

Championship

Committee Members

Jeff Roddin, Chair; Kim Crouch, Vice Chair

Jim Clemmons, Barry Fasbender, Don Gilchrist, Mark Moore, Erin Moro, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jody Smith, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll, Natalie Taylor, Charlie Tupitza, Jillian Wilkins, Paul Windrath.

Ex-Officio: Kyle Deery, Jay Eckert, Casey Keiber, Donn Livoni, Ed Tsuzuki.

Introduction

Our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered U.S. Masters Swimming members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and select the sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for U.S. Masters Swimming Corporate Partners.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Request to suspend 104.1.1 for 2018 USMS Summer Nationals was approved by the Rules Committee and Board of Directors
2. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2017 USMS clubs
3. Updated Meet Director's Guide for 2017 hosts
4. Helped with transition to using Club Assistant to process entries for Nationals (individual + relays)
5. Drafted suggested site visit agenda for upcoming hosts when they attend the preceding Nationals
6. Submitted two proposed Rules changes to Article 104
7. Produced NQT Standards file for meet operations use at 2017 Nationals and made available to local meet directors
8. Evaluated deck seeding vs pre-seeding 200s at Nationals
9. Discussed pros and cons to running 2018 Spring Nationals SCM vs SCY (opted for SCY)
10. Researched LMSC registration trends leading up to and after hosting Nationals
11. Discussed feasibility of offering a "Coaches Registration" at Nationals
12. Increased awareness to swimmers, officials and hosts about Strobe availability for starts at Nationals - added details to meet info, pre-event emails and officials briefing agendas
13. Reviewed Safety Marshall coverage at Nationals
14. Expanded merchandise pre-meet sale options to hosts
15. Reviewed hospitality guidelines to address food allergies
16. Discussed changes to meet contract activities (e.g. content, signing closer to being awarded the bid, having the National Office oversee execution)

Action Items

1. 2018 Spring Nationals: sign contract, assign Order of Events, approve meet logo and awards, update Meet Director's Guide
2. Contracts for 2019/2020 Nationals
3. Recruit/solicit bids for 2020 Spring Nationals
4. Update Championship Committee Policy documents
5. Assign future liaisons

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6. Evaluate liability waiver requirements onsite at the meet
7. Review pool ladder requirements for competition courses

Agenda

Thursday (1:30-2:30pm, Shawnee A/B)

1. Approve Minutes from last meeting(s) as required.
2. Recap/debrief 2017 Nationals
 - A. Spring (Riverside)
 - B. Summer (Minnesota)
3. Review/discuss 2018 Nationals
 - A. 2018 Spring Nationals (Indy, May 10-13)
 - a. Logo/Awards
 - b. Order of Events
 - B. Pan Ams (Orlando, July 28 - August 3)
4. Review/discuss any proposed Legislation/Rules changes that affect Championship Committee (Articles 103/104)
5. NQT's

Friday (8:00-9:30am, Cumberland B)

1. 2019/2020 National Championship Bids
 - A. Bid summary
 - B. Selections
 - C. Announcement/Press Release Coordination
2. Nationals procedures/activities:
 - A. Relay Entries
 - B. Facilities
 - a. Portable strobes
 - b. Track start blocks
 - c. Backstroke ledges
 - d. Competition pool ladders
 - C. Coaches
 - a. Meet registration
 - b. Hospitality policy
 - D. LMSC Registration trends
 - E. Seeding for 200s
 - F. Liability waiver
 - G. "Salmon run" sprint lanes
 - H. General Meeting
 - I. Meet Contracts
 - a. Safety Marshals
 - b. Officials
 - c. Pre-event merchandise
 - d. National Office role
3. Goals/Tasks for 2018
 - A. Potential Rules Proposals
 - B. USMS 50th Anniversary/2020 Nationals

Coaches

Committee Members

Bob Jennings, Chair; Kenny Brisbin, Vice Chair

Scott Bay, Chris Campbell, David Clark, Matthew Edde, Dean Hawks, Mark Johnston, Andrew LeVasseur, Jennifer Masquelier, Erin Mathews, Crystie McGrail, Chris McPherson, Helen Naylor, Kerry O'Brien, Tim Waud, Steve Weatherman, Lauren Welting]

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, Skip Thompson

Introduction

The Coaches Committee continued to provide safety and educational opportunities for swimmers and coaches through their work with the National Office, High Performance Camp, the National Coaching Clinic, Web Workouts, On Line Coaching and Nationals

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary - Mark Johnston led the subcommittee search for coaches. Richard Garza was selected head coach along with Kata Rutherford, Martin Wagner, and Janelle Higashida as assistant coaches. The coaches did an outstanding job in preparing swimmers for the meet and at the meet.
2. High Performance Camp – Greensboro, North Carolina, August 27 to 31. Steve Weatherman from the Coaches Committee was the head coach. 19 swimmers ranging in age from 26 to 77 signed up.
3. National Coaching Clinic for 2018 – Preliminary work has begun in preparation for the clinic. As of now the clinic will be held in the Washington DC suburbs.
4. Certification/Coaches Education – Coaches Certification for Levels 1, 2, and 3 as well as the Coaching clinics were very successful this year. The Level 4 application was revised. The subcommittee working with Level 4 applications spent many hours evaluating the applications and helping applicants through the process. New Level 4 coaches were announced at Spring Nationals and more will be announce at convention.
5. Awards – A subcommittee of five reviewed the Coach of the Year and Kerry O'Brien Award nominations. There were seven nominations for Coach of the Year.
6. Communications – Committee meeting minutes have been sent out to LMSC Coaches Chairs. A survey to help meet the needs of LMSC Coaches Chairs and certified coaches is being developed. Bob Jennings led a Peer-to-Peer conference call on Coaches Best Practices. Several coaches from the committee participated in the call.
7. 2018 Pan Am Games – Discussions were held on the roll of the Coaches Committee for the Games.
8. Online Coaching – The selection of Online Coaches was completed on time and the workouts continue to be available on the USMS website.
9. On Deck Coaching – Sign Up Genius was used again as our method for coaches to sign up for warm up sessions at Spring and Summer Nationals. Discussions were held on ways to improve warm ups at these meets. Sign Up Genius was also used for coaches to sign up for morning workouts at convention.
10. Publications – Chris McPherson worked with individuals that submitted articles to be published.

