

USMS RECOGNITION & AWARDS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

507.1.11 Recognition and Awards Committee - The Recognition and Awards Committee shall promote recognition of service to USMS. The committee shall review and approve proposals for all official USMS service awards and ensure that a history of all service awards is maintained. The committee shall be involved in determining method of recognition and recipient selection when appropriate. The committee shall consist of the committee chair, at least four Ransom J. Arthur award recipients, and sufficient other members to execute the committee function. The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.

POLICIES

A. Policies regarding committee business and all USMS awards for service

1. Committee votes made outside of a regular committee meeting shall be reported in the subsequent meeting minutes.
2. The R&A Committee shall assure that a history of all USMS awards for service is maintained on the USMS website and published in the annual USMS Rule Book.
3. The R&A committee shall look to the specific committee presenting an award for information that is to be included on the website.
4. Nomination forms and details shall be available at www.usms.org/admin/awards/.

B. Policies regarding the acceptance of a new USMS award

1. Any USMS member, club, LMSC, committee, or other group that wishes to develop, create, or initiate a new USMS recognized award may submit a proposal to the USMS R&A Committee Chair.
2. Each proposal shall be submitted in written or electronic form using the Award Proposal Form.
3. Proposals should be submitted to the R&A committee chair.
4. The USMS R&A committee shall review proposals, request additional information as needed, consult with the person/s proposing an award on suggested revisions, and vote on approval of proposed awards.
5. Following the conclusion of action by the USMS R&A committee, the Chair shall notify the submitter/s of the award proposal of the committee's decision either in writing or electronically.

C. Policies regarding the USMS Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award (RJA)

1. The Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award is U.S. Masters Swimming's most prestigious award. It is presented annually to the person who is recognized to have done the most to further the objectives of Masters Swimming programs.
2. Established in 1973, the RJA award was intended to be a perpetual award, given first to Ransom Arthur and then subsequently to others in his honor. Ransom was so honored due to his "sacrifice, perseverance and dedication to improving the health of adults in the nation through swimming, that he established the Masters Swimming Program".
3. Initially the RJA award was to be presented to the person who had, during the past year, done the most to further the objectives of Masters Swimming. In 1993, the reference to "the past year" was removed from the criteria.
4. The following goals and objectives, which are in keeping with the mission statement of USMS, are used as guidelines for nominations:
 - a. Encourage and promote improved physical fitness and health in adults.
 - b. Offer adults the opportunity to participate in a lifelong fitness and/or competitive swimming program.
 - c. Encourage organizations and communities to establish and sponsor Masters Swimming programs.

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- d. Enhance fellowship and camaraderie among Masters Swimmers.
- e. Stimulate research in the sociology, psychology, and physiology of Masters Swimmers.
5. The person receiving the award is a volunteer whose contributions at the national, regional, and local levels have been outstanding. He or she may also be an outstanding swimmer, but recognition is specifically given for projects, assignments, or accomplishments that benefit and enhance USMS programs as a whole. The recipient must be a registered member of USMS.
6. LMSCs, the Board of Directors of USMS, committee personnel, and individual members are permitted to submit nominations. The nomination shall be endorsed by an officer of the nominee's LMSC.
7. A recipient can receive this award only once.
8. Nomination materials are posted on the USMS web site at www.usms.org/admin/awards/ and can be obtained from the R&A Committee Chair. The official two-page nomination form must be submitted along with a one-page letter of endorsement with additional information. Electronic submissions are required.
9. A "Call for Nominations" shall be published in the January/February issue of *SWIMMER Magazine* and in *Streamlines*. Nominations must be submitted to the R&A Committee Chair by March 15.
10. The selection committee for the RJA award consists of all voting members of the R&A Committee and all former recipients of the RJA award whose USMS registration is current. Voters shall receive nomination materials by email, or surface mail when necessary, and shall return their ballots to the Chair for official tabulation. When more than two nominees are being considered, the voters shall rank their top three choices.
11. Once selected, the Chair shall see that the official award is prepared and notify the USMS President, so he/she can prepare an official speech for the award presentation. The award will be presented at a venue in the recipient's LMSC shortly after the decision is made. Additionally, an award announcement will be made during the USMS Spring Nationals. A framed copy of the speech shall be prepared for the recipient as well.
12. A formal "pinning" with the official RJA lapel pin shall take place during a House of Delegates meeting at the annual convention. A formal presentation of the award shall take place at the USAS Convention banquet.

D. Policies regarding the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA)

1. The first USMS Service Awards were instituted and presented in 1997 by then USMS President, Mel Goldstein. In 2000, the award was renamed to honor Dorothy Donnelly.
2. As a volunteer-driven organization, USMS is forever grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who give their time, talent, and expertise to help all phases of our programs. The DDSA is given to those volunteers whose service stands out in its scope and its impact on the program and the USMS members who have benefited from their efforts on the local, regional, and national level. The recipient must be a registered member of USMS.
3. Nominations can come from LMSCs, clubs, and/or individuals.
4. A recipient can receive this award only once.
5. Nominations should be on the official one-page form, citing the reasons the individual/s deserve recognition and the award.
6. The letter should include:
 - a. The name, address, email and phone information for both nominee and nominator.
 - b. Where the service was performed: local (club or LMSC), zone, national, or any combination thereof. If compensation was received for the service, the amount and type of compensation received should be indicated.
 - c. The impact of the nominee's service (i.e. new programs, improvements or enhancements of ongoing programs, etc.)
 - d. The scope of the service and the number of members who have benefited.

