

USMS Convention—Atlanta, Ga. 2008

Committee Name: Rules	Session #: 2 – Rules Forum	Report #: 20
Committee Chair: Kathy Casey	Vice Chair: Leianne Crittenden	
Minutes recorded by: Kris Wingenroth	Date/time of meeting: 9/26/08 9:15 A.M.	

Action Items:

Number of committee members present: 17	Absent: 0	Number of other delegates present: 120
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Kathrine Casey, Chair, Leianne Crittenden, V. Chair, Carolyn Boak, Peggy Buchanan, David Diehl, Sally Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Judy Gillies, Laura Kessler, Cathy Kohn, June Krauser, Cody Rasmussen, Sandi Rousseau, Jessica Seaton, Skip Thompson, William Tingley, Kris Wingenroth.		
Ex Officio: Charlie Cockrell		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M.

The following proposed rules were discussed at the Rules Forum. A summary of the discussion follows.

R 2 – a question and concern that the wording of the definition “competition” may be too vague. [the proposed wording follows the USA Swimming word]

R 10 – a question and concern about which phrase is clearer: “shoulders at or past vertical toward the breast” and “the body shall be kept on the breast” (Miller) [the proposed change is designed to match the wording between the IM rule and stroke rule]

R 11 – a clarification was requested about combining distance and stroke events (Ridout). [Charlie Cockrell provided the clarification]

R 18 – a clarification was requested about “venues located within the boundaries of USMS” (Ridout). [Kathy Casey reported that the wording for this proposal is being revised]

R 30 – Cody Rasmussen gave a presentation in support of using both overall club scoring and quality club scoring for USMS National Championships.

R 31 – Jim Wheeler spoke in favor of Regional Club scoring and Local Club scoring for USMS National Championships.

Further discussion about the previous two scoring proposals ensued. Issues that were discussed included: whether there would be an increase in the cost of awards [neither proposal increases the number of awards given and a grant is available that covers most of the cost of the awards]; the effect the proposals may or may not have on small teams and LMSCs that combine teams for relays at Nationals; there were several questions asking for clarification of what the definition of a “regional” club would be [a local club is one which competes within and outside its LMSC under the same name, if the club changes names for competitions outside its LMSC, it may become part of a regional club]; a concern was expressed that if quality scoring is used, clubs might “cherry pick” their participants in the meet in order to increase their quality score by discouraging less accomplished swimmers from participating; a concern was expressed that the same clubs may win the awards under both overall club scoring and quality club scoring.

There was also discussion as to whether the choice of the scoring method for the USMS National Championships should reside within the Championship Committee or remain in the Rules section. Concerns were expressed that putting the scoring under the Championship Committee jurisdiction would reduce the ability of the House of Delegates to give input and vote on the system. Participants were reminded that if scoring goes to the Championship Committee, any system the Committee approved would be reported out of their committee as an action item and would have to be approved by the House of Delegates. On the other hand, if the scoring system remains in the Rules section, making changes in scoring would require a 90% vote of approval by the House during any “non-rules” year.

Kathy Casey reported that if the House of Delegates were to approve both R 30 and R 31, a run-off would be held.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00 AM.