

U.S. Masters Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Committee Chair: Michael Abegg
Minutes recorded by: Michael Abegg

Vice Chair: Omar de Armas
Date/time of meeting: March 24, 2025, 8:00p EST

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

1.

Motions Passed:

1. Omar was nominated and elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.
2. On motion by Omar and second by Cindi, approved unanimously, refer recommended change to section 101.6.3 of the Rules to eliminate the transition turn language in conformance with USA Swimming.
3. On a sense of the committee, suggest the addition of language from the USA Swimming rule book to 102.12 regarding smart devices.
4. On motion by Teri, second by Cindi, approved unanimously, refer recommended change to section 104.5.100B(1)(d) to Championship for their concurrence and then forwarding to Rules.

Committee members present: Michael Abegg, Omar de Armas, Virgil Chancy, Rob Duguay, Judy Gillies, Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Ed Stranc, Teri White, Cindi Wood, Ken Brisbin (acting liaison), Onshalee Promchitmart (staff)

Committee Members Absent: Emily Cook, John King

Others present: Michael Moore

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm EST.

1. Call to Order – Mike
2. Approval of minutes – February minutes were not ready, will be provided at next meeting.
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair – Omar was nominated, as there were no other nominations he was elected by acclamation.
4. Chair's Report: Mike noted that Ed C. and Dawson had requested feedback on USA Swimming's fees for training of officials who are not also USA Swimming officials, discussion was moved to New Business. Mike noted he'd received an invite to a World Aquatics webinar on changes to the qualifications for International decks on 3/25 and would send the link to anyone requesting it. The Rule Committee has not met.
5. Ongoing Business: Website – Teri, Ed, and Judy agreed that some formatting had been done since their last visit and it seemed much improved and easier to interact with, so no further changes are needed at this time.
6. Ongoing Business: Championship Meets –College Club Swimming (Mesa): Teri is meet referee, noted we haven't gotten quite as much help from Arizona Swimming as we were hoping, she's been in touch with some local resources; Spring Nationals (San Antonio) is coming along; Summer Nationals (Federal Way) – need to appoint a liaison. Judy and Cindi expressed interest in the position. By general agreement, Judy was appointed liaison and Cindi will also be included in communications to help her learn the position. In the meantime, Mike will send out the liaison document and contact Meet Referee Mike Murphy about getting the application prepared.
7. Ongoing Business: Nametags – no time for more discussion. Teri will check on San Antonio, beyond that we need to figure this out.
8. New Business: Rule Changes – Mike reviewed several rule change ideas. The Committee voted to endorse the following changes which Mike will workshop and send on to Rules and/or Championship:
 - a. 101.6.3: remove transition turn language to conform to USA Swimming's 2025 Rule Book.
 - b. 102.12: add language about smart devices from USA Swimming to the swimwear section – sense of committee was to do this.
 - c. 104.5.10B(1)d: update language to replace "administrative referee" with "lead administrative official" and "chief judge" with "lead chief judge" as being more representative of the actual roles.

9. Old Business: Administrative Official Training: Mike will review one last time for any errors and anything else unique to Masters that should be included in the Guide. There was agreement that we should adopt the USA Swimming training and test, and then provide the Guide as a supplement to really highlight what things might be more prevalent in Masters than in USA Swimming. It was noted that we should plan to do the same thing with the Referee's Training Guide once USA Swimming launches that program as well.
10. Ongoing Business: Certification program – Teri reports we have certified 567, 109 are lapsed. We have 145 referees and 299 starters. Significant discussion based on Ed/Dawson's question about the USA Swimming fee. Consensus seemed to be that the "organization" should cover this, at least for people who are regular USMS members – USMS and/or the LMSCs. Most LMSCs can probably cover this cost, however some can't. Next step is to figure out how to move this along organizationally – LMSC Development Committee? Board of Directors?
11. Meeting dates: Proposed for weeks of April 21, June 2, and July 14. Also will do an email "meeting" to vote on Officials Award week of June 23. Mike will send out Doodle requests.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year/Continuing Business

1. Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
2. Finalize Administrative Official training and launch.
3. Testing: transition Testmoz to someone else?
4. Officials Award: send out general call
5. Propose Rule Book changes to clean up certain elements – especially to match USA Swimming where possible
 - a. 103.3.1/103.3.2/108.1.1/201.1.1 – specify LMSC Chair to act in absence of an active LMSC Officials Chair and also require Meet Referee to be named as a requirement for sanctioning.
 - b. 104.5.10B(1) – update selection process for National Championship Meet Referee.
 - c. 104.5.10B(2),(3),(4) – eliminate language and refer to policy document
6. Prepare/formalize Policy Handbook
 - a. Policy for Championship meet staffing
 - b. Officials' certification for Championship meet reimbursement
 - c. Championship meet Referee/Liaison roles
 - d. Referee requirement of being a USMS Member – eliminate?
7. Plan for Session Tracking which currently we just rely on LMSC Officials Chairs (whose processes vary).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45p EST