national qualifying time for that event. Competitors may enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying time for those events.

Rationale: The current rule only permits this restriction for long course nationals to help with the timeline, however, short course nationals faces some of the same challenges and meet directors of both nationals should get the same options.

R 64	104.5.4A(3)	pages 32-33	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.4 Entry Procedures

A Eligibility/affiliation

(3) Affiliation—A swimmer’s affiliation as stated on the entry form shall apply throughout the meet. If the club on the entry form and the club listed in the USMS membership database do not match, the swimmer shall, prior to the first day of competition, submit a new USMS membership card showing the new affiliation. The swimmer shall notify the meet host of a valid club transfer prior to the first day of competition. If there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer shall be switched to unattached status for the duration of the meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status only prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes.

Rationale: Give responsibility for notification of club transfer to the swimmer(s) in case USMS does not find an error(s) in club representation prior to the first day of competition. Searching for affiliation errors is tedious and cannot be done the day before the meet, so valid transfers completed at the last minute may be missed and only

the swimmer would know about the discrepancy. Once the meet starts, a swimmer's affiliation cannot be changed, not even to unattached.

R 65	104.5.4B(2)	page 33	Championship Committee			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

B Entry Form

(2) Distribution of entry form – ~~The entry form for individual events and~~ All meet information shall be published in an official USMS publication and on the USMS website at no cost to the meet host. ~~Short Course Nationals championship meet information shall be published in the January-February issue and long course nationals information shall be published in the May-June issue~~ according to Championship Committee policy. The individual and relay entry forms and any Championship Committee-approved additional information the host desires shall be posted on the USMS website ~~after the entry form and information are available.~~

Rationale: 95% or more of the entries are now done online; of the 1864 swimmers who entered Greensboro, 72 mailed in paper entries (96.1% entered online). Championship Committee policy would require publishing in the magazine: 1) the order of events and 2) prominently placed information for ordering a paper entry form or for downloading it on the USMS website. Deadlines for publishing meet information in the magazine will be part of Championship Committee policy, eliminating the need to suspend a rule to change publishing dates (as was done for Omaha).

R 66	104.5.4C(3)	page 33	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.4C(3) Postmark deadline—The meet director may establish a U.S. Postal Service postmark deadline seven days prior to the individual entry deadline. If a postmark deadline is established, individual ~~and relay~~ entries postmarked by a U.S. Postal Service office in the 50 states by midnight of that date shall be considered on time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.

Rationale: Relay deadlines are the day before the relay is scheduled to be swum.

R 67	104.5.5B(2)	page 35	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

B Distance events

(2) Willing and able competitors in the freestyle events ~~over 200~~ 400 meters or longer may swim two-to-a-lane when only one course (seven, eight, nine or ten lanes) is available for the event. Heats with two swimmers to a lane shall be completed before heats with a single swimmer per lane. Competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two-to-a-lane in these events if only one course is available and the meet day is projected to last longer than 12 hours. (See article 102.10.4 for principles of seeding two-to-a-lane.)

Rationale: Use language that is parallel to 104.5.5A(3), (4), and B(3).

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.5 Seeding

B Distance Events

~~(2) Willing and able competitors in the freestyle events over 200 meters may swim two to a lane when only once course (seven, eight, nine or 10 lanes) is available for the event. Heats with two swimmers to a lane shall be completed before heats with a single swimmer per lane. Competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two to a lane in these events if only one course is available and the meet day is projected to last longer than 12 hours. (See article 102.10.4 for principles of seeding two to a lane.)~~

Rationale: Swimming two-to-a-lane has not proven to be effective when used voluntarily – the timeline is not impacted by much unless all swimmers are required to swim two-to-a-lane. When swimming two-to-a-lane, two timing systems must be used and no splits are recorded. Also, two sets of officials and timers must also be in place. These are administrative burdens on the host and we now have other seeding choices to remedy projected long days (e.g. seeding more events by time, combining genders in distance freestyle events, deck seeding).

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.9 Protest Procedure

B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual, a relay team or a club to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons. The panel shall be composed ~~comprised~~ of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host club by the protest panel chair or Championship Committee liaison. This panel shall be chaired by the representative from the Championship Committee. Protests shall be submitted in writing, and heard by the panel, ~~and~~ Both the party lodging the protest and the party charged shall be afforded a chance to be heard. ~~Decisions shall be rendered no later than the last day of competition. Both the party lodging the protest and the party charged shall be afforded a chance to be heard.~~ The decision of the panel shall be final.

Rationale: Incorrect use of “comprised” (see USMS Style Guide). Change the first, overly-long sentence into two sentences. Correct the order of events by changing the original third sentence into two sentences and inserting the sentence about “affording a chance to be heard”.

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.10 Personnel

C Other personnel—The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

- two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button and at least one timer using a stopwatch,
- one recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used,
- one safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results and certification of

records are followed. Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee may make further modifications as appropriate and shall ensure that timers' duties in 103.11.2A and D and 103.11.3B are assigned to other meet personnel.

Rationale: Make USMS rules consistent with USA Swimming rules regarding the use of video timing equipment. Last year at convention the HOD approved a one-time suspension to permit backup cameras, but the Rule was not changed since it was not a Rules year and this wasn't deemed an emergency. We are now proposing a permanent change to permit backup cameras and to ensure that timers' duties other than timing are covered.

R 71	105.1	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS, ~~AND TOP 10 TIMES~~ AND ALL-AMERICAN

Rationale: Article 105.1 is general rules for achieving times for all three categories.

R 72	105.1.1	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times to be considered for records, Top 10 and All-American must be achieved in USMS sanctioned meets or recognized events.

Rationale: Parallel language similar to 105.1.2, .3, and .4.

R 73	105.1.2	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1 Requirements for Records and Top 10 Times

105.1.2 Deadlines—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times ~~must~~ shall be achieved and submitted as follows: on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee by June 30, October 20 and January 26, respectively.

Course	Times shall be achieved on or before:	Times shall be forwarded to Records and Tabulation chair or designee by:
Short course yards	May 31	June 30
Long course meters	September 30	October 20
Short course meters	December 31	January 26

Note that the “season” for each course is one year ending on the date in the second column.

Rationale: Emphasize that the requirements are mandatory by using “shall”, and make the deadlines easier to see by using a chart. Explain that each “season” is one year.

R 74	105.1.6A	page 38	Records and Tabulation Committee			Modify	
Action: Adopted		Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.6 Pool Certification

A Record applications and Top 10 submissions shall not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USMS, ~~or USA Swimming, or FINA.~~

Rationale: The USMS Records Administrator, Walt Reid, maintains a list of measured foreign pools for FINA World Records, and these should be acceptable for USMS Records and Top 10 submissions.

R 75	105.1.6A&B	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.6 Pool Certification

A Record applications and Top 10 submissions shall not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USMS ~~or USA Swimming.~~

B Pool certification shall be reported on the USMS Pool Length Certification Form (see Appendix B). USA Swimming verification of pool length certification will be accepted if it meets the USMS requirements for pool measurement (105.1.7B).

Rationale: “On file with USA Swimming” does not mean the pool is currently certified for length with USA-S. Their list includes pools that no longer exist, pools with structural changes but no recertification, and old certification forms that are no longer acceptable. A USA-S pool length certification form would be accepted if it meets USMS requirements, and a pool that is “on file with USA Swimming” would be accepted if USA Swimming verifies that it meets USMS certification requirements.

R 76	105.1.6C	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.6 Pool Certification

C Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes, including resurfacing, have occurred since the original certification.

Rationale: Clarify that resurfacing may also change the length of the pool.

R 77	105.1.7C&D	page 39	Rules Committee	Modify C and delete D			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

C Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the length of the course must be confirmed by measuring the two outside lanes and a middle lane prior to the start of the meet and at the conclusion of each session.

~~**D** Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved.~~

Rationale: Clarify that “confirmed” means physically measuring the two outside lanes and a middle lane, and combine “C” and “D”.

R 78	105.1.7	page 39	Records and Tabulation Committee	Add				
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

E Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of FINA shall be the standard for events sanctioned by a FINA Masters member federation other than USMS.

Rationale: Currently, USMS members may achieve times in international competition that are acceptable for FINA Top Ten or FINA Records but may not be valid for USMS Top 10 or USMS Records because of different measuring standards for bulkheads.

R 79	105.1.7	page 39	Records and Tabulation Committee	Add				
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

F Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of USA Swimming shall be the standard for Top 10 eligibility for events sanctioned by USA-S. The measurement rules and policies of USMS shall apply for dual sanctioned events.

