

2020 U.S. Masters Swimming – Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Meeting Time: 8:00 p.m. EST

Chair: Charles Cockrell

Vice Chair(s): Mollie Grover, Claire Letendre

Minutes recorded by: Julie Dussliere

Committee Members Present: 14

Carolyn Boak, Kathrine Casey, Charles Cockrell, Julie Dussliere, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Judy Gillies, Mollie Grover, Ian King, Claire Letendre, Mark Marshfield, Barbara Protzman, Jessica Seaton, Jason Weis

Committee Members Absent: 0

Ex Officio and EC present: 3

Steve Hall (USMS National Office), Richard Garza (Legislation), Chris Colburn, VP of Administration

Ex Officio and EC absent: 3

Bill Brenner (USMS National Office), Terri White (USMS Officials Committee), Clark Hammond (USA Swimming Liaison)

Other Attendees: n/a

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. EST.

Introductions and General Schedule for 2020

Charles thanked everyone for serving on the committee and recognized new members appointed this year. He also thanked those committee members who returned surveys.

Charles suggested following the same process for rule updates this year that the committee has used in the past. June 10 is the deadline for submissions. Charles encouraged committee members to think about any rule changes that may be needed in order to meet published deadlines.

General committee schedule for the year as follows:

- Spring meeting to be scheduled in April/May – will cover proposed changes from committee to Rules and/or Legislation.
- Deadline for submissions – June 10.
- Summer committee meetings to be scheduled in June/July. Committee will continue format of review over the course of several meetings (as has been done the past few years and has worked well). Following summer meetings committee will have complete packet with recommendations for delegates.
- Deadline to complete Convention Packet – August 1.

Charles will attend the USA Swimming R&R Committee Meeting, to be held May 29-30, in Denver.

Based upon international timelines, this is a year where the committee needs to consider any recommended changes to FINA rules. The FINA technical congress will be held in 2021. Historically, a call for proposals takes place in the year prior. The committee will need to consider this in the schedule for the year, potentially devoting one committee call and/or a meeting at Convention in September to discussion of any proposed FINA rule changes, which will then be presented to the House of Delegates.

As in past years, for National Championships meets, Rules will nominate a member to serve on the meet protest committee on our behalf. Charles will not attend short course Nationals in San Antonio, but he will be available by phone and will designate a committee member to serve. Charles will be in attendance for long course Nationals in Richmond.

Other committee roles and responsibilities for the year include the following:

- Meeting Minutes – Julie Dussliere.
- Rules Committee packet for Convention – Christina Fox.

Committee Projects & Ideas for the Year

1. MAPP Guidelines with USA Swimming
 - a) Claire is currently working on compiling information.
2. Review & Update of Transgender Policy
 - a) This policy was last updated in 2017, Board of Directors approval in September 2017. It is time to review and update the policy. Jessica will lead this project and include a potential review of registration options offered to members [to include gender-neutral].
3. Part Two Reorganization (in partnership with Legislation Committee)
 - a) Recommendation from volunteer task force which was shared with committee chairs prior to last year's convention.
 - b) A possible reorganization could move away from the current four section structure to three sections encompassing all things pool-related in one section, all open water in one section, and a third section covering general administration including membership/responsibilities/policies.
 - c) If both Rules and Legislation support the reorganization concept, the two committees will need to identify a few volunteers to draft the legislation [one proposal encompassing all changes needed] and create an example of the new end-product rule book.
 - d) Some adjustment may also be needed in part 6, committee responsibilities to reflect the new structure: Rules – pool, Long Distance – open water, Legislation – administration/policies.
 - e) Charles has not yet discussed this concept with the Long Distance Committee but will do so soon.
 - f) Overall, the committee was supportive of the concept and felt that proposed three main sections make sense. The committee recognized that the project will be a significant undertaking for the year.
 - g) Charles asked for volunteers who would be interested in working on the project in collaboration with 1-2 committee members from Legislation (to be identified by Richard). Kathy volunteered during the meeting to work on this project.
 - h) Ideal timeline: first draft by Spring Rules meeting, committee vote prior to June 10, in order to meet June 10 legislation submission deadline.
4. Rules Committee Blog
 - a) Seeking a volunteer to maintain the blog and keep it up to date. All previous information, including rule interpretations, is archived. Charles would ideally like to see something posted once per month plus posting of any new rules interpretations that are issued.
5. Clarification of Dual Sanctioning (Purpose & Guidelines)
 - a) A few questions have arisen recently and there is need for more clarity around dual sanction with USA Swimming meets. Swimmers may only represent one organization (USMS or USA Swimming, but not both).
 - b) There is a need for greater delineation of what falls under USA Swimming and what falls under USMS at dual sanctioned meets.

- c) Charles provided a recent response to an LMSC inquiry regarding prelims/finals. If the USMS swimmer is only competing in prelims, that is interpreted as timed finals. Charles will document and share with the committee.
 - d) Charles has also issued a recent interpretation of what are the applicable USA Swimming rules. It is posted on the USMS website.
 - e) Currently USMS sanctioned events must be a timed final format. If FINA makes applicable adjustments to their rules, it may impact current USMS interpretations and will require review.
6. Verification of Times
- a) Draft legislation has been written by Kathy and Carolyn. It will be shared with the committee, and if Rules is in favor it will then be shared with Championship committee.
 - b) Purpose of the legislation is to put some “teeth” behind the NQT, in particular for long course. The legislation is only applicable to National Championships. Charles reminded the committee that we will need to think about time conversions and how that might apply.
7. Rulebooks on History & Archives Site
- a) History & Archives committee would like to see all prior rulebooks digitized.
 - b) USMS has had own rulebook since 1989. Prior to then, USMS rules were appended to the USA Swimming rulebook.
 - c) All convention minutes are online beginning with 1972. Rulebooks are online beginning with the early 2000s. There is an online gap of information from the 1990s.
 - d) Action items: post all known digitized rulebooks online, determine which missing years need to be digitized and posted.
8. Regional / Local Clubs
- a) Currently the distinguishing factor between a regional club and a local club is “workout groups”. What is happening in practice varies from the original intent of the designation.
 - b) Charles will reach out to Membership and Championship committees to assess whether there is energy from the membership around the issue and if so, Rules could craft legislation as needed.
9. Exhibition Swimming / Number of Events / 25s
- a) Charles has frequently answered questions around these topics. An interpretation has been issued that 25s (although they are non-conforming events) should count toward the event limit within the meet.
 - b) There is no exhibition in USMS meets.
 - c) Split notification requests do not count toward the 6-event limit.

New Business

None.

Other Information

Convention dates & location for 2020: September 22-26, Jacksonville FL.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m. EST.