

USMS Convention—Atlanta, Ga. 2008

Committee Name: Coaches	Session # 1	Report #: 7
Committee Chair: Chris Colburn	Vice Chair: n/a	
Minutes recorded by: Don Mehl	Date/time of meeting: 09/25/2008 12:45-2:00 PM	

Action Items:

1. MSA to recommend to the BOD a long-standing IT request to make the on-line coaching forums and web presence available to USMS members only with several sample workouts and technique posts as “teasers” to encourage membership and use of this resource.
2. MSA to recommend to the BOD that they explore to possibility of providing group insurance coverage for USMS coaches to purchase.

Number of committee members present: 12	Absent: 13	Number of other delegates present: 48
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Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Chris Colburn, Bob Bruce, Chuck Burr, John Grzeszczak, Allen Highnote, Kris Houchens, Mike Jacobson, Wayne McCauley, Don Mehl, Kerry O’Brien, Dick Pittman, Robert Zeitner

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 PM

1. Underwater Video Program (Snooper) and DVD Rental Library Program are now managed through the National Office in Charlotte.
2. There were 6 nominations for the 2008 Speedo USMS Coach of the Year Award. Subcommittee chair Kris Houchens reported that there was one clear winner
3. There are 10 recipients of the 2008 Kerry O’Brien Coaching Award (names and summaries will be announced in the HOD).
4. In April, 4 USMS coaches were on deck assisting USMS swimmers at the Masters World Championships in Perth, Australia. Dr. Jim Miller reminded us of the importance of coaches providing a detailed and comprehensive report regarding the details of their trip to justify the expense and so others can learn from their experiences.
5. It was suggested that an on-line coaching site be budgeted for long-distance, open-water, and triathlon training and workouts. Chris added a point of fact that this is included in the 2009 Budget in the Online Coaching line item.
6. USMS Swimmer magazine encourages coaches to submit articles concerning any and all aspects of Masters swimming. 2-4 months advance time needed for publication.
7. Quarterly or bi-monthly e-mail to the greater membership and more regular conference calls would serve to better educate Masters coaches. This correspondence would involve all coaches who mark, “I am a Coach” On their USMS registration form. While we have done a better job of communication in the past couple of years, we want to further raise the bar to keep in touch with our coaches.
8. Jerry Clark thanked all coaches who participated in filling out and returning the Triathlon survey. He said Executive Director Rob Butcher planned to meet with representatives of USA-T to examine how our organizations can work together to create a productive partnership. This relationship must be organized at the National level to be effective. USAT offers 3-day clinics for triathlon swimming

coaches at a cost of \$500. There are only 6-7 classes each year of 40 students per class, and the classes fill up quickly. A major factor to consider when hosting triathlon training sessions or competitions is insurance and liability.

9. The USMS On-Deck Coaching Program has been very successful, both at National Championships and at the USAS Conventions, and we will continue to provide this service to our members. Our primary focus has always been safety; monitoring the warm-up and cool-down areas and assisting with starts and sprints. Stroke corrections or changes have not been deemed necessary to address by the coaches unless they notice an infraction that could result in a swimmer's disqualification.
10. We will be working to improve club effectiveness and increase the membership at the local level by integrating with the newly-proposed Coach and Club Development division. We are working to make available to all Masters coaches the huge volume of coaching knowledge available from our various resources. A pressing question for the committee that we will pursue over the next 2-3 months involves how and what this committee should do to integrate and work together with the Coach and Club Development division as it scales up its operations to leverage the talent and influence of our coaches to increase the membership.
11. **MSA to recommend to the BOD a long-standing IT request to make the on-line coaching forums and web presence available to USMS members only with several sample workouts and technique posts as "teasers" to encourage membership and use of this resource.** We are aware that this capability is now available, and Chris plans to work with Jim Matysek to make this happen when appropriate.
12. **MSA to recommend to the BOD that they explore to possibility of providing group insurance coverage for USMS coaches to purchase.** We understand that the Coaches Committee, in conjunction with the Club and Coach Development division, needs to better define the roles and criteria that determine which coaches would be eligible for such benefits before the BOD can proceed effectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.