Rationale: Meets sanctioned by USA Swimming are automatically recognized by USMS, implying that the facilities, personnel and procedures at these meets are acceptable to USMS. The measurement standards of USA-S and USMS do not match exactly: while USA-S requires measurements only for national records, it requires a qualified person for those measurements. It can be difficult to get measurements for USMS members at USA-S-sanctioned meets. The proposed rule strikes a balance between accuracy and practicality, eliminating the bulkhead measurement at USA-S-sanctioned meets for Top 10 but requiring it for USMS records.

R 80	105.3.9	page 40	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

105.3 USMS National Records

105.3.9 Records set outside the United States shall be ~~applied for~~ submitted on official USMS record application forms (Appendix B) and are subject to all pertinent requirements.

Rationale: Better word choice.

R 81	105.4	pages 40-41	Records and Tabulation Committee	Modify and Add				
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

105.4 All-American and All-Star

105.4.1 Individual All-American

The USMS member with the fastest listed time for an individual event for that season shall be declared the All-American in that event for the year.

105.4.2 Relay All-American

The USMS members from each relay team with the fastest listed time for that season shall be declared the relay All-Americans in that event for the year.

105.4.3 All-Star

The USMS member with the most individual All-American finishes for all three seasons in each age group and gender shall be declared the All Star in that age group and gender for the year. If two or more swimmers have the same number of All-American finishes, then points will be assigned to all the Top 10 rankings of the tied swimmers for the year, and the swimmer with the highest sum will be declared the All-Star.

Rationale: Although the existence and criteria for pool All-Americans are currently stated in the rule book, those for pool All-Stars are not.

R 82	107.2.3	page 42	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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107.2.3 Water Depth

A Starting end—

(3) In pools with water depth 4 feet (1.22 meters) or more at the starting end, platforms may be used and shall meet the height requirements of article 107.11.1. [M]

Rationale: Clarify that platforms may be used at this water depth but swimmers may start in the water.

R 83	107.6	page 43	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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107.6 Water Temperature

Water temperature between ~~78 and 80~~ 77 and 82.4 degrees Fahrenheit (25 to 28 degrees Celsius) shall be maintained for competition. [M*, NC]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S and FINA requirements.

R 84	107.10	pages 43-44	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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107.10 No Smoking Signs

No smoking shall be permitted in any indoors or outdoors area designated for swimmers, including spectator seating, standing and eating areas, and “No Smoking” signs shall be so posted. [M*]

Rationale: More concise language and change “[M]” to “[M*]”.

R 85	107.11.3	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify			
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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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107.11.3 Size and Slope of Platform— The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than .50 by .50 meters (~~1-foot, 8~~ 19.5 inches square) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It may have an adjustable setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent nonslip material. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 86	107.11.4	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.11.4 Backstroke Starting Grips—Starting platforms shall be equipped with firm starting grips located between .3 meter (~~42~~ 11.88 inches) and .6 meter (~~24~~ 23.76 inches) above the water surface. The front edge of the grips shall be parallel to and flush with the face of the end wall. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 87	107.11.6	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.11.6 Stability of Platforms—Starting platforms shall be anchored to the deck or bulkhead to remain stable at all times ~~without human aid~~. [M]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 88	107.12.2	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.12.2 Size, Color and Safety—Dividers shall consist of contiguous floats having a minimum diameter of 5 centimeters (2 inches) to a maximum diameter of 15 centimeters (6 inches). The color of the floats extending from the walls the distance of 5 meters (16 feet, ~~5~~ 6 inches) for long course and short course meters, and 15 feet for short course yards, shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. Distinctive colored floats, or markers extending around the full circumference of the floats, shall be placed at 15 meters (49 feet, 2½ inches) from each end wall in both short course and long course pools. Damaged or broken floats shall be removed and/or replaced to the extent possible. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 89	107.13.1	page 45	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.13 Backstroke Flags and Lines

107.13.1 Design—At least three triangular pennants 6 to 12 inches in width at the base and 12 to 18 inches in vertical length, of two or more alternating and contrasting colors, shall be suspended on a firmly stretched line over each lane during all warm-up periods and during competition for all backstroke, individual medley and medley relay events. [M]

Rationale: State the expectation, particularly for warm-up periods.

R 90	107.13.3	page 45	Rules Committee	Delete			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.13.3 Marking at Midpoint of Course—~~For long course backstroke, individual medley and medley relay events a firmly stretched ¼ inch (7 millimeter) line without flags or pennants shall be suspended at the midpoint of the course. [M]~~

Rationale: No longer required by either USA-S or FINA.

R 91	107.17.1	pages 45-46	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.17 Automatic Timing Equipment

107.17.1 Installation and Safety

Equipment shall be installed so that it will not interfere with swimmers' starts, turns or finishes or the normal overflow functions of the pool water recirculation system. All deck-level wiring shall carry no more than 12 volts ~~of current~~. [M]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language and current is measured in amps not volts.

R 92	108.3.1	page 48	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:		Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.3 Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

108.3.1 Visual Starting Signal—Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal (i.e., a strobe light and/or starter's arm signals). The referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat (i.e., exchanging one lane for another) so that the strobe light or starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard starter's arm signals are shown in Figure 1. A recall rope (107.15) is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.

Rationale: List the reference so a reader will know where to look for information about a recall rope.

R 93	108.5.2	page 49	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.5 Physical Disabilities

108.5.2 Stroke/Kick—In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the referee and stroke and turn judge should follow the general rule that if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be in accordance with the USMS rules.

Judgments should be made based on the actual rule—not on the swimmer's technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other may have a nonsymmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule. No flotation devices should be permitted.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1 102.12.1D	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

D Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case-by-case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

Rationale: Hyphenate "case by case".

HK 2 102.12.1D(1)	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

(1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the U.S. Masters Swimming USMS website.

Rationale: Consistent with style of the rule book.

HK 3 103.5	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed by the meet sponsor. The committee consists of a minimum of the meet director, referee or starter, and a participating athlete, as appointed by the meet director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: Insert a semicolon, "...but are not limited to: ordering awards;...".

HK 4 103.8.5D	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

D When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "Take your mark," the starter shall immediately release all swimmers, upon which the swimmers may stand up, step off the blocks or leave the wall.

Rationale: Move the comma or period from inside the quotation marks to outside the quotation marks.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall before the command “Take your mark-”. Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block.

103.8.5C

C On the starter’s command “Take your mark-”, the swimmer shall immediately assume a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall. A swimmer starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

HK 5 103.8.6B	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter’s observation that a violation occurred, the ~~swimmer or swimmers~~ swimmer(s) who have false started shall be disqualified upon completion of the race in accordance with article 102.13.2.

Rationale: Delete unnecessary words.

HK 6 104.5.1C	page 29	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.1C Heat sheets—For preseeded events, heat sheets listing the name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. For deck-seeded events, entry lists ~~listing with~~ the name, age, club and time by time or age group, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. If instead the host chooses to make heat sheets available for deck-seeded events, then the heat sheets for each day, except relays, shall be made available in the morning before those events are swum.

Rationale: Avoid “lists listing”.

HK 7 104.5.3C(1)	page 32	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.3C(1) Altitude adjustment

	3,000-4,249 ft	4,250-6,499 ft	6,500+ ft
200 yards /meters/200 yards	0.5	1.2	1.6
400 yards /meters/500 yards	2.5	5.0	7.0
800 yards /meters/1000 yards	5.0	10.0	15.0
1650 yards /1500 meters/1650 yards	11.0	23.0	32.5

Rationale: Match meters and yards to the correct distances in the table.

HK 8	104.5.5A(2)&(3)	page 34	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(2) Preseeded events shall be seeded; with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

(3) Events 100 yards/meters or less shall be seeded; with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

Rationale: Delete first comma in each paragraph.

HK 9	104.5.5A(4)	page 34	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(4) Events 200 yards/meters and longer shall be seeded by one of the following methods:

(a) by entry time only,

(b) by age group, the oldest age group first, slowest heats seeded first within each age group, then by time or

(c) by a combination of (a) and (b).

The ~~USMS~~ Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.

Rationale: Unnecessary word (“USMS”) and consistent with the style of this section.

HK 10	104.5.5A(5)	page 34	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(5) The last heat shall be composed of the swimmers with the fastest submitted times, the next to last heat composed of the next fastest swimmers, etc. (Note exception provided in article 104.5.5A{9}).

Rationale: Enclose the parenthetical phrase correctly at the end of (5).

HK 11	105.1.1	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times must be achieved in USMS-sanctioned meets or USMS-recognized events.

Rationale: Hyphenate the modifier, “USMS-sanctioned”, and add “USMS-” to “recognized” as a modifier.

