

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #:	N/A
Committee Chair:	Mollie Grover		
Minutes recorded by:	David Benjamin	Date/time of meeting:	August 11, 2024 / 7:00 PM ET

Actions Taken:

1. MSA to recommend R-2 to the HOD.
2. MSA to approve the Policy on Transgender Swimmer Inclusion.
3. MSA to approve the Eligibility Review Procedures.

Number of committee members present:	11	Absent:	1	Guests:	0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): David Benjamin, Kathy Casey, Christina Fox (Vice-Chair), Judy Gillies, Mollie Grover (Chair), Claire Letendre, , Barbara Protzman, Kris Wingenroth, Patrick Weiss, Jason Weis, Ben Wyckoff					
Not present: Susan Nolte					
Ex Officio present: Mike Abegg (USMS Officials Committee Chair)					
Ex Officio absent Julie Dussliere (USMS Vice-President of Administration), Stephanie Gauzens (USMS Legislation Committee Chair), Onshalee Promchitmart (USMS National Office)					
Guests: none					

Minutes

Mollie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm ET.

2024 USMS Proposals

R-2

As its first order of business, the committee addressed R-2. Discussion of this matter began at the August 6 committee meeting and, at that time there was a motion (M/S Claire/Kathy) to recommend to the HOD that it adopt R-2. Discussion of R-2 could not be completed on August 6 and the matter was continued to this meeting. In the interim, Mollie sought additional information on the proposal from the Championship Committee. Despite everyone’s best efforts, the two parties were unable to talk before this meeting of the Rules Committee.

Committee members were divided over the provisions that would require competitors entering distance events to meet the established qualifying times, and that would limit competitors without the necessary qualifying times to events shorter than 200 yards/meters. Some members felt that event caps were a better way to address meet length, as competitors who entered the meet early were likely to get into their chosen events. On the issue of event caps too, however, opinion was divided. While some members supported entry caps on the grounds that they could get into the meet if they entered early enough, others argued that they should not be forced to enter a meet early, before their LMSC championships were held. Mike noted that the Championship Committee has put a great deal of thought and effort into this proposal. Mollie also noted that the Championship Committee has acquired and analyzed a wealth of data that bears on regulating meet length and that, whatever the disposition of R-2, the two committees would continue to work together on this issue.

M/S (Claire/Kathy) to recommend R-2 to the HOD, 5 yes, 6 no, motion failed.

Mollie proposed a revised version of R-2 that, if approved by the Championship Committee, could be recommended by the Rules Committee to the HOD. The revised version of R-2 deletes the provisions which would have required competitors in distance events to meet the established qualifying times, and which would have limited competitors without the established qualifying times to events shorter than 200 yards/meters, but maintains the provision that authorizes the Championship Committee to put an entry cap on events 200 yards/meters or longer.

M/S (Judy/Claire) to recommend adoption of the revised version of R-2, pending acceptance of the revised version by the Championship Committee, 7 yes, 3 no, motion passed.

Policy on Transgender Swimmer Inclusion

Discussion on this matter began at the July 9 meeting but could not be completed at that meeting. On July 9, there was a motion (M/S David/Claire) to approve the Policy on Transgender Swimmer Inclusion. The motion was tabled at that time and then removed from the table (M/S Claire/Jason, passed unanimously) on August 11.

Several revisions to the policy were proposed by Mollie and others for the purposes of clarity and consistency with no opposition.

As on July 9, committee members expressed sharply differing views on who should have standing to lodge an eligibility protest. Kathy argued that anyone should have the right to lodge a protest, Mike and David spoke in support of the standing restrictions set forth in the proposed policy. While there was discussion of this issue, no motion to change the standing restrictions was made.

There was extensive discussion about the composition of the Eligibility Review Panel. Kathy argued that the panel should include two medical professionals and USMS legal counsel. Claire and David felt that the policy as written gave the panel sufficient authority to appoint such experts when needed. Claire noted that the Transgender Task Force considered this issue and concluded that a smaller panel would be more efficient.

M/S (Kathy/Jason) to amend the composition of the Eligibility Review Panel to include the chair of the Long Distance committee, at least one medical professional, and USMS legal counsel, making it a panel with a minimum of six members, 8 yes, 2 no, motion passed.

The previously tabled motion to approve the policy was brought to a vote, 9 yes, 1 no, motion passed.

Eligibility Review Procedures

Mollie proposed several revisions to the Eligibility Review Procedures which were presented to the committee and incorporated into the document.

M/S (Claire/Jason) to approve the Eligibility Review Procedures, passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

M/S (Kathy/Jason) to approve the minutes of the committee's meetings on March 24, 2024, May 16, 2024, and July 9, 2024, all passed unanimously.

M/S (Claire/Ben) to adjourn, passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm ET.