

USMS CONVENTION – DALLAS, TEXAS - 2002

Committee Name: **Registration**

Agenda Item # 16

ACTION ITEMS

MSC to accept Permanent Swimmer ID and implement target of November 1st or as soon as possible.

Committee Chair: Anna Lea Roof

Vice Chair(s): N/A

Number of committee members present: 9 Absent: 4 Total delegates attending this meeting: 22

Committee Members present: Jack Buchannan, John Pilger, Adrienne Pipes, Janet Renner, Tracy Grilli, Jim Lewis, Nancy Ridout, George Simon, Anna Lea Roof

MINUTES

Time Meeting Called to Order: 8:45 am

1. National Office Report: Esther reported via speaker phone. About 20 of the LMSCs have hit at least 100% as many as last year's registrations, and 20 are at 90%. Current total is 40,224. Last year's total was 40,575. South Carolina is at 130% of last year. New report breaks down membership by 3-digit zip code, can track changes and use for marketing purposes. The Wisconsin data was shown as an example. Our club total is also up; we are at 512 compared to 506 last year.
2. Registration Software: We have 12 LMSCs that do not use Leoware. A few don't even do the registrations on computer. As we begin the 2003 registration year, Esther has volunteered to do the processing for small LMSCs. It is the larger LMSCs (200-1400 swimmers) that we would like to help convert (to Leoware) as soon as possible. George Simon, Jim Lewis, John Pilger, Jack Buchannan, Julie Heather, Arni Litt, and John Baumann have volunteered to help these new people get up and running on the software.
3. Registration Problems/Issues: Two swimmers have been suspended for lying about their age in the past year (in one case the swimmer gained 10 years when he changed LMSCs). Do we need something on our registration form that indicates that we can request proof of age? Legal counsel has indicated that we are within our rights to request proof of age. Most of the birthdate problems are honest mistakes. The length of the suspension is determined on a case by case basis.

At this point we require the hard copy of the registration form. According to Nancy Ridout, **we (the Registrars) cannot accept fax, Xeroxed, or online registrations.** Anna Lea will talk to Legal Counsel to get some clarification on this point.

What happens when you have a large team and are having problems registering a few swimmers? This affects the insurance coverage for the entire team during workouts. A coach of a large team requested that USMS offer online registration as a way to make it easier for his swimmers to register. Our Legal Counsel is looking into this.

4. Non-registered or one-event swimmers making Top Ten: There was a problem with a swimmer who registered at a meet, then set some national records. The Top Ten recordings were processed and sent to Esther and she found that he wasn't registered. The meet director had never forwarded his registration form to the registrar. We would like to catch these problems earlier. Nancy suggested that we recommend to Top Ten that the registration number be submitted with LMSC Top Ten submissions.

5. Permanent Swimmer IDs: The need for a permanent swimmer ID has come out of the database task force. This is a particular problem with name changes. Esther has set up an internal, unofficial tracking system to deal with registration issues such as this. Leo has already incorporated this into the registration software. Part of the permanent ID will be a checksum number. The registrar will not know the formula, so he/she won't be able to calculate it by hand. The proposed format will be 4 characters (2 digits for LMSC, 1 digit for year, 1 digit for checksum), a hyphen, 5 alpha-numeric characters (the swimmer's permanent ID). [Example: 283P-V3TR9] The checksum will change every year. We would like to start this in November. Jack, Julie, George, and Nancy have agreed to be beta testers so we're not trying to iron out problems while we're doing the new year registrations. When a swimmer changes LMSC the software will pick it up, since all previous registrations nationwide will be encrypted into the database. MSC to accept Permanent ID and implement target of November 1st or as soon as possible.
6. Swimmers registered in two countries: This past year a swimmer was registered in US, but was moving back to his native Germany. Germany required that the swimmer provide proof that he was no longer registered in the US.
7. Swimmers holding two USMS registration cards: When a swimmer re-registers in November for the upcoming year, his new registration card and USMS number take precedence. That is, even though his old USMS card says that it is valid until December 31 of the current year, the new card takes its place. Legislation has proposed wording this year to clarify this issue.
8. (Block Question #1): What is the market that we are missing? Fitness swimmers, lap swimmers.

(Block Question #2): How do we communicate the value of USMS? Coached workout and social interactions with fellow swimmers. SWIM Magazine and local newsletters are great marketing tools. We need to communicate that Masters does not mean elite. Coaching can improve efficiency of stroke, and prevent injury.

(Block Question #3): How do we team together to strengthen the weaker links? We ran out of time.

Time Meeting Was Adjourned: 10:02 am

TASKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

1. Anna Lea will clarify the USMS policy on the acceptance of faxed or Xeroxed USMS registration forms and will communicate that policy to all LMSC Registrars.
2. Registration Committee members will beta-test the new version of Leoware.
3. Registration Committee members will "buddy" with the LMSC Registrars who are converting to Leoware for the first time.