HK 12	105.2.2B&C	page 39	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.2 Top 10 Times

105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:

B In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought ~~in writing~~ to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the conclusion of the meet,

C In a relay event or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought ~~in writing~~ to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the swim and

D The swimmer(s) completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.

Rationale: Move the phrase “in writing”.

HK 13	105.3.5	page 40	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled							

105.3 USMS National Records

105.3.5 The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 103.11, ~~103.12~~ 103.17 and 103.18. Records shall require automatic timing, semiautomatic timing with three buttons or manual timing with three watches.

Rationale: Correct error in reference number.

HK 14	107.9.1	page 43	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.9 Lighting

107.9.1 Illumination—For indoor pools, 100 foot-candle illumination level is required at the water surface over the entire course. Overhead light fixtures shall be located to avoid the casting of shadows by the pool walls over the racing course. [M*, NC]

Rationale: “footcandle” needs to be hyphenated (“foot-candle”).

HK 15	107.15	page 45	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.15 Recall Device

A device to recall swimmers shall be provided. If a recall rope is used, it shall be placed at the midpoint of the course in long course facilities and at the turn end backstroke flags in short course facilities. The rope shall be attached to vertical stanchions with a quick-release mechanism and shall be suspended at least 4 feet (1.22 meters) above the water surface at the lowest point. [M*]

Rationale: Add “a” to “quick-release mechanism”.

HK 16	108.1.2	page 47	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.1.2 Responsibilities

A Athlete Swimmer—The ~~athlete~~ swimmer (or the ~~athlete's~~ swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the ~~athlete~~ swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

B Referee—The referee's responsibilities include:

- (1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and can be met.
- (2) Instructing the starter and stroke and turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.
- (3) **Modifications**—Aids to buoyancy and speed are not allowed (see article 102.12.1E and 102.13.9). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the ~~athlete~~ swimmer with a disability are:
 - (a) A change in starting position.
 - (b) Reassignment of lanes within a heat (e.g., exchanging lanes two and seven).
 - (c) Allowing the ~~athlete~~ swimmer to have a personal assistant(s).

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

Rationale: Change “athlete” to “swimmer”; consistent with the rest of article 108 and with USA-S language.

Proposed Changes to the USMS Long Distance Rules of Competition

In accordance with section 601.1.4, the Long Distance Committee submits and recommends the following proposals for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2012 Convention.

All proposed changes are from the Long Distance Committee (with ongoing review by the Open Water Committee) and involve reorganizing, clarifying, maintaining consistency, & updating old rules and drafting new rules.

Proposals concerning reorganization of Part 3 are LD 13, 15, 22, 23, 30, 31, and 58.

Proposals of major substance are LD 16, 35, 37, 38, and 42.

Proposals of some substance are LD 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, 33, 40, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 55, 57, 63, 68, and 72.

Housekeeping proposals are LD 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 17, 18, 21, 25, 27, 29, 32, 34, 36, 39, 41, 44, 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, and 74.

LD 1	Glossary	page xi	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Drafting/Slipstreaming—in an open water and long distance events, an individual swimming behind or next to a single swimmer or support craft for the purpose of taking advantage of the reduced water resistance.

Rationale: “Drafting” is also referred to in 306.4.2 pertaining to the conduct of postal events, so the definition needs to be broadened to include all open water and long distance events.

LD 2	Glossary	page xi	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Escort Craft—boats or paddle boards that accompany swimmers in open water swim used for the swimmers’ safety and logistical support, including the person or people that staff them.

Rationale: Clearer and more inclusive rules language.

LD 3	301.2	page 59	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

301.2 ~~OPEN WATER~~ GUIDE TO OPERATIONS

301.2.1 Open Water Guide to Operations—The Long Distance Committee, with input from the

Open Water Committee, shall develop and maintain a USMS Open Water Guide to Operations. The manner of implementation, governing policies and management of the rules ~~in Part 3~~ applying to open water swims shall be contained in this guide.

~~301.2.2 All participants in national championship postal events (as defined in article 305.7.2.2G-I) must be currently registered members of USMS or a FINA member national governing body on or before the day of their swim. Athletes with one event registrations are not eligible for national championship postal events.~~

Rationale: Current section 301.2.2 is misplaced, and should be in 301.3

301.2.2 Postal Guide to Operations—The Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a USMS Postal Guide to Operations. The manner of implementation, governing policies and management of the rules applying to postal swims shall be contained in this guide.

Rationale: The Long Distance Committee currently maintains Guides to Operations for both open water events and postal events. This proposed changes to 301.2, 301.2.1, and 301.2.2 recognizes that fact.

LD 4	301.3	page 59	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

301.3 MEMBERSHIP, REPRESENTATION AND SANCTIONS

Membership, representation and sanctions for open water and long distance events shall be governed by all applicable rules under articles 201, 202 and 203 ~~204 and 205~~. In addition, the following administrative rules apply:

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrected references)

LD 5	301.3.1	page 59	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

301.3.1 ~~Participants with One-event registrants~~ registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships ~~open water swims~~, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status or any other USMS special awards.

Rationale: Housekeeping (this combines the last sentence of the current 301.2.2 and all of the current 303.3.1, amended with language from current 303.3.1, into one statement for succinctness and clarity)

LD 6	301.3.2 (new)	page 59	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

301.3.2 All participants in national championship postal events ~~(as defined in article 305.7.2.2G-I)~~ must be currently registered members of USMS or a FINA-member national governing body

on or before the day of their swim.

Rationale: Housekeeping (this section was misplaced in 301.2.2, and should be in 301.3. The reference is unnecessary)

LD 7 301.4 page 59 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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301.4 LIABILITY RELEASE

Entry forms shall contain the exact language of the liability release according to articles ~~204.1 and 204.1.2~~ 204.

Rationale: The liability release instructions are contained in too many places and, as currently written, are not all correct. Article 204 should contain all of the information. This will require simultaneous changes in legislation to make it a proposal that can be passed by a majority vote.

LD 8 302.2.1A page 60 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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302.2.1 Straightaway Swims

A The course shall be a straight, measured distance within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer. Floats on the course shall be a maximum of 10 ~~yards~~ meters apart.

Rationale: Rowing and canoe racing courses appear to be fruitful possibilities for establishing new cable swim courses, but the standard distance between buoys on these courses is 10 meters. The current 10 yard rule would be restrictive or prohibitive in establishing cable courses at these venues.

LD 9 302.2.1B page 60 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Course measurement—If permanent fixed and stationary markers are used, a course ~~needs to~~ shall be certified once every five years. If ~~a course has no permanent stationary~~ markers are not permanent, the course shall ~~it must~~ be certified by a licensed surveyor annually before the swim takes place.

Rationale:

- 1. Housekeeping (better rules language)*
- 2. “Before the swim takes place” protects athletes from swimming on an uncertified course, much the way that we must measure pool length before competition.*

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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302.2.2 Other Open Water Swims—The event director shall determine the course and type of start for open water swims, keeping in mind the safety of the swimmers. The course shall be measured as accurately as possible. ~~The distances shall be the same for both men and women, and may be contested at the same time with separate results tabulated. Age groups and other classifications may also be swum at the same time, but again tabulated separately.~~

Rationale: Housekeeping (redundant with 302.1, inconsistent with 303.1, and not parallel in structure with 302.2.1)

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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302.2.3 Solo Swims—Solo open water swims, consisting of one or a select number of swimmers, may be sanctioned and ~~should~~ shall conform to the rules stated under article 303.11.

Rationale: If the event is sanctioned, it is required—not merely suggested—that the event conform to the rules.

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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302.3.2 Time/ or Distance Basis—A specified number of contestants on each relay shall be considered in the computations for team scoring. The relay whose ~~top~~ specified number of swimmers has the lowest cumulative time or the greatest cumulative distance shall be declared the winner. A similar method ~~will~~ shall be used to determine second, third and subsequent places. In the event of a tie, the relay with an individual member ~~who finished nearest to first place~~ with the fastest or farthest swim shall be declared the winner or awarded the place.

302.3.3 Point Basis—Points are awarded on the basis of overall finishing position, with one point for first place, two points for second place, etc. The points of specified relay members are added, and the lowest cumulative score determines the winning relay; the second lowest score, the second place, etc. In the event that two or more relays score the same number of points, the relay ~~that has the swimmer who won or finished nearest to first place~~ with the individual member with the fastest or farthest swim shall be declared the ~~winning relay or awarded the place.~~

Rationale: Housekeeping (less redundancy, better clarity, and more consistent & parallel rules language)

302.4 SEQUENTIAL RELAYS

302.4.1 Relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified on the entry form. The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made within one minute after the completion of the previous swimmer's leg. In the exchange in open water relays, physical contact must be made between the two swimmers.

