

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2022 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Legislation Committee	Session #:	3
Committee Chair:	Charles Cockrell	Vice Chair:	Stephanie Gauzens
Minutes recorded by:	Douglas Sayles	Date/Time:	May 9, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Motions Passed:

1. MSA (Rob, Kristof) motion to approve the minutes of the [March 29 meeting](#). Motion passed unanimously.

Number of voting committee members present: 12 # Absent: 0 # Guests: 1

Committee members present: Charles Cockrell, Rob Copeland, Diana Dolan LaMar, Jeffrey Enge, Stephanie Gauzens, Kirsten Hoffman, Kristof Kertesz, Teddy Palmer, Steve Peterson, Douglas Sayles, Meg Smath, Patrick Weiss.

Ex Officio Absent: Maria Elias (Legal Counsel), Mollie Grover (Rules Committee Chair), Dawson Hughes (CEO), Jessica Reilly (Sr. Director, Marketing Technology & Volunteer Services)

EC present: Chris Colburn (VP Administration), **Guest EC Present:** Peter Guadagni (President)

Minutes:

1. Roll Call

- a. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. EDT
- b. Quorum present.

2. Meeting Minutes.

- a. MSA (Rob, Kristof) motion to approve the minutes of the March 29 meeting. Passed unanimously.

3. Update from Rule Book Restructuring Task Force:

- a. Charlie overviewed working drafts of the L-1 through L-10 amendment proposals, including the next iteration of structural and copy edits to items discussed during the [last two full committee meetings](#).
 - i. **Objectives:** Streamline legislative processes by simplifying how the Code of Regulations is organized, clarifying ambiguities in the Code, and aligning the Code with current practices.
 - ii. **L-1:** Clarifies the powers of the House of Delegates and the process for calling the annual meeting of the HOD.
 - iii. **L-2:** Adds a definition of “Code” to the glossary to clarify this term and designate which operational portions of the rule book constitute the *Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*.
 - iv. **L-3:** Adds a definition of “Housekeeping” to the glossary allowing non-substantive factual or stylistic corrections to the Code to occur outside of the annual meeting amendment process.
 - v. **L-4:** Clarifies the scope and jurisdiction of amendments to the Code at the annual meeting and changes to other elements of the rule book at any time. Moves the reference to dual-sanctioned meet guidelines to Part 2.
 - vi. **L-5:** Simplifies organization of the Code by putting all references to committee jurisdictions in Part 5 while addressing amendment processes in Part 6.
 - vii. **L-6:** Moves the LMSC and Zone names and boundaries from Appendix D into Part 5 to clarify that this information is subject to the same amendment process as the rest of the Code.
 - viii. **L-7:** Streamlines amendment processes by reducing the number of jurisdictional committees and returning jurisdiction of LMSC and zone names and boundaries to the Legislation Committee.

- ix. **L-8:** Clarifies and streamlines the processes for submitting, publishing, modifying, and adopting proposed amendments to the Code.
 - x. **L-9:** Clarifies and standardizes emergency amendment processes at the annual meeting and between annual meetings.
 - xi. **L-10:** Clarifies the process for automatically adopting competition rule changes for conformity with USA Swimming and FINA rules unless they are not applicable to USMS.
- b. Committee members discussed L-1 through L-4 and L-7 through L-9. There were no motions made.
- i. Discussion of L-1 primarily focused on whether the Code should explicitly grant the HOD delegable power to specify the place, date, time, and method of the annual meeting and whether the HOD's power "To receive and approve all annual reports" requires clarification.
 - 1. Executive Committee members pointed out that a scenario where the HOD annually debates the details of the next annual meeting creates budgetary uncertainty and other practical concerns.
 - 2. Legislation Committee members voiced varying opinions over where the power to establish the annual meeting details should reside (i.e., HOD, BOD).
 - 3. Lacking clear consensus, the discussion narrowed in on responsibility for specifying the method of the annual meeting.
 - ii. Discussion of L-2 through L-5 revolved around whether proposed amendments allowing committees of jurisdiction to make housekeeping changes to the Code and edit informational sections of the rule book at any time without HOD action should require concurrence by another party such as the jurisdictional VP.
 - iii. Regarding L-7, Charlie reported that, based on his communications with the LMSC Development Committee, returning jurisdiction over LMSC and zone names and boundaries to the Legislation Committee is likely to be a non-issue.
 - iv. Regarding L-9, Chris expressed support for the emergency actions amendments.
- c. Charlie will circulate an online poll this week to get "a sense of the committee" about modifying and/or initiating each of these proposed amendments for HOD consideration at the annual meeting.

4. New business and suggested agenda topics:

- a. There were no new amendments or agenda items proposed by Legislation Committee members.
- b. The next committee meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. EDT

5. Adjournment:

- a. **MSA** (Rob, Meg) motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.
- b. The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m. EDT