

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: April 28, 2025, 8:30p EDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

1.

Motions Passed:

1. On a motion by Ed, second by Rob, February minutes were approved unanimously.
2. On a motion by Rob, second by Judy, March minutes were approved unanimously.
3. On a motion by Ed, second by Rob, unanimously approved the Administrative Official Self-Training Guide as a supplemental document to the USA Swimming training, subject to Mike completing technical edits.
4. On motion by Judy, second by Rob, unanimously approved to refer to Rules changes to 103.3.1/103.3.2 regarding exception to official certification.
5. On motion by Ed, second by Judy, unanimously approved to refer to Rules amending 103.2.1, 103.3.1, and 108.1.1 to require certified referee prior to issuance of sanction.
6. On motion by Rob, second by Ed, unanimously approved to refer to Championship amending 104.5.10B(1) to update the selection process of the Championship Meet Referee.
7. On motion by Omar, second by Ed, unanimously approved to refer to both Rules and Championship to remove sections 104.5.10B(2), (3), and (4) and replace with reference to committee policy document.
8. On sense of the committee, to have Mike establish a template on Hasty Awards for ordering of officials nametags, with the goal of having LMSCs purchase them for their officials where possible, and review with staff the ordering of nametags for National Championships through Hasty.
9. On motion by Judy, second by Rob, adjourned, there being no objection, at 10:00p EDT.

Committee members present: Michael Abegg, Omar de Armas, Rob Duguay, Judy Gillies, Emily Cook, John King, Ed Stranc, Teri White, Cindi Wood, Robin Smith (liaison), Onshalee Promchitmart (staff)

Committee Members Absent: Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Virgil Chancy

Others present: Michael Moore

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:30pm EST.

1. Call to Order – Mike
2. Approval of minutes – February minutes were approved unanimously. March minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Chair's Report: Mike attended a webinar on international official invties. Not likely to affect us any time soon, as we'd need to first conform our program to World Aquatics standards and processes.
4. Ongoing Business: Championship Meets –College Club Swimming (Mesa): Ed, Virgil, and Mike reported on the good time had by all, Onshalee reported next year is in Greensboro with regional champs in Mission Viejo, Ohio State, Liberty, and Florida State; Spring Nationals (San Antonio): Judy, Cindi, Rob reported that there were just minor glitches, wind was a problem with flags, large number of younger swimmers was notable, also there was some CCS carryover – Rhode Islands CCS team came since they didn't qualify for nationals; Summer Nationals (Federal Way) –Judy, Cindi, and Mike Murphy will get application posted. 2025 World Masters – appears that Teri was selected; 2026 Spring is Greensboro and Summer is Sacramento.
5. Old Business: Administrative Official Training: The Self-Training Guide was approved as a supplemental document to the USA Swimming Admin online training, with just some editorial changes still needed that Mike will do. The supplemental test needs to be trimmed down so everyone was tasked to review and see which questions aren't really needed.
6. Old Business: Rule Changes – Mike proposed additional rule change items for submittal:
 - a. 103.3.1/103.3.2: update language on who can approve exception to official's qualification to specify LMSC Chair in lieu of LMSC Officials Chair. – Approved to send to Rules

- b. 103.2.1, 103.3.1, 108.1.1: add requirement for referee to be approved prior to sanction being issued. – Approved to send to Rules since it couldn't be determined who else might need to review it.
 - c. 104.5.10B(1): update selection process of Meet Referee for National Championships to equal current actual process. – Approved to send to Championship for concurrence.
 - d. 104.5.10B(2),(3),(4): Delete and replace with language referencing existing committee policy document. Approved to send to Rules and Championship.
- 7. Ongoing Business: Officials Award – Emily will shepherd this again. Mike will send her any nominations he can find already. Mike also asked Beth N. from Recognition and Awards if there's going to be a general call in the USMS email newsletters. Also now posted in the LMSC Officials Chair forum. Nominations are due to the committee by July 1, committee has month of July to act and send winner to R&A by August 1.
 - 8. Ongoing Business: Nametags – Mike briefly demonstrated what's available on Hasty Awards. Consensus of committee was to establish a template on Hasty Awards, recommend that LMSCs can buy a nametag for their officials there. Still need to formalize whether we give a nametag to everyone working Nationals – that's been a good practice but need to see if Hasty can meet our timelines as our current vendor has sometimes struggled.
 - 9. Ongoing Business: Testmoz – postponed to next time.
 - 10. Meeting dates: Next meeting late May/early June from Doodle that was already sent out. Then meeting week July 14 to include voting on award nominations.

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).
- 8. Update Referee Self-Training Guide to be a supplemental guide now that USA Swimming training has launched.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45p EST