302.4.2 Mixed-gender sequential relays ~~may be entered, provided~~ shall consist of at least one swimmer of each gender is represented, as follows:

Total number of relay members	Women	Men
2	1	1
3	Minimum 1	Minimum 1
4	2	2
5	Minimum 2	Minimum 2
6	3	3

Rationale: Reorganization (the proposed 302.4.2 has been misplaced in 307.2.3 (in that placement, it actually contradicts 307.2.3A). It fits better in this section, with wording amended to fit its new home).

302.4.3 With the exception of National Championship events, ~~t~~The event director, ~~with the concurrence of the chair of the Long Distance Committee,~~ may allow special events in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

Rationale 1: This proposal maintains the flexibility inherent in this article for non-national championship events, but limits this flexibility to protect the integrity of national championship events.

Rationale 2: There is no compelling reason to involve the USMS Long Distance Committee Chair in this decision at local events. Most of our rules involving local swims give such discretion of the event director.

302.4 is proposed to be reorganized.

Rationale for reorganization of 302.4: This rule should be split into three parts because it speaks three separate issues, the definition of sequential relays, the composition of mixed relays, and an exception.

LD 16	302.5 (new)	page 61	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

302.5 WATER CONDITIONS

302.5.1 Water & Air Temperature—For swims of 5-kilometers or above, the swim shall not begin if the following conditions are not satisfied:

A The water temperature shall not exceed 85° F.

B The air temperature and water temperature when added together shall not be less than 118° F nor greater than 177° F.

Rationale: Safety! Using the language adopted by USA-Swimming, this proposal aims to protect swimmers from thermal issues caused by swimming in dangerously warm water.

LD 17	303 Title	page 61	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

ARTICLE 303: CONDUCT OF COMPETITIVE AND SOLO OPEN WATER EVENTS

Rationale: Housekeeping (recognizes that this article includes solo swims, which are not necessarily competitive swims)

LD 18	303.1.1B	page 61	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B For competitive swims, separate scoring divisions may be contested at the same time, with ~~separate~~ results tabulated separately.

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar)

LD 19	303.1.1C	page 61	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

C If awards are given for competitive swims, they shall be of equal value for ~~all scoring divisions~~ men and women.

Rationale: This proposal ensures gender equity for awards, and removes a concern about excess costs for events that would like to score using all scoring divisions.

LD 20 301.1.1E (new) page 61 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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E With the exception of National Championships, requirements defined in article 303.1.1D may be waived by the Long Distance Committee chair to facilitate the development of new or revised awards systems.

Rationale: The current requirement is strict and may interfere with development of new concepts and member benefits without waiting for a two-year rules cycle.

LD 21 301.1.3B page 61 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Relay—Open and 18+, 25+ ... (40 ~~ten~~-year age groups as high as necessary), the age of the youngest relay member determining the age group.

Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel construction with 303.1.3A)

LD 22 303.2 page 61-2 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.2 SAFETY STANDARDS

303.2.1 Event directors shall develop and maintain a written safety plan that is available for review by the LMSC authorized representative.

~~As conditions and courses vary, it is the responsibility of each swimmer to know and follow the safety standards necessary for protection from foreseeable dangers. The event director can assist this endeavor by:~~

~~**303.2.1** Obtaining necessary permits/approvals from the U.S. Coast Guard, park authorities, lifeguard associations, etc.~~

~~**303.2.2** Providing accurate maps with course descriptions, course markings and other pertinent information, including but not limited to anticipated water temperature and general water conditions, with entry forms and event information packets.~~

~~**303.2.3** Planning for possible medical evacuations.~~

~~**303.2.4** Assigning rescue/aid personnel and craft.~~

~~**303.2.5** Planning for escort paddlers or craft. Personal escorts should be considered for open water swims.~~

~~**303.2.6** Making provisions for controlling escort craft and access of nonrace craft into the race area.~~

~~**303.2.7** Briefing all contestants, coaches, managers, trainers and event officials.~~

~~**303.2.8** Planning for possible cancellation, postponement and/or modification of the event.~~

~~303.2.9 Considering use of fluorescent or brightly colored caps to assist in identification and visibility of swimmers in open water events.~~

~~303.2.10 Informing swimmers of the anticipated water temperature, specific weather and water conditions, and known hazards.~~

~~**Note: LMSCs are encouraged to use USMS safety guidelines and precautions for the conduct of open water and long distance events, as well as develop their own, provided they are not in conflict with USMS rules, policies or procedures. Visit**~~

Rationale: Reorganization. The current 303.2 contains process, not rules. The proposed 303.2.1 & 2 replace most of this process language with enforceable rules language, and point event directors to the USMS Open Water Safety Objectives document.

LD 23 303.3.1 – 4 (new) page 62 Long Distance Committee

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.3 is proposed to be reorganized.

Rationale for reorganization of 303.3: Housekeeping: This section will read more clearly than before under the proposed new order. 303.3.1 introduces escorted swims, 303.3.2 (formerly 303.3.3) & 303.3.3 (formerly 303.3.4) define assistance allowed and not allowed, and 303.3.4 (formerly 303.3.2) defines the disabled craft exception.

LD 24 303.3.1 page 62 Long Distance Committee

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.3.1 In any event for which it has been arranged that an escort craft or paddler will accompany ~~each~~ any swimmer throughout the event, then all swimmers shall be accompanied by such an escort paddler or craft. If the escort paddler or craft becomes disabled or cannot continue to accompany the swimmer, the swimmer may stay in the water near the disabled escort craft until a replacement arrives, join another escort craft that is accompanying only one other swimmer until another escort craft arrives or exit the water.

Rationale: Having an individual escort in a swim when others do not have one is inherently unfair. Provisions for making modifications for swimmers with disabilities are already included in 303.10.

LD 25 303.3.2 page 62 Long Distance Committee

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.3.2 If a swimmer's escort becomes disabled as per article 303.23.1, an escort for another swimmer may assume responsibility for the swimmer with the disabled escort, subject to the following conditions:

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrected reference)

LD 26 303.3.2B page 62 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B The two swimmers must stay within 3 meters of each other. Failure to stay within 3 meters shall result in immediate disqualification of the second swimmer assigned to the escort craft and the immediate ~~removal~~ exit of that person from the water.

Rationale: Better rules language: “Exit” does not imply ‘forceful’, as “removal” might.

LD 27 303.3.1 – 4 (new) page 62 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.3.1 In any event for which it has been arranged that an escort craft ~~or paddler~~ will accompany each swimmer throughout the event, all swimmers shall be accompanied by such an escort ~~paddler~~ ~~or~~ craft. If the escort ~~paddler~~ ~~or~~ craft becomes disabled or cannot continue to accompany the swimmer, the swimmer may stay in the water near the disabled escort craft until a replacement arrives, join another escort craft that is accompanying only one other swimmer until another escort craft arrives or exit the water.

303.3.2 If a swimmer’s escort craft becomes disabled as per article 303.1, an escort craft for another swimmer may assume responsibility for the swimmer with the disabled escort craft, subject to the following conditions:

A Any one ~~paddler~~ ~~or~~ craft may escort no more than two swimmers.

B The two swimmers must stay within 3 meters of each other. Failure to stay within 3 meters shall result in immediate disqualification of the second swimmer assigned to the escort craft and the immediate removal of that person from the water.

303.3.3 Swimmers may receive the following assistance from ~~the~~ any escort craft:

A Food or drink may be passed from escort craft to swimmer as long as deliberate contact is not made between the two.

B The escort craft may also assist the swimmer with navigation, including verbal and written communication.

303.3.4 Swimmers shall not be assisted by escort craft as follows:

A Swimmers shall not receive flotation or propulsion from any escort craft nor make intentional contact with any craft.

B Drafting (swimmer swimming directly behind the escort) shall not be permitted when other open water is readily available.

C Escort ~~boats~~ craft shall not obstruct other swimmers in the race.

Rationale: Housekeeping (in 303.3.1 through 303.3.4, the word “paddler” is redundant, as “Escort Craft” is defined in the Glossary (note the proposal to addend the Glossary definition). It is also misleading, as some escort craft are motorized)

LD 28	303.3.4	page 62-3	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

303.3.34 Swimmers shall not receive the following assistance from any ~~be assisted by~~ escort craft as follows:

Rationale 1: Housekeeping (parallel construction with current 303.3.3)

Rationale 2: Adding the word “any” clarifies & tightens the definition of assistance.

