

# U.S. Masters Swimming — 2022 Meeting Minutes

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Legislation Committee	<b>Session #:</b>	6
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Charles Cockrell	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Stephanie Gauzens
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Douglas Sayles	<b>Date/Time:</b>	June 27, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EDT

**Motions Passed:**

1. MSA to approve the June 15 meeting minutes.
2. MSA to recommend L-18 to the House of Delegates.
3. MSA to recommend L-19 to the HOD.
4. MSA to recommend L-15 as amended to the HOD.
5. MSA to recommend L-16 as amended to the HOD.
6. MSA to recommend L-20 to the HOD.

**Motions Failed:**

1. MSF to recommend L-17 to the HOD.

<b>Number of voting committee members present:</b> 9	<b># Absent:</b> 3	<b># Guests:</b> 0
<b>Committee members present:</b> Charles Cockrell, Rob Copeland, Stephanie Gauzens, Diana Dolan LaMar, Kristof Kertesz, Steve Peterson, Douglas Sayles, Meg Smath, Patrick Weiss		
<b>Committee Members absent:</b> Jeffrey Enge, Kirsten Hoffman, Teddy Palmer		
<b>Ex Officio present:</b> Chris Colburn (VP Administration), Maria Elias (Legal Counsel)		
<b>Ex Officio absent:</b> Mollie Grover (Rules Committee Chair), Dawson Hughes (CEO), Jessica Reilly (Sr. Director, Marketing Technology & Volunteer Services)		

**Minutes:**

- 1. Roll Call**
  - a. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. EDT
  - b. Quorum present.
- 2. Meeting Minutes**
  - a. MSA (Rob/Kristof) to approve the minutes of the June 15 meeting.
- 3. Consideration of Amendment Proposals**

Number	Section	Draft Description
L-15	202.1	Adds a provision to deny or withdraw sanctions or recognitions if the event could violate USMS participation, unsporting conduct, or equal opportunity provisions.
L-16	202.1	Adds a provision to deny or withdraw event sanctions or recognitions from organizations whose mission, vision, goals, or objectives misalign with USMS.
L-17	501.3	Adds “gender expression” to the USMS Equal Opportunity statement (501.3).
L-18	507.1.9	Retires the Membership Committee as a standing committee of the House of Delegates.
L-19	507.1.14	Retires the Sports Medicine & Science Committee as a standing committee of the House of Delegates.
L-20	507.1.11	Changes the number of past Ransom J. Arthur Award recipients who are required to serve on the Recognition and Awards Committee.

*All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted below.*

- a. **MSA** (Chris, Rob) to recommend **L-18** to the HOD.
  - i. The Membership Committee submitted this proposal.
- b. **MSA** (Rob, Kristof) to recommend **L-19** to the HOD.
  - i. The Sports Medicine & Science Committee submitted this proposal.
- c. **MSF** (Stephanie, Kristof) to recommend **L-17** to the HOD. Vote tally: 3 for vs. 5 against.
  - i. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee submitted this proposal.
  - ii. The chair and the USMS legal counsel defined “gender expression” and shared their opinion that the equal opportunity statement (501.3) should exclude this term because gender expression is not a protected characteristic in federal law and because the intent of this proposal is covered by the USMS code of conduct (402.4).
  - iii. The committee reviewed existing inclusivity protections in the Code of Regulations.
  - iv. The committee considered certain stakeholders’ desire for USMS to more overtly support gender expression and discussed whether policies and/or programs are more appropriate means to that end versus amending the code with what some committee members view as reiterative protections.
- d. **MSA** (Rob, Meg) to recommend L-15 as amended to the HOD.
  - i. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee submitted this proposal.
  - ii. MS (Stephanie, Kristof) to recommend.
  - iii. MSA (Rob, Stephanie) to amend with alternative language proposed by the chair.
  - iv. MS (Doug, Steve) to amend, subsequently withdrawn.
  - v. MSA (Rob, Meg) to amend.
  - vi. Discussion resulted in amending the original proposal and the chair’s alternate language for conciseness, clarity, and uniformity across 202.1.1F & G, 202.2.1E & G, 203.4.4, and 203.4.5.
- e. **MSA** (Rob, Diana) to recommend L-16 as amended to the HOD.
  - i. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee submitted this proposal.
  - ii. MS (Rob, Kristof) to recommend.
  - iii. MSA (Rob, Diana) to amend with alternative language proposed by the chair and, for congruency, parallel edits made to L-15 as amended across 202.1.1F, 202.2.1F, and 203.4.5.
- f. **MSA** (Rob, Stephanie) to recommend L-20 to the HOD.
  - i. The Recognition & Awards Committee submitted this proposal after the June 10 legislative deadline, thereby requiring a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Legislation Committee for the motion to recommend to be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. **Other Business**

- a. No new business.
- b. Committee members are not aware of any new, forthcoming legislative proposals.
- c. The committee will meet via Zoom on Monday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. EDT to consider an interpretation request.

#### 5. **Adjournment**

- a. **MSA** (Rob, Stephanie) motion to adjourn.
- b. The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m. EDT