

USMS Convention—Dallas, Texas. 2010

Committee Name: Championship	Session #: 2	Report #: 10
Committee Chair: Jeff Roddin	Vice Chair: Sandi Rousseau	
Minutes recorded by: Lisa Watson	Date/time of meeting: 9/17/10 1:30 PM	

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. MSA TO SUSPEND RULE 104.5.2 B3 FOR THE 2011 MESA SPRING NATIONALS.

Motions Passed:

1. MSA TO CHANGE THE TITLE FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS TO SPRING AND SUMMER, RESPECTIVELY (INSTEAD OF SC AND LC).
2. MSA TO PROPOSE TO RULES COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE RULE 104.5.2 B3.
3. MSA TO ELIMINATE 'F' FROM THE ORDER OF EVENTS BEING PROPOSED TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.
4. MSA TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS REGARDING COACHES AND HOSPITALITY AT NATIONALS: 1) ALL COACHES RECEIVING FREE HOSPITALITY MUST HAVE A CURRENT ASCA CERTIFICATION. 2) TEAMS WITH 10-29 SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 1 COACHES HOSPITALITY PASS. 3) TEAMS WITH 30-49 SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 2 COACHES' HOSPITALITY PASSES. 4) TEAMS WITH 50 OR MORE SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 3 COACHES' HOSPITALITY PASSES. 5) ANY COACH ON THE ASSIGNED LIST OF ON-DECK COACHES WILL GET A HOSPITALITY PASS.
5. MSA TO REJECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST TO INCREASE THE MEET SURCHARGE FEE FOR OMAHA TO \$75.

Number of committee members present: 16

Absent: 7

Number of other delegates present: 29

Committee members present: Jeff Roddin (Chair), Sandi Rousseau (Vice Chair), Barb Protzman, Jody Smith, Kim Crouch, Robin Segnitz, Michael Moore, Jane Moore (ex-officio), Barry Fasbender, Tom Boak, Debbie Cavanaugh, Jim Clemmons, Jack Groselle, Paul Smith (ex-officio), Jeff Strahota, Lisa Watson, Jim Matysek (ex-officio).

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

1. TITLE FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jeff noted in our February conference call we discussed adding the words "Spring" and Summer" to Nationals (instead of Short Course and Long Course) beginning with Puerto Rico and all were in agreement. However, when we did the MSA it simply said to add "Summer" to Puerto Rico as opposed to "beginning with Puerto Rico." **MSA TO CHANGE THE TITLE FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS TO SPRING AND SUMMER, RESPECTIVELY (INSTEAD OF SC AND LC).**

2. 2012 CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

Jeff explained the new bidding process to the audience. The winning bidders for 2012 will make a presentation to the House of Delegates during the Saturday afternoon session.

Spring-Greensboro Don Gilchrist, co-meet director, addressed the committee. Also attending this meeting from Greensboro were Ava Pope and Brian Ambuehl from the Convention Visitor's Bureau and Scott Johnson representing the Greensboro Coliseum. Don said that construction on the pool is way ahead of schedule. They are very excited about putting on this event- it will be the first Nationals held in North Carolina since 1992. They would also be open to doing an open water swim in conjunction with the meet. Dates are April 26-29, 2012.

Summer-Omaha This meet will be put on by the US Masters National Office at the Qwest Center immediately following

USA Olympic Trials.

Dates are July 5-8, 2012.

3. PROPOSED ORDER OF EVENTS

There was discussion on the possibility of changing events in Mesa to avoid having the open water swim conflicting with the 500 yd free. Currently, our rule book will not allow this to occur, according to Rule 104.5.2 B3. **MSA TO PROPOSE TO RULES COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE RULE 104.5.2 B3.** This would allow the Championship Committee to make this change. Sandi will write up the rationale for this proposal to submit to Rules. As a back-up, this committee decided to request permission to suspend the above rule for the 2011 Mesa Spring Nationals. **MSA TO SUSPEND RULE 104.5.2 B3 FOR THE 2011 MESA SPRING NATIONALS.** We then discussed the 6 Orders of Events proposed by Kim Crouch and her subcommittee for 2012-2014. Order F did not seem to be a feasible order. **MSA TO ELIMINATE 'F' FROM THE ORDER OF EVENTS BEING PROPOSED TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.** The Championship Committee will present 5 orders, of which the House of Delegates will vote for 3.