LD 29	303.3.4B	page 63	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B Drafting ~~(swimmer swimming directly behind the escort)~~ craft shall not be permitted when other open water is readily available.

Rationale: Housekeeping (redundant: drafting is already defined in the Glossary)

LD 30	303.4	page 63	Long Distance Committee				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

303.4 STARTS

303.4.1 Types

A Stationary—Swimmers start from a platform or in the water behind the starting line.

B Running—Swimmers line up a short distance from the water behind a marked line. At the starting signal, the swimmers run into the water and swim the prescribed course.

C Wave Starts—At the discretion of the event director, swims may be started in waves in which each wave is separated at the start from other waves by a time interval. Swimmers’ times shall be adjusted by the starting time interval and their order of finish shall be determined on the basis of the adjusted time.

303.4.2 Starting Signal—The starting signal shall be both audible and visible.

303.4.3 Straightaway Events—A stationary water start shall be used in straightaway events.

303.4.4 Wave Starts—~~At the discretion of the event director, swims may be started in waves in which each wave is separated at the start from other waves by a set time interval. Swimmers’ times shall be adjusted by the starting time interval and their order of finish shall be determined on the basis of the adjusted time.~~

Rationale: Reorganization (moving 303.4.4 to 303.4.1, with the other definitions of starts)

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.6.1 Types

A In-the-Water—The swimmer shall have finished the swim when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a specifically designated finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.

B Out-of-the-Water—Swimmers shall leave the water, as defined by the course, and proceed to a specifically designated finish line. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer's chest crosses the finish line. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.

303.6.32 Straightaway—An in-the-water finish shall be used in straightaway events.

Rationale: Reorganization (parallel construction to 303.4.3) Renumber after.

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.6.32 Straightaway Events—An in-the-water finish shall be used in straightaway events.

Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel construction to 303.4.3)

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.6.4 When a final time has been submitted to the nearest second, .99 second shall be added to the time submitted. When a final time has been submitted to the nearest tenth of a second, .09 shall be added to the time submitted.

Rationale: This proposal brings the recording of finish times in line with 308.1.5 and proposed 306.5.3, so that all open water and long distance events may be posted to the event results database in the same format.

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B The competitor shall wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees.

~~and f~~ For women, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor ~~extend~~ below the knees.

Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel construction & easier reading)

LD 35 **303.7.2D & 303.7.3C** page 64-5 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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D Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a swim (such as wetsuits, webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, buoyant armbands, etc.). Any kind of tape on the body or flat armband is not permitted unless approved by the referee. Any devices used to maintain body heat are not permitted, except for those listed in article 303.7.2A.

C Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any additional device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a swim (such as webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, etc.), except in designated events where all swimmers may use similar devices or substances. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: The word “pace” in 307.7.2D & 307.7.3C was inadvertently dropped from the restructuring and rewriting of this rule in 2010. It needs to be reinstated, as anything that helps pace potentially helps overall speed. The proposed language about banned devices & substances is deliberately parallel to the language in 102.12.1E.

LD 36 **303.7.3B** page 65 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Wetsuits or any other heat-retaining swimwear may be allowed at the discretion of the event director when the water temperature ~~does not exceed~~ is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit. ~~Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.~~

Rationale 1: Housekeeping (clearer language; also parallels USA-Swimming rules language on this topic)

Rationale 2: Housekeeping (since Category II swimwear is now officially defined as a separate scoring division, this sentence about defining wetsuit wearers is not necessary)

LD 37 **303.9.5** page 65 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.9.5 Receive assistance by pulling, pushing, or resting on the escort or safety craft, cables, line

markers, buoys or buoy lines, or cable pilings. Incidental contact shall not be a basis for disqualification.

Rationale: This broadens the definition of assistance by including extra actions and sources.

LD 38 303.9.6 (new) page 65 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.9.6 Receive assistance by drafting in swims in which drafting is prohibited.

Rationale: Receiving unwarranted assistance should always be illegal, and certainly in this case, yet it is not covered in the current rules. Renumber after.

LD 39 303.9.7 page 65 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.9.7 Violate rules on escorted swims as described in articles 303.3.3 ~~and 303.3.4~~ or receive similar assistance from any craft on the course.

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrected reference)

LD 40 303.11 page 66 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.11 SOLO OPEN WATER SWIM

This swim must be sanctioned by the LMSC in which it originates and conducted in accordance with all pertinent rules and regulations. If more than one swimmer is attempting to swim, only one sanction need be issued. All times achieved in solo open water swims ~~should~~ shall be duly certified and made a matter of record by the sanctioning LMSC. The certification ~~should~~ shall include:

Rationale: If a solo swim is sanctioned, then the results should be certified as any other results would be.

LD 41 303.12.2 page 66 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.12.2 If a race is stopped and swimmers are removed from the water for their safety, the referee shall determine if the race is to be restarted, canceled or considered official. If the referee determines the race to be official, ~~then~~ article 303.9.2 may be waived and the order of finish of the swimmers on the course shall be determined by the referee.

Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary language)

LD 42 303.13 (new) page 66 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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303.13 PROTESTS

303.13.1 Any protest arising from a competition (other than National Championships—refer to article 307.7) shall be made to the event director within 30 minutes after the release of results for an open water event. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing within 10 days of the swim for adjudication to the LMSC officers. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing for adjudication to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

Rationale: This proposal provides a protest process, similar to the process in 307.7.8 for national championship swims, for all open water swims.

LD 43 304.1.1 page 66-7 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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304.1.1 Conduct of noncompetitive swims shall be at the discretion of the event director, as long as they ~~are conducted according to the safety standards~~ conform to in article 303.2.

Rationale: These changes are consistent with the changes proposed in 303.2.

LD 44 304.1.3 page 67 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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304.1.3 At the discretion of the event director, noncompetitive ~~events~~ swims may provide timing as a courtesy to swimmers who desire to know their finish time.

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent language)

LD 45 305.5 page 67 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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305.5 SEQUENTIAL RELAYS

Sequential relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form.

The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified on the entry form. ~~The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made as soon as practical after the completion of the previous swimmer's leg.~~ The relay exchange is governed by articles 101.7.3C and 101.7.3H. ~~The event director, with the concurrence of the chair of the Long Distance Committee, may allow special events in which members~~

~~of an open water relay need not be from the same club.~~

Rationale:

1. *Rationale 1: Housekeeping (parallel construction with 305.4)*
2. *Rationale 2: Housekeeping (This unnecessary language refers to open water relays in the Long Distance Pool Events section. The appropriate language applying to open water events is already contained in 302.4)*

LD 46 305.6 page 68 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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305.6 AGE GROUPS

Age groups in individual and relay events for men and women shall be the same as the standard USMS age group scoring divisions (~~those~~ listed in article 303.1.3A).

Rationale: Relays were omitted inadvertently from this rule when it was passed two years ago. This proposed addition corrects that omission.

LD 47 306.3.1 & 2 page 68 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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306.3.1 There shall be at least one adult acting ~~in the capacity of a starter/timer/referee~~ as referee and starter ~~who shall be~~ present at all times, having no ~~other~~ additional responsibilities during ~~the period of the swim~~ other than acting as a timer if necessary.

306.3.2 Each swimmer shall have a ~~counter to record~~ timer who shall time and count lengths by recording split times for every two lengths during the swim ~~for both time based and distance based events~~. A timer may also serve as referee and starter if necessary. One person may serve as ~~a counter for a maximum of~~ timer for no more than two swimmers ~~per heat at the same time~~.

Rationale: Every year, some swimmers read the current rules as requiring two officials for a single swimmer, which is not the intent of the rules. This proposal simplifies the rules language and removes this ambiguity while maintaining the intended standard for officials.

LD 48 306.5.3 (new) page 68 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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306.5.3 When a final time has been submitted to the nearest second, .99 second shall ~~should~~ be added to the time submitted. When a final time has been submitted to the nearest tenth of a second, .09 second shall be added to the time submitted.

Rationale: This provides fairness for all competitors regardless of the method of timing used. This also parallels the current wording in 308.1.5 (records) and proposed wording in 303.6.4 (open water).

LD 49 306.6.3 page 68 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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306.6.3 If distances are to be reported in yards and the event is swum in a metric pool, the distances shall be determined to the last completed ~~in~~ meters, ~~and~~ converted to yards by multiplying 1.0936 times the number of meters completed, and rounding off the distance to the last completed 5-yard increment.

Rationale: In the current rule, there is an inherent unfairness in the fact that distances done in metric pools for events reported in yards get rounded down twice, often losing five yards in the process. This proposal permits a single rounding down for fairness.

