

# Sanctions Chairs Peer-to-Peer Teleconference

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July 31, 2012

*The items posted in this section are notes from conversations that are not reviewed or approved by the attendees. The information in these notes is not intended to override guidelines, policies and procedures listed elsewhere in the LMSC Guide to Operations or elsewhere on [usms.org](http://usms.org) or in the USMS rule book.*

Facilitator: Paige Buehler, LMSC Development Committee, chair

Content Expert: Ed Saltzman, Georgia LMSC Sanctions chair

**Attendees:**

Name	LMSC	Years in Position	Process used	Sanction Fee / Performance Bond
Ed Saltzman	Georgia	15 years	USMS Online and Locally Developed	No
Barry Fassbender	Pacific	20 years	USMS Online	No
Susan Meyers	Indiana	Vice Chair		
Heather Stevenson	Virginia	1 year	USMS Online	\$20
Patricia Arnold	Southern	1.5 years	USMS Online	\$25
Wayne Huebener	Iowa	2-3 years	USMS Online & Home Grown	No
Tara D'Agaro	Allegheny Mountain	1 year	USMS Online	No
Conner Bailey	Southeastern	15 years	Online	No - \$500 Meet Support
Jim Sauer	South Texas	3 months	USMS Online	\$40

Dulcy Sellon	Missouri Valley		USMS Online	No - \$15 meet rebate
Paige Buehler	LMSC Development Committee Chair			
Patricia Tullman	Florida	3 years	USMS Online	No
Chris Wingenroth	Gulf			
John ?	Connecticut	Sitting in for William Geoghegan		
Jim Clemmons	Pacific	Championship Committee		
Jill Wright	Snake River			
Susan ?	Illinois	3 weeks		

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Ed Saltzman opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees and reviewing the agenda and format for the meeting.

Introductions were made as we went around the virtual room and requested each person identify themselves; their LMSC; their length of service as a Sanction Chair; the process they were using; and whether or not their LMSC charged a sanction fee or required a performance bond. Information gathered is summarized in the above **Attendees** table.

The roles and responsibilities of a Sanction Chair, as described in the USMS Position Description document, were reviewed followed by a brief discussion of the importance of communications between the Sanction Chair, Records and Top Ten Chair and Officials chair.

Some LMSC's expressed frustration over pre and post meet information flow as it impacts their role:

- ) Difficulty assuring the proper number of officials
- ) Difficulty obtaining results
- ) Difficulty assuring results are sent to the Records and Top Ten Chairs
- ) Problems obtaining pool measurements – Sanction Chairs were referred to the list Walt Reid maintains for USMS of certified pools

Many LMSCs said that moving to a performance bond system had helped fix many of those issues.

Other topics that stimulated discussion and an exchange of ideas:

**New process for sanction of Open Water events –**

- ) Reviewed the new process and the role of the Safety Review Coordinator.
- ) Stressed the need to include a complete “Safety Plan” for each OW event.
- ) Talked about some of the more difficult points – i.e. obtaining copies of “Proof of Insurance” for each boat utilized during the event.
- ) Re-enforced the need to use the USMS online sanction program for all Open Water sanction applications.
- ) Discussed the insurance coverage and the \$1,000 sanction fee that will be passed along to the LMSC from USMS.
- ) Talked about the USMS OW Sanction Fee rebate program for LMSCs and how to locate information on it. This was valuable information that only a few people had knowledge of.
- ) It was strongly suggested that the rebate program be better advertised or easier to locate.

#### **How to address Calendar conflicts –**

- ) Local meet scheduling across geographic region
  - o Different types of events
  - o Different demographic appeal
  - o Example given of the Dixie Zone waiver process for meets scheduled on the same weekend as the Zone Championship – permitted if no expected impact on the championship attendance due to geographic distances.
- ) Local scheduling conflicts of LMSC championship meets with USMS Spring and Summer Nationals. USMS guidance in Rule 502.9 discussed briefly.

#### **Issues with the USMS Online Sanction Process and ideas for improvement –**

- ) Develop a feedback mechanism to request changes/fixes to the online system
- ) Document work around for known problems

Example of common issues:

There is no simple way to update a published document – The documents attached to the sanction request (i.e. the meet information or entry form) are published as is. Once the Sanction is approved and a Sanction Number issued you have to update your copy of the documents and reload them to add the sanction number.

It would be nice if the Sanction Chair had edit permission or the capability to update the documents online, to add the sanction number.

Attendees felt that the forum was very useful and look forward to future opportunities to exchange ideas and to have input into the process.