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7. A "Call for Nominations" shall be published in the March/April issue of *SWIMMER Magazine* and in *Streamlines*. Nomination materials must be submitted to the R&A Committee Chair by July 1.
8. Up to 15 DDSA awards shall be given each year.
9. The selection committee consists of the USMS President, Chair of the R&A Committee, and the committee Vice Chair.
10. The recipients shall receive an enamel pin and a certificate, which shall be presented during a House of Delegates meeting at the annual convention. Arrangements shall be made to deliver the awards to those recipients not present at convention.

E. Policies regarding the USMS Club of the Year Award (COYA)

1. Initiated in 2006, the Club of the Year Award recognizes clubs that develop programs that draw people in, support their swimmers, and set standards for other clubs to follow. An exemplary club is one that builds on the Core Objectives of USMS: Serve, Educate, and Build the Membership.
2. The COYA is given in two separate categories: Regional and Local clubs.
3. Nominations can come from LMSCs or club members. However, if a nomination was made and no award was given to that club, updated nominations are encouraged the following year.
4. Nomination materials are posted on the USMS web site at www.usms.org/admin/awards/ and can be obtained from the R&A Committee Chair. The official nomination form must be submitted along with a one-page letter of endorsement with additional information. Electronic submissions are required.
5. A "Call for Nominations" shall be published in the March/April issue of *SWIMMER Magazine* and in *Streamlines*. Nominations must be submitted to the R&A Committee Chair by July 1.
6. The selection committee will consist of seven individuals representing the R&A, Coaches, and Fitness Committees along with a VP from the USMS Executive Committee. The committee may choose to select more than one Club of the Year from a category if warranted by the number of applicants and the sizes of the clubs.
7. The selection committee leader shall arrange for the awards and submit the bill to the R&A Chair for processing.
8. The awards shall be presented during a House of Delegates meeting at the annual convention.

F. Policies regarding the USMS June Krauser Communications Award (JKCA)

1. The June Krauser Communications Award is presented annually to an individual or group whose communicative efforts have contributed to the growth, improvement, or success of Masters Swimming. The recipient/s must be a registered member/s of USMS.
2. Nominations should be in the form of a one-page letter detailing why the candidate is deserving of the award.
3. The letter should include the name, address, email and phone information for both the nominee and nominator.
4. A "Call for Nominations" shall be published in the March/April issue of *SWIMMER Magazine* and in *Streamlines*. Nomination materials must be submitted to the R&A Committee Chair by July 1.
5. The selection committee consists of a minimum of five members with at least two from the R&A Committee plus members representing at least 3 other USMS committees.
6. The chair of the selection committee shall arrange for the preparation of the award and submit the bill to the R&A Chair for processing.
6. The award shall be presented during a House of Delegates meeting at the annual convention.

G. Policies regarding USMS awards given by other committees and groups

1. USMS Coach of the Year award: The Coaches Committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipient. The award shall be presented at the annual USAS Banquet.
2. USMS Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award: The Coaches committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipients. The awards shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates.

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3. USMS Fitness Award: The Fitness Committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipient. The award shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates.
4. USMS National Championship Meets Award: Representatives of Raleigh Area Masters and the Championship Committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipient. The award shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates.
5. F.H. "Ted" Haartz USMS Staff Appreciation Award: The National Office staff shall maintain criteria and select the recipient. The award shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates.
6. USMS Open Water Swimming Award: The Open Water Committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipients. The award shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates.

H. Policies regarding International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) recognition

1. The IMSHOF is maintained within the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The purpose of IMSHOF is to recognize participants in Masters aquatic sports for their achievements as outstanding competitors and contributors to Masters with a goal of inspiring every adult to live an active and healthy lifestyle.
2. It is the role of the USMS R&A Committee to ensure that qualified USMS members are submitted as candidates for several of the aquatic categories: Open Water Swimming, Coaches, and Contributors. Candidates for the Swimming category are selected on a point system under the control of the ISHOF.
3. The R&A Committee shall maintain a list on the USMS Awards page of all USMS members inducted into IMSHOF.

I. Policies regarding International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) recognition

1. The ISHOF is a not-for-profit educational organization located in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The ISHOF mission is to "promote the benefits and importance of swimming as a key to fitness, good health, quality of life, and the water safety of children.
2. It is the role of the USMS R&A Committee to ensure that qualified USMS members are submitted as candidates for several of the aquatic categories: Open Water Swimming, Coaches, and Contributors.
3. Candidates for the Masters Swimming category must first be inducted into IMSHOF and then they are selected on a continuing point system under the control of ISHOF.
4. The R&A Committee shall maintain a list on the USMS Awards page of all USMS members inducted into ISHOF.

Approved: March 2012

Amended: December 11, 2012

Amended: April 9, 2013

Amended: September 11, 2013

Amended: August 28, 2017

Amended: December 7, 2018

Amended: March 12, 2019