LD 50 306.8.1 page 69 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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306.8.1 Each entrant in a postal event shall be responsible for the validity of the ~~figures~~ split times and the time ~~or~~ distance submitted.

Rationale:

1. Housekeeping (the phrase “split times” is clearer than the word “figures”)
2. Housekeeping (grammar)

LD 51 306.8.2 page 69 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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306.8.2 Event directors shall have the discretion to request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may request the Long Distance Committee chair to refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information.

Rationale: This proposal describes the actual process chain in the postal swims more accurately than the previous wording.

LD 52 307.2.1B page 69 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Multi-championship swim festivals.

Rationale: Housekeeping (spelling)

LD 53 307.2.2B page 69 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.2.2 At the discretion of the Long Distance Committee, national championship events may be awarded in the following categories:

A One mile (quarter-mile straightaway or open water course)

B Two miles (~~Quarter-mile straightaway (2 miles)~~)

Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel structure with 307.2.2A)

LD 54 307.2.3A page 70 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.2.3 Rules Pertaining to Cumulative Relays

A Cumulative relay competitions shall be contested in postal championships and may be contested in other championships. Recognized relays shall be three-person women's and men's ~~men and women relays~~, and four-person mixed-gender relays with two men and two women.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping (consistent with results language and order)

Rationale 2: Housekeeping. With the proposed moving of 307.2.3H to 302.4.3, mixed gender relays need to be clearly defined here.

LD 55 307.2.3A page 70 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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...Exceptions for open water national championships may be granted by the Long Distance Committee chair.

Rationale: This proposal creates some different options for relays at open water national championships.

LD 56 307.2.3B page 70 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Age groups for relay swims shall be the same as those listed in article 303.1.3AB.

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrected reference)

LD 57 307.2.3D page 70 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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D All relay members shall also be entered in the individual event; Exceptions for open water events only are except at the discretion of the event director and with the approval of the Long Distance Committee Chair.

Rationale: This proposal gives some flexibility to event directors at open water national championships, particularly those with races longer than 3-miles, but retains approval authority with the Long Distance Committee Chair.

LD 58 307.2.3H page 70 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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~~**H** Mixed gender relays may be entered, provided at least one swimmer of each gender is represented, as follows:~~

Total number of relay members	Women	Men
2	1	1
3	minimum 1	minimum 1
4	2	2
5	minimum 2	minimum 2
6	3	3

Rationale: Reorganization (this section has been misplaced under cumulative relays and under national championships. It actually contradicts 307.2.3A. It fits better in newly-proposed 302.4.2)

LD 59 307.3.6 page 71 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.3.6 Postal national championships may be awarded to an organization for consecutive years.

OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID

Year	Area 1 West	Area 2 Central	Area 3 East
2011	1 mile Open water > 3/<6	Open water > 1/<3 mile	2 mile cable Open water > 6
2012	2 mile cable Open water > 6/<9	1 mile Open water >	Open water > 1/<3 mile
2013	Open water >1/<3 mile	2 mile cable Open water >	1 mile Open water >
2014	1 mile Open water >3/<6	Open water >1/<3 mile	2 mile cable Open water >6/<9
2015	2 mile cable Open water >6/<9	1 mile Open water >	Open water >1/<3 mile
2016	Open water >1/<3 mile	2 mile cable Open water >6/<9	1 mile Open water >

Rationale: All Housekeeping.

1. Heading: Clarification
2. Deletion: There is no need to continue carrying 2011 and 2012.
3. Correction: The longest open water swim is ≥ 9 mile.
4. Addition: The chart would be extended to cover 2015 and 2016.

LD 60 **307.6** page 72 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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The entry fees for open water and ~~long distance~~ postal national championships shall be approved by the Long Distance Committee.

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent rules language—“long distance” is a blanket term that refers to both open water and postal swims)

LD 61 **307.7.2** page 72 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.7.2 Entry Forms—Entry forms, including paper forms and forms used in the online entry system, shall be reviewed by a Long Distance Committee representative and the LMSC for content and sanctioning prior to distribution in accordance with the USMS contract.

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar)

LD 62 **307.7.3** page 72 **Long Distance Committee**

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.7.3 Officials—In addition to the officials required by article 303.7~~8~~, the following officials are required for national championship events:

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrected reference)

LD 63 307.7.3A page 72 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

A The Long Distance Committee shall appoint an event ~~liaison~~evaluator to ~~aid~~ assist the event director in planning, to ensure that the event is conducted in accordance with the contract, ~~and~~ to ensure that all rules are observed; and to evaluate the event.

Rationale: “Liaison” describes the position better than “evaluator”, as evaluation is only one of the tasks assigned to this person. This also defines the current LDC practice.

LD 64 307.7.7B page 73 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

B ~~Paddlers and e~~Escort boats craft may be permitted by the event director under the conditions in article 303.3.

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent language & clarity—see rationale under new 303.3.4C)

LD 65 307.7.8 page 73 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

307.7.8 Protests—Any protest arising from a competition shall be made to the event director within 30 minutes after the release of results for an open water event or 14 days after the release of results for a postal event. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing within 10 days for ~~final~~ adjudication to the Long Distance Committee chair, ~~whose decision shall then be final and binding on all parties.~~

Rationale: Housekeeping (a decision cannot be final and binding if it can be appealed, in this case under article 4)

LD 66 307.8.1G page 73 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

G Special information (national records, overall place, place among ~~men~~ gender, etc.).

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar & inclusive wording)

LD 67 307.9.1A & C page 73-4 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.9.1 Scoring

A Club scoring for the one-hour swim shall be calculated based on total club yardage for individual swims.

C Club scoring for the other national championships shall be calculated based on point value for placing in individual swims. Points shall be scored to 10 places (11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1).

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar & parallel construction to 307.9.1B)

LD 68 307.10.4 page 74 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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307.10.4 Appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair ~~shall~~ may be awarded to the first, second and third place club winners in each division if warranted by the size of the event entry. Club awards are not required.

Rationale: Experience has shown that there is little interest in tangible club awards for long distance national championship events. This proposal would make those club awards optional.

LD 69 308.1.1 page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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308.1.1 Individual national records ~~will~~ shall be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway swims (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (one-hour, 3000-yard, and 6000-yard, and 5- and 10-kilometer postal). Relay national records shall be maintained in all of these quarter-mile straightaway swims and long-distance pool events. The records shall be for three-person men's and women's relays and four-person mixed relays.

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar & parallel construction)

LD 70 308.1.2 page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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308.1.2 ~~Record times shall be swum~~ To be considered for a national record, individual participants and relays must enter and complete the swim in a sanctioned event, with results and shall be routed through the event host to the Long Distance Committee Chair.

Rationale: Housekeeping (clarity; the current rule seems ambiguous for cumulative relays in postal and cable swim events)

LD 71 308.1.3 page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

308.1.3 With the exception of the quarter-mile straightaway swims specified in article 307.2.2, no national records will be maintained in open water events ~~because of~~ due to differences in courses, currents and other physical factors.

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar)

LD 72 308.1.6 page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

308.1.6 Long distance national records for cable swims may not be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event.

Rationale: This proposal clarifies that setting national records in cable swims using split times is not permitted, as has long been the practice. Any process for obtaining split times does not fit the structure of cable swims, and any attempt to try to do so would create an extra burden for the event director & staff.

LD 73 308.1.7 (new) page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

308.1.7 Long distance national records for postal swims may be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event if...

Rationale: This defines clearly that the conditions listed in this section are intended to apply only to postal swims, not to cable swims. This proposal pairs with proposed 308.1.6. Renumber after.

LD 74 308.1.7 (old) page 75 Long Distance Committee

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

308.1.8 Split times from individual postal events may not be used:

A ~~a~~As part of a relay entry into a separate relay postal event of a shorter distance ~~or~~

B ~~f~~For entry into a separate individual postal event of a shorter distance.

Rationale: Housekeeping (this splits the current rule into A & B for clarity & ease of reading).

LEGISLATION PROPOSALS

L 1 Part 2 Long Distance Committee page 51 **Modify**

**TITLE: PART 2:
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
OF COMPETITION SWIMMING EVENTS**

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistency). Since Open Water events can be non-competitive (see Article 304), we should remove the term "COMPETITION" from the title of Part 2 to make it consistent with Open Water and Long Distance Rules

L 2	201.1	Long Distance Committee	page 51	Modify
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201.1 MEMBERSHIP OF INDIVIDUALS

With the exception of events falling under article 203.1.1C, aAll swimmers participating in events sanctioned by USMS must be members of USMS registered through their LMSC or members of their nation's recognized Masters swimming governing body.

