

TO: LMSC CHAIRS
FROM: ROB BUTCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2015 (revised October 20, 2017)
RE: SANCTION FEES

On October 3, 2015 the USMS House of Delegates approved a sanction fee model to create a more equitable and sustainable solution to the costs associate with our liability insurance premium. The sanction fee goes into effect for 2016 events and applies as follows:

POOL EVENTS

Non-National Championships:

- An LMSC will be billed \$50 by USMS for each pool meet that it sanctions

National Championships:

- Entrants will pay a \$5 per entrant fee, with the fee paid directly to USMS by the individual through event registration

OPEN WATER EVENTS

Non-National Championships:

- An LMSC will be billed \$100 by USMS for each open water event that it sanctions
- An LMSC will be billed a \$5 per participant fee by USMS for each open water event that it sanctions
- The maximum that USMS will bill an LMSC for any sanctioned open water event is \$1000

National Championships:

- An LMSC will be billed a \$5 per participant fee by USMS for each National Championship open water event that it sanctions
- The maximum that USMS will bill an LMSC for any sanctioned open water event is \$1000

As with any new initiative, there are details regarding its implementation. The details are addressed below in a Q&A format.

1) When does this new sanction fee go into effect?

Answer: 2016 events that were sanctioned by LMSCs prior to October 4, 2015 are exempt from this model. For 2016 events that are sanctioned after October 4, 2015, the sanctioning LMSC will be billed accordingly.

2) How will the sanction fee be paid?

Answer: After each sanctioned event has been conducted, USMS will bill the sanctioning LMSC for the sanction fee.

2) Will the LMSC that sanctions a pool national championship be billed a sanction fee?

Answer: No. USMS will be adding a \$5 surcharge to each participant that enters the Spring and Summer Nationals. Since USMS owns and manages our pool nationals registration system, this revenue will be collected by USMS during the entry process.

- 3) Will the LMSC that sanctions an open water national championship(s) be billed a sanction fee?

Answer: Yes. The billed fee will be \$5 for each participant.

- 4) Will the LMSC that sanctions an e-Postal national championship be billed a sanction fee?

Answer: No.

- 5) When will the LMSC be billed by USMS?

Answer: Events completed in January, 2016 will be billed as part of the March, 2016 registration invoice, and so forth. Please note, USMS is billing after the completion date of the event, not when the event is sanctioned.

- 6) How will USMS know how many participants are in open water events so it may bill the appropriate per participant fee?

Answer: USMS communicates with open water event hosts in advance of the sanction approval as part of our safety review process. We will ask open water event hosts to provide a report on total number of participants in the event. The reported number of total participants is what we will bill to the LMSC.

- 7) Will LMSCs be billed for recognized pool events that they approve?

Answer: No.

- 8) Will LMSCs be billed for clinics and camps that they approve?

Answer: No. Clinics are an approved insurance activity by USMS and there is no need for a clinic to seek a sanction. Sanctions should only be given to competitive events.

- 9) Does the LMSC have to bill the cost of the sanction to the event host?

Answer: No. LMSCs have the option to pay the sanction fees themselves, or bill part or all of the cost to the event host.

- 10) Will USMS continue to offer rebate assistance for LMSCs that need assistance with these new sanction fees?

Answer: Yes, assistance is available for both pool and open water events. Inquiries for assistance may be sent to: SanctionRebate@usms.org.

- 11) Who may I speak with if I have more questions?

Answer: Please direct questions to **Volunteer Services in the National Office:** volunteer@usmastersswimming.org or 941-256-8767.