

USMS Convention—Dearborn, Michigan 2006

Committee Name: International	Session #: 1	Report #: 19
Minutes recorded by: Anthony Thompson	Date/time of meeting: 9/15/06 10:30	

Proposed Expenditures

Action Items

1. Promote Masters swimming internationally by extending invitations to USMS convention to Masters representatives from other countries. MSA.
2. Move that the International Committee recommend the following actions to the USMS Executive Committee: (1) the FINA Executive Director be contacted through the appropriate USAS channels regarding our concerns about the approach FINA has taken with LAtyCar, and (2) the FINA Executive Director be requested to remove the threat of any sanctions being placed against any Masters swimmers who participate in any organized Masters competition hosted by an organization whose purpose is to foster and promote Masters swimming and its goals. We request feedback regarding these interactions by October 31, 2006. MSA

Committee Chair: Mary Pohlmann	Vice Chair(s): Anthony Thompson
Number of committee members present: 15	Absent: 3 Number of other delegates present: 24
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Peggy Buchannan, Sean Fitzgerald, June Krauser, Wayne McCauley, Michael Moore, Myriam Pero, Mary Pohlmann, Sandi Rousseau, Shannon Sullivan, Anthony Thompson, Karol Welling, Phillip Whitten, Mark Wussler, Nancy Ridout – FINA Representative, Jim Miller – ASUA Representative	

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am

1. Introduction of committee members and others present
2. Review of FINA World Masters Championships with emphasis on the contributions of IC – Michael Moore, written report submitted by Barbara Thomas. Michael thanked the members of IC for all their work in making the FINA Worlds such a successful event, especially Myriam Pero for all her work in translating.
3. FINA Representative report (see page 40-41 of the preconvention packet). Update from Nancy Ridout. Her report is in the packet and HOD approved report in the previous meeting. Nancy reported that she is a member of a FINA development committee working on promoting Masters in countries that do not have programs.

Myriam Pero made a motion to promote Masters swimming internationally by extending invitations to USMS convention to Masters representatives from other countries. USMS might be willing to pay the registration, but not travel expenses. MSA.

Discussion on the motion included who should be invited. Having Masters representatives from other countries attend the USMS convention would contribute to our USMS goal of educating our membership as well as promoting Masters swimming internationally.

USAS might also be willing to lend financial support to international Masters representatives with a complimentary room, etc. The USMS president should be asked to communicate to USAS regarding this possibility.

There are plans to use videos and photos taken at FINA Worlds as promotional material for USMS members and could be made available to other NGBs to promote or create Masters organizations in other countries.

June Krauser mentioned that the FINA Development Committee also may have funds to use in helping international Masters swimmers to attend the USMS convention.

4. ASUA Representative report (see page 40 of the preconvention packet). Update from Jim Miller, M.D.

Jim added to his report and mentioned that USMS should consider bidding on the Pan American Masters Championship in 2011. A Pan American Masters Championship is being planned for 2009. Japan has been mentioned as possibly reincarnating a 2009 Pan-Pacific Masters Championship in 2009, so he does not support USMS bidding for a 2009 Pan American meet. Jim has heard that Rio/Brazil and Aruba might be bidding on the Pan American 2007 championship.

No ASUA Masters meeting has taken place since the last USAS convention. The next meeting would not be held until the next championship in 2007.

5. Core Objectives for the International Committee – work in progress – update from chair.

Discussion preceding convention was noted on the Core Objectives handout. The five focus areas for the International Committee identified in the 2006 Rule Book were noted.

Planning Committee and HOD approved the report for all committees to be involved in a VVMOST procedure. Wayne McCauley has volunteered to head a subcommittee to do a VVMOST for our committee. Nancy Ridout and Jim Miller volunteered to assist, with contribution by the committee.

Regarding the second objective in the handout, Nancy was concerned about using the word “marketing.” She suggested instead that the first objective, which lists “work and support of an LOC for an international event,” to cover the types of activities that our committee should conduct. Under educate, the “international places to swim” may need to be updated or added to the website. Nancy remembers three to four pages of international contacts and lists on the USMS website that probably needs updating.

Regarding communication among committee members, Mary Pohlmann would like to have all IC members subscribe to the USMS private forum for International Committee. All members were asked to provide Mary with their Forum User ID if they are not already subscribed to this private forum and she will have them added.

Myriam Pero asked about the process of nominating the ASUA and FINA Masters representatives. Jim and Nancy clarified that USMS makes recommendations to USAS. Currently there are two representatives. Both are now from USMS, but in the future the seats may be given to Masters representatives from synchro, water polo or diving. Once USAS has approved a nomination, the nomination has to be approved by FINA. The USAS Masters representative to ASUA needs to represent the interest of Masters athletes in all the NGBs. The IC can “communicate” to ASUA through the USAS Masters representative. The FINA Masters representative has been an elected position by HOD in past years. FINA does not automatically accept nominations and USAS is not guaranteed a seat on the technical committees.

IC core objectives are a work in process and the committee will continue to work on these.

6. New Project: “USMS Guide to International Swimming, Where/When/Who” – Wayne McCauley, Shannon Sullivan

An initial draft was distributed at the meeting on this topic. Wayne indicated that visa requirements continue to evolve as the international situation changes. Some website links are proposed as a way to get travel information for international meets. Shannon added that a “traveling pamphlet” could be part of this project. Eventually, a web request will need to be created. Chris Smith encouraged travel to Canada and pledged to assist the committee on these matters.

7. Future of the International Committee – our leadership role in international Masters swimming
Reference IC annual report (page 22-23 of the preconvention packet) Where do we go from here?
Future of LatyCar and other North/Central/South America initiatives

ASUA/FINA interaction with LatyCar from the events of 2005. A lot of discussion has taken place on the USMS Discussion Forum regarding this topic.

Sandi Rousseau stated that one of the goals of USMS and USAS is to promote Masters aquatic sports, and she feels that we send a message to FINA regarding what we consider to be discriminatory practices. She stated that International Committee should be involved in expressing this concern. She made the following motion, which was seconded by Myriam Pero.

MSA: Move that the International Committee recommend the following actions to the USMS Executive Committee: (1) the FINA Executive Director be contacted through the appropriate USAS channels regarding our concerns about the approach FINA has taken with LatyCar, and (2) the FINA Executive Director be requested to remove the threat of any sanctions being placed against any Masters swimmers who participate in any organized Masters competition hosted by an organization whose purpose is to foster and promote Masters swimming and its goals. We request feedback regarding these interactions by October 31, 2006.

In the ensuing discussion, prior to the vote on the motion, Nancy Ridout expressed concern that the motion needs to be handled diplomatically and expressed the concerns that FINA will not receive the message well. Jim Miller added that the extreme statement made by FINA regarding LatyCar was unprecedented and none of us knows all sides of the issues involved. He would not recommend approval of the motion due to the need for favorable future interactions with FINA by all the NGBs within USAS.

Phil Whitten mentioned MSI (Masters Swimming International) issues from the past. Phil supported approval of the motion and this “mild” motion. He felt that the International Committee should express our concern regarding FINA’s actions.

Others also expressed support for motion.

8. EC Liaison Comments – Rob Copeland – tabled

The meeting was adjourned at: 11:34am

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Continue to work on updating core objectives and participate in a VVMOST process.
2. Continue work on an international swimming travel document.
3. Get all IC members subscribed to the private International Committee discussion forum.