Rationale: Housekeeping (corrects an inconsistency between article 201.1 and 203.1.1C)

L 3	202.1.1A	Long Distance Committee	page 53	Modify
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A Applications for event sanction shall be made to the LMSC ~~within which~~ with jurisdiction for the ~~event is to be held.~~, and Sanction applications shall be accompanied by a ~~copy of~~ the entry form and applicable fee.

Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar & consistency with USMS E2EEM online event sanction process).

L 4 202.1.1A(1) Long Distance Committee page 53 Modify

(1) The entry forms shall contain the language of the liability release as stated in articles 204.1 and 204.1.2 204. The language may only be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC, sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or additional insured(s) following “UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC.” All swimmers, before participating, shall have signed the liability release.

Rationale: See rationale listed in article 204. The Rules Committee should be consulted.

L 5 202.1.1A(2) Long Distance Committee page 53 Modify

(2) Event Entry forms and programs must bear the statement “Sanctioned by (LMSC name) for USMS Inc. Sanction Number: _____.”

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent language)

(4) Sanctioned events may be conducted in facilities not meeting the dimensional tolerance for required pool length, but the results of those events shall not count for USMS records and Top 10. It must be noted in the meet information and meet results that events conducted in these facilities are noncompliant.

(6) A swimmer's valid affiliation and age must be displayed after the name on the heat sheet or in the program and in the meet results.

Rationale: It would be very helpful to swimmers, not to mention Record & Top 10 recorders, to have full information (sanction number, swimmer affiliation & age, pool compliance, etc.) contained in the results.

A The entry forms shall contain the language of the liability release as stated in article 204. ~~The language may only be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC(s), sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or additional insured(s) following "UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC."~~ All swimmers, before participating, shall have signed the liability release.

Rationale: Housekeeping. (Consolidation. Language from 202.1.1A(1), 203.3.3A, & 203.3.3B belongs in article 204, and should be deleted from the current articles listed above).

B Event Entry forms, and programs, and results must bear the statement "Sanctioned by (LMSC name) for USMS Inc. Sanction Number: _____."

Rationale 1: Housekeeping (consistent language)

Rationale 2: It would be very helpful to swimmers, not to mention Record & Top 10 recorders, to have full information (sanction number, swimmer affiliation & age, pool compliance, etc.) contained in the results.

C If in the an event secures of a dual sanctions from more than one governing body, entry forms, ~~and~~ programs and results must identify all the other sanctioning bodies.

Rationale: This proposal prepares the way and process for potential multiple sanctions of an event under article 203.1.1C.

204.1 RELEASE

All individual membership application forms and sanctioned entry forms shall include a liability release. The liability release shall be signed by the person registering or entering. The language of the membership release shall be:

“I, the undersigned participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby certify that I am physically fit and have not been otherwise informed by a physician. I acknowledge that I am aware of all the risks inherent in Masters swimming (training and competition), including possible permanent disability or death, and agree to assume all of those risks. AS A CONDITION OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE MASTERS SWIMMING PROGRAM OR ANY ACTIVITIES INCIDENT THERETO, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO CLAIMS FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES, INCLUDING ALL CLAIMS FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, OF THE FOLLOWING: UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC., THE LOCAL MASTERS SWIMMING COMMITTEES, THE CLUBS, HOST FACILITIES, EVENT MEET SPONSORS, EVENT MEET COMMITTEES OR ANY INDIVIDUALS OFFICIATING AT THE EVENTS MEETS OR SUPERVISING SUCH ACTIVITIES. In addition, I agree to abide by and be governed by the rules of USMS.”

Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent language: USMS now uses the terms “event” and “events” to define both pool events and open water events)

L 11	204.1.1	Long Distance Committee	page 58	Modify
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204.1.1 ~~The language of the entry release may be modified as described in article 202.1.1A(1).~~ The language of the entry release may only be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC, sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or other additional insured(s) following “UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC.”

Rationale: Housekeeping. (Consolidation. This language is taken from 202.1.1A(1), 203.3.3A, & 203.3.3B. It belongs in article 204, and should be deleted from the current articles listed above).

L 12	401.2.4	Pacific	page 77	Add
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401.2 Participation

No member of USMS or any organization associated with USMS may deny or threaten to deny any eligible individual the opportunity to participate in USMS administrative activities and sanctioned or recognized events without just cause. It is not a violation of this article to restrict an individual’s eligibility based on one or more of the following:

401.2.1 The individual’s age

401.2.2 Membership in the organization that is conducting the event

401.2.3 Qualifying times.

401.2.4 Denial of an individual’s use of an event venue, unless that restriction is based on the individual’s gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

Rationale: Since USMS does not own its own facilities, where a club sanctions an event at a facility (either a public venue or private facility), we must follow the rules of that club or facility concerning who may use their facilities. Their decision to exclude someone from their facilities should be observed,

if it is not discriminatory, and such exclusion should not be grounds for a grievance against the LMSC, its officers, or club officers.

For example, if a private club or municipal facility follows their process concerning an individual's conduct, and that process results in denying that individual access to a facility, then we must follow their processes, unless they are discriminatory.

If we do not follow the rules of that organization/governmental entity/club, then the LMSC could be harmed because:

1. that venue may not be available for our events
2. That club may no longer put on USMS sanctioned events
3. The LMSC may be subjected to grievances filed by a USMS member that is not eligible to participate at that facility, pursuant to that facility/club's rules and procedures
4. LMSC staff can spend significant amounts of time on dispute resolution, particularly if the filings are voluminous or repetitive.

Pacific is asking for emergency treatment of these proposals, because we are concerned that these results may happen in Pacific in 2013 if this legislation is not passed this year.

HK 1	502.10	LMSC Development Committee	page 84	Modify
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502.10 LMSC ~~Minimum~~ Standards

Each LMSC shall meet ~~minimum~~ standards established by the USMS Board of Directors and published in the USMS Policy Manual.

Rationale: The Board of Directors made some amendments to the LMSC "minimum" standards policy in January/Feb/March. The policy itself was renamed "LMSC Standards". This is just housekeeping to have those rules reflect the current name of the policy.

HK 2	507.1.6	LMSC Development Committee	Page 92	Modify
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507.1.6 LMSC Development Committee—The LMSC Development Committee shall work to strengthen LMSC governance and operations by providing educational opportunities and mentoring for LMSC boards and officers. The committee shall provide support for LMSCs. The committee shall review and identify LMSCs that are not meeting LMSC ~~minimum~~ standards as defined by the Board of Directors and assist them in achieving compliance. The committee may consult with other committees, coordinators and special appointments as necessary for this purpose. The committee may initiate and shall receive, consider and report proposed amendments to Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries, with the committee's recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function.

Rationale: The Board of Directors made some amendments to the LMSC "minimum" standards policy in January/Feb/March. The policy itself was renamed "LMSC Standards". This is just housekeeping to have those rules reflect the current name of the policy.



CHECK-IN AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE AT USMS CONVENTION

Each delegate must complete the two-step process outlined below. You must have a “certified ID” to vote as a member of the House of Delegates (HOD) and be eligible to attend HOD meetings!

- 1) **CHECK IN AT THE UNITED STATES AQUATIC SPORTS (USAS) STATION** to pick up your ID - a badge with your name & LMSC on it. You will also receive a convention bag, binder, and miscellaneous souvenirs.

AND

- 2) **CHECK IN AT THE USMS TABLE** to obtain “certification” that you are a USMS delegate. This is the process that verifies a delegate’s eligibility to vote in the House of Delegates (HOD). You will also receive your voting cards and other important convention material and information.

The USMS Certification/Information table will be open as follows:

Wednesday, September 12th, from 8:00 am – 5:00pm – vendor area

Thursday, September 13th, from 8:00 am – 9:00 am – vendor area

The USMS Certification/Information table will move to outside the HOD meeting room on Friday, September 14th (Guilford G). All subsequent certification by USMS will take place here during HOD meetings, until they recess. (Refer to the meeting schedule in your pre-convention packet and/or binder for time and location). Late arrivals **must** locate Debbie Cavanaugh (Certification Chair) to receive their certification and voting cards.

Please note: If you did not register for convention in advance, you will need to have USMS Secretary CJ Rushman sign a certification release before you can proceed to Debbie Cavanaugh for the balance of certification material.

New Delegates will receive a special ID identifying them as NEW DELEGATES as well as information regarding the New Delegate Orientation.



Standing Rules of the USMS Annual Meeting of 2012

Rule 1 The Secretary, directly after the opening ceremonies of the first business meeting, shall report the number of delegates and others registered as present with proper credentials, and shall make a supplementary report after the opening of each session that business continues.

