

Registrars Peer-to-Peer Teleconference

November 16, 2014

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 or in the USMS rule book.

Facilitators – Paige Buehler and Anna Lea Matysek

Attendees:

Registrars: George Simon (NC), Diane Bauer (OZ), Chris Powers (SE), Pam Ogden (MN), Shirley Loftus-Charley (VA), Barbara Dunbar (SI), Meredith Moore (FL), John Bauman (WI), Doug Handler (MI), Christina Kawamoto (NM), Leslie Scott (SC).

Others: Paige Buehler (LMSC Development Committee chair), Anna Lea Matysek (National Office Membership Director), Leo Letendre (Registration Committee chair), Michael Moore (PC), Jerry Clark (NC), Margaret Hair (IW), Mary Pohlman (OZ), Skip Thompson (MI), Chris McGiffin (NJ)

Discussion:

Pros/Cons when helping people choose between Club or Workout Group in LMSCs where a regional club exists – Explanation of a workout group : swim groups in different locations with quasi-autonomy, they are typically used in LMSCs with large LMSC champs meets to compete as individual units “locally” while being able to come together to compete as a club at larger meets like zone and national championships. That can be a pro. George Simon pointed out a couple of cons for forming as a workout group: affiliation (members feel more a part of the workout group than as the regional club) and it is harder for members to find the workout group during the registration process.

Are workout groups moving to becoming clubs? Most answered “no.” South Carolina said they have had the reverse occur where several clubs have banded together as a club and they have registered as workout groups within it. Inland Northwest has many workout groups becoming their own clubs.

Restriction of Membership by Clubs – Anna Lea wanted to be sure registrars knew to convey the message to potential members that just because they affiliate with a club does not convey any rights or privileges of “membership” in that club. Some clubs have membership restrictions, for example based on pool space or requirements to compete. New members or those planning to change club affiliation should check with the club before affiliating with it.

One Event Registrations – All the LMSCs in attendance allow OEVT for open water and pool events at the host’s discretion. North Carolina said that the biggest problem is getting information as to who participated as a one event member from the event host. There was a suggestion at convention for Club Assistant to help. Anna Lea said that Club Assistant will send Tracy Grilli an OEVT report for all events and then National Office will bill the

LMSC. That will only cover the participants who registered online. Paper forms will still need to be submitted by the meet host to the registrar.

Pre-stamped window envelopes – Anna Lea asked if any of the registrars in attendance were using the pre-stamped window envelopes that the US Postal Service sells as a way to save time with stamps and labels. Most said No. MN said Yes, and SE said he will once out of current supplies.

Printing Cards – There was a great conversation around printing cards and the requirement of LMSC Registrars to print cards for those members who ask for them. There has been a conversation on the LMSC Chairs forum about this requirement. We discussed and then dispelled the perception that only people who register with paper forms want cards. For example, in Florida ~100 members of 340 requested cards with “hardly any paper registrations.” Anna Lea confirmed that 30% of members requesting cards is average while paper registrations have dropped to less than 4%. We discussed that meet directors really don’t need cards to see that entrants are members, especially if they use online event registration. So the cards are something that the members need, likely to feel like part of the organization. Sometimes the membership card is the only tangible item they receive from USMS.

Diane in Ozark shared her “recommended practice” of emailing all OZ members prior to the registration period with a friendly reminder that cards can be viewed and printed online and to please help save printing and postage costs. So far she had sent 12 cards out of 62 members in 2015 so the 20% card request was under the average.

Anna Lea and Paige reiterated that sending cards to members who request them is REQUIRED. There are 800 cards in the registration system waiting to print (as of 11/16) and 500 of them are renewals. Whatever their reasons, the members, new or returning, want their cards, so please be sure to send them.

Late Year Plus Memberships - [See also notes from Registrars P2P #1-10/15/14]

Barbara from SI asked when Late Year +Next Year members would be notified about their 2015 membership (which was prepaid when they registered in Sept/Oct) and their opportunity to switch club affiliation without a 60-day competition waiting period.

Anna Lea pulled Webmaster Jim Matysek into the conversation to let us know the IT team has been working on the code to make sure that the finances work out so that the 2015 club and LMSC (if there is a change) receive the correct funds. The hope was by 11/21. Regardless, Anna Lea committed to notifying all registrars when the email goes out to those members. She also said that if there was a member who needed faster service (i.e. change affiliation for a Nov/Dec meet) to please contact her directly and she would manually make that change.