4. COACHES HOSPITALITY

Jeff had addressed this issue with the Coaches Committee. Originally, the Coaches Committee had required the meet host to provide hospitality for all coaches, which can potentially be very costly. Also, there was really no designated criteria for who would qualify other than being ASCA certified but there was no mention to the number of swimmers that coach may be responsible for plus the Host had no way of knowing how many coaches were going to show up to request their pass. Jack Groselle made a recommendation to limit the amount of coaches hospitality passes depending on the amount of swimmers per team. **MSA TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS REGARDING COACHES AND HOSPITALITY AT NATIONALS: 1) ALL COACHES MUST HAVE A CURRENT ASCA CERTIFICATION. 2) TEAMS WITH 10-29 SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 1 COACHES HOSPITALITY PASS. 3) TEAMS WITH 30-49 SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 2 COACHES' HOSPITALITY PASSES. 4) TEAMS WITH 50 OR MORE SWIMMERS WILL WARRANT 3 COACHES' HOSPITALITY PASSES. 5) ANY COACH WHO IS ON THE ASSIGNED LIST OF ON-DECK COACHES WILL GET A HOSPITALITY PASS.** Michael Collins said that the Coaches Committee should give a list to the meet host of all ASCA certified coaches and a list of on-deck coaches. He said that normally there are 4 on-deck coaches per session, but that they can always use more. Tom stated that the Coaches Committee needs to supply this list to the meet host in a timely manner.

5. NATIONALS PROCEDURES

A. Entry deadline/automated seed time updating. Having a deadline 35 days prior to the meet helps Hosts plan better because otherwise they don't know how many swimmers will be attending until the deadline. However, investigating the possibility of allowing swimmers to change seed times and possibly even events after they've entered but prior to the entry deadline may be a compromise that could encourage swimmers to enter early instead of waiting until the last day.

B. Hotel Room Block Management. Mark Gill proposed that this responsibility could be taken over by the National Office to take the burden off of the meet host. Upcoming meet directors Paul Smith and Don Gilchrist both spoke against this, stating that this was a huge political asset and a big source of revenue for the meet host. Paul suggested that the Championship Liaison needs to educate the host if needed on working with their Convention Visitor's Bureau, as there can be long-term benefits that extend outside of that national meet. Jane Moore commented that sometimes the benefit to the meet host might be in terms of complimentary rooms rather than a financial rebate. It was suggested that this might be a choice for the meet host, but should not be mandated. This topic was tabled, since it does not apply to any of the upcoming meet hosts.

C. Meet Program Mark Gill suggested that the National Office could take over this responsibility, which is always a huge undertaking for the meet host. Sandi questioned whether this would require yet another USMS position to be funded by our members in order to take care of this job. Mark stated that it should not be that time consuming for the National Office to do this year in and year out because they wouldn't have the learning curve Hosts typically have plus they already have all of the boilerplate material and sponsor ads in house. As an example, it took about 4 hours to put together the meet program for Puerto Rico once the Championship Committee supplied the team rosters, heat sheets and timeline. Lisa wanted to make sure that the meet program still maintained the local flavor of the meet host. Barry wondered if the National Office would solicit additional National sponsors for the program. Mark stressed that the meet host would be able to submit the information and sponsors that they wanted - the National Office would simply be in charge of putting the program together. The committee felt this was a good idea.

D. Electronic newsletters: For the last several years, the meet host has put out electronic newsletters to participants with information regarding Nationals, beginning about 3 weeks before the event. Jeff felt that this would also be something that might be better for the National Office to distribute. That way, certain necessary information could be sent to participants at specific times. It was stressed that Hosts would still provide content, it's just that the National Office would publish the material in a more consistent and professional format from meet to meet. The committee felt this was also a very good idea.

6. MINIMUM FACILITY STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS - to be discussed later

7. PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES WITH OPEN WATER NATIONALS - to be discussed later

8. GOALS/TASKS FOR 2011

Upcoming goals include updating the Meet Director's Guide, putting out the 2012 meet contracts, investigating the possibility of allowing swimmers to change seed times/events after they've entered. Michael Collin asked the committee to look at the possibility of allowing Relay Only swimmers to be able to have a later entry deadline than individual swimmers. Debbie suggested that we add a Liaison checklist along with the Liaison Guidelines.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff brought up a request from the Executive Committee to increase the meet surcharge for Omaha to \$75 to lessen the impact of a possible financial loss to members not traveling to Omaha. The Championship Committee reviewed the Omaha budget when it was submitted and found the details to be accurate. By accurate we mean all revenue and income sources were identified and there were no glaring mistakes or omissions. We questioned the proposed deficit but were assured the USMS Executive Committee and Board of Directors were fully aware of the deficit and they were willing to take this risk for a variety of reasons including marketing exposure, sponsor cultivation and an opportunity to advertise USMS's charitable programs. The Championship Committee believes the bottom line of this event can greatly be improved by obtaining more sponsor dollars, and this has been discussed by some national office staff as well as some of the Executive Committee. Harold Cliff (Omaha Sports Commission President) also shares this view. Furthermore, the Championship Committee has approved a higher event "splash fee" as well as a higher relay entry fee. Specifically, USMS has been given permission to charge \$5 per individual event and \$16 per relay event as compared to usual fees of \$4 and \$12, respectively. We agreed to these higher fees because indeed Omaha will be offering a wonderful facility and a more interesting experience than our typical Nationals environment. **MSA TO REJECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST TO INCREASE THE MEET SURCHARGE FEE FOR OMAHA TO \$75.** Tom will reaffirm our current fee structure to the Executive Committee and state that this will also apply to Omaha.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.+