Rule 2 A member of USMS, may, upon proper clearance by the Secretary, be transferred to delegate status, at any time during the continuance of business meetings.

Rule 3 For admission to the floor of the House, to facilitate identification and seating, a member shall be required to wear the badge issued by United States Aquatic Sports and a sticker from the Convention Coordinator.

Rule 4 In the report from a Committee, all Action Items shall be placed on the floor of the House without a motion or second. The House may consider the action items of a committee as one motion, or individual motions.

Rule 5 No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same question, on the same day, or longer than three minutes, without permission of the convention granted by two thirds vote without debate.

Rule 6 Motions shall be made from the microphones only.


















Rule 7 If a motion to call for the question is made and accepted by 2/3 of the House, any member in line at a microphone shall be recognized to speak for their allotted time.









Rule 8 All motions, in the House or Committees, shall be recorded, in writing or electronically, with the name of the maker.
















Rule 9 Elections shall be run by the written policies of the Election Committee.

Rule 10 Rules contained in the current edition of the Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the House of Delegates and its Committees, in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of U. S. Masters Swimming and these standing rules



Board of Directors					
President Nadine Day		VP Administration Michael Heather		VP Local Operations Ed Tsuzuki	
VP Community Services Jody Smith		VP Programs David Diehl		Secretary CJ Rushman	
Treasurer Ralph Davis		Legal Counsel Patty Miller		Immediate Past President Jeff Moxie	
At-Large Director Breadbasket Anthony Thompson		At-Large Director Colonies Chris McGiffin		At-Large Director Dixie Maria Elias-Williams	
At-Large Director Great Lakes Phil Dodson		At-Large Director Northwest Hugh Moore		At-Large Director Oceana Jim Clemmons	
At-Large Director South Central Don Mehl		At-Large Director Southwest Phil Whitten			
Other Board members (non-voting):					
Past President – Tom Boak			Past President – Mel Goldstein		
Past President – Dan Gruender			Past President – Ted Haartz		
Past President – June Krauser			Past President – Mike Laux		
Past President – Jim Miller			Past President – Nancy Ridout		
Executive Director – Rob Butcher			USA Swimming Representative – Jeff Gudman		

Zone Chairs					
Breadbasket Stacy Broncucia		Colonies Jeff Strahota		Dixie Jerry Clark	
Great Lakes Dan Cox		Northwest Tim Waud		Oceana Michael Moore	
South Central Tyler Blessing		Southwest Mary Hull			

USMS Committee Chairs			
Championship Jeff Roddin		Coaches Scott Bay	
Finance Homer Lane		History & Archives Meegan Wilson	
Fitness Education Marcia Anziano		Legislation Sean Fitzgerald	
LMSC Development Paige Buehler		Long Distance Donn Livoni	
Open Water Lynn Hazlewood		Officials Ed Saltzman	
Recognition & Awards Sally Dillon		Records & Tabulation Chris Stevenson	
Registration Leo Letendre		Sports Medicine & Science Jane Moore	
Rules Kathy Casey		Other committee chairs: Audit – Jill Gellatly Governance – Anthony Thompson	
Swimming Saves Lives Foundation – Doug Church Compensation and Benefits – Sarah Welch Investment – David Burgio			

USMS National Office staff			
Executive Director Rob Butcher		Controller Susan Kuhlman	
Editor-in-Chief Laura Hamel		Membership Coordinator Tracy Grilli	
Membership Director Anna Lea Matysek		Webmaster / IT Director Jim Matysek	
Club and Coach Services Director Bill Brenner		Account Executive Kyle Deery	
Web Developer Luke Shaheen		Club and Coach Services Coordinator Susan Ingraham	
Web Developer Jeff Perout		Convention Coordinator – Maria Elias-Williams	

Rule Book Editor – Susan Ehringer



Robert's Rules of Order – the Basics

The purpose of “Robert's Rules of Order” includes the following:

- Ensure majority rule
- Protect the rights of the minority, the absentees and individual members
- Provide order, fairness and decorum
- Facilitate the transaction of business and expedite meetings

Basic Principles

- All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations
- Full and free discussion of every motion is a basic right
- Only one question at a time may be considered, and only one person may have the floor at any one time
- Members have a right to know what the immediately pending question is and to have it restated before a vote is taken
- No person can speak until recognized by the chair
- Personal remarks are always out of order
- A majority decides a question except when basic rights of members are involved
- A two-thirds vote is required for any motion that deprives a member of rights in any way (e.g., cutting off debate)
- Silence gives consent. Those who do not vote allow the decision to be made by those who do vote
- The chair should always remain impartial

Role of the Presiding Officer

- Remain impartial during debate - the presiding officer must relinquish the chair in order to debate the merits of a motion
- Vote only to create or break a tie (or 2/3 for matters requiring a 2/3 vote) - exception: the presiding officer may vote on any vote by ballot
- Introduce business in proper order
- Recognize speakers
- Determine if a motion is in order
- Keep discussion germane to the pending motion
- Maintain order
- Put motions to a vote and announce results

General Procedure for Handling a Motion

- A member must obtain the floor by being recognized by the chair
- Member makes a main motion
- A motion must be seconded by another member before it can be considered
- If the motion is in order, the chair will restate the motion and open debate (if the motion is debatable)
- The maker of a motion has the right to speak first in debate
- The main motion is debated along with any Subsidiary motions (e.g. “I move to amend the motion by ...”, Privileged motions (e.g. “I move to postpone the motion to ...”) and

Incidental motions (e.g. "I move to divide the question.")

- Debate on Subsidiary, Privileged and Incidental motions (if debatable) takes precedence over debate on the main motion and must be decided before debate on the main motion can continue.
- Debate is closed when:
 - Discussion has ended, or
 - A two-thirds vote closes debate ("Call the question")
- The chair restates the motion, and if necessary clarifies the consequences of affirmative and negative votes
- The chair calls for a vote by asking "All in favor?" Those in favor say "Aye" (or in HOD, hold up the Green "Yes" card). Then asking "All opposed?" Those opposed will say "No" (or in HOD, hold up the Red "No" card). And finally asking "All abstained?" Those abstaining will say "Aye" (or in HOD, hold up the Yellow "Abstain" card)
- The chair announces the result

General Rules of Debate

- No members may speak until recognized by the chair
- All discussion must be relevant to the immediately pending question
- No member can speak more than once to each motion
- No member can speak more than three minutes
- All remarks must be addressed to the chair - no cross debate is permitted
- It is not permissible to speak against one's own motion (but one can vote against one's own motion)
- Debate must address issues not personalities - no one is permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers
- The presiding officer must relinquish the chair in order to participate in debate and cannot reassume the chair until the pending main question is disposed of
- When possible, the chair should let the floor alternate between those speaking in support and those speaking in opposition to the motion
- Members may not disrupt the assembly
- Rules of debate can be changed by a two-thirds vote

Robert's Rules Help Get Things Done!

- **Make Motions** - that are in order
- **Obtain the Floor** - properly
- **Speak** - clearly and concisely
- **Obey** - the rules of debate
- And most of all, be courteous! That's **always** in order!

Recommended Books

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, Tenth Edition, 2000
Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, In Brief, Thomas J. Balch, 2004
Robert's Rules for Dummies, C. Alan Jennings, 2004
A-B-C's of Parliamentary Procedure. Co, Channing L. Bete, 1998

Recommended Web Sites

www.robertsrules.com | www.rulesonline.com | www.parlipro.org | www.robertsrules.org | www.roberts-rules.com



Strategic Plan Summary

September, 2011

I. Mission

To promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming

II. Vision Statement

USMS will be the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States and will make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible

III. Values

- We value HEALTH AND FITNESS, constantly challenging ourselves to achieve, in competition and in accomplishing our own goals.
- We value RESPECT for our teammates, competitors, coaches, employees, and volunteers.
- We value FUN, enjoying camaraderie with our fellow swimmers and embracing swimming as a joyful and satisfying avocation.
- We value LEARNING through coaching, programs, and communication.
- We value EXCELLENCE in safety, education, innovation, performance, leadership, and the provision of services and programs.

IV. Strategies

- Enhance the volunteer experience and improve volunteer performance through role clarity, training, recognition, and recruitment.
- Create and enhance membership value through expanded and improved USMS products, services and delivery infrastructure.
- Increase awareness of and strengthen the U.S. Masters Swimming brand and image in targeted markets.
- Engage and activate partnerships with organizations that align with the USMS mission, vision and values, for the purpose of increasing benefits to our members, enhancing and expanding the USMS brand, building USMS membership and improving access to swimming facilities.