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11. Shallow Water Black Outs. – There were major discussions about shallow water blackouts. A four-minute video featuring Bob Bowman discussing the topic was sent out to all committee members and they were encouraged to watch it and then share it with their swimmers.

Action Items

1. Work with the Fitness committee and Dawson on developing workouts to prepare fitness swimmer to complete 2k, 1k, or half hour fitness swims
2. Continue to plan for the 2018 National Coaches Clinic.
3. Continue to provide Web Workouts and on deck coaching for warm ups at Spring & Summer Nationals as well as the Pan Am Games.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Safety thoughts for meets and practices
3. Review of 2016
4. Goals for 2017/18
5. Subcommittee Summaries (Awards, Certification, High Performance Camp, LMSC Communications, 2018 National Coaching Clinic, On Deck Coaching and Web Workouts, Open Water, and Publications)

Election

Committee Members

Cheryl Gettelfinger, Chair; Erin Sullivan, Vice-Chair

Susan Ehringer, Nancy Ridout, Jim Clemmons and Leianne Crittenden

Directions and Projects

1. Revise the EOG to make them more current. Completed and approved on 7/15/17.
2. Announce, accept and slate Candidates for both the initial nomination and the extended (for V.P. Administration only) nomination periods. Completed on 5/7/17 and 6/4/17 respectively.
3. Prepare candidate packets for the both the elections and convention pages of the USMS website. Completed 7/26/17.
4. Sample some electronic voting websites and make plans to begin transformation into electronic voting at some future point.
5. Prepare for the applicable HOD meetings which are tentatively: 1-3 for announcements and floor nominations (1), Meet-the-Candidate (2), and voting (3).
6. Prepare ballots and other materials necessary for the convention.

Action Items

The committee is finalizing the outlines for the first two HOD meetings so that we can work efficiently. In addition, the committee is finalizing the ballots.

The committee will have a closed meeting on Thursday between HOD 1 and HOD 2 in order to discuss our presentations/duties at the HOD #2 and HOD #3 meetings.

Agenda

1. The committee also has a goal of making a brief presentation re: electronic voting.

History and Archives

Committee Members

Barbara Dunbar, Chair; Meegan Wilson, Vice Chair

Maryanne Barkley, John Bauman, Marcia Benjamin, Alan Bernard, Richard Burns, Betsy Durrant, Margie Hutinger, Anna Lea Matysek, Gail Roper, Jayne Saint-Amour

Ex-Officio: Christopher Stevenson

Introduction

The History and Archives Committee records, collects, and preserves documents, stories, photos, exhibits, oral histories, and other memorabilia in an appropriate repository and in durable formats to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The archived information shall be made available. The committee consists of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function.

Thank you to the History and Archives Committee members for all efforts and accomplishments since last convention and for working many, many volunteer hours.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. **Top 10 Publication (Lists, Booklets, and Errata) Project**

The project to scan, OCR convert, and post all Masters Top 10 lists, booklets, publications, and errata is nearly completed. All lists and booklets and most errata documents have been located, scanned, and OCR converted by Meegan and Barbara. Anna Lea posted many onto the USMS website earlier this year at <http://www.usms.org/content/top10print>. By year end, the goal is to upload the remaining Top 10 lists and errata, to locate missing errata as well as clearer copies of some documents already posted, and to post any remaining Top 10 documents.

2. **SWIM-MASTER Project**

The project to scan, OCR convert, and post all 181 *Swim-Masters* covering the period from December 1991 through December 1991 has been completed. *Swim-Master* was the original Masters swimming publication and was published by June Krauser. The main committee members involved with this massive, labor-intensive project were Meegan, Barbara, and Anna Lea. Links to the 181 *Swim-Master* documents can be found at <http://www.usms.org/content/swimmaster>.

3. **SWIM-MASTER Index Project**

Meegan has created an index for all 181 *Swim-Masters* to enhance content searches. The indexes were submitted in late July for addition to the page containing the links to all of the scanned *Swim-Masters*.

4. **USMS National Record Chronology Project**

Committee members are making progress locating missing National Record chronology dates. Committee members and USMS members are now able to search the recently posted *Swim-Masters* for missing National Record dates.

5. **Relay Top 10 (On-line Posting) Project**

Pre-1994 Relay Top 10 lists are being converted for upload into the USMS Top 10 database. Mary Beth Windrath uploaded the 1988 SCY Relay TT file to the USMS

database on July 27. Both Walt Reid and Mary Beth have been working to add swimmer IDs and to re-format the data for proper upload.

6. **Olympians who are USMS Members Project**

Additional Olympians have been added to the USMS Member Olympian list at <http://www.usms.org/hist/oly/>.

7. **Deceased Member Project**

The USMS registration database continues to be updated as more deceased members are identified and dates of death are located.

8. **Other H&A Projects**

Additional projects are ongoing and include the following: locating and scanning other USMS documents; locating and scanning Open Water and Long Distance National Championship results; locating swimmers on the USMS 1970-1992 Top 10 lists who have not been assigned IDs; identifying swimmers with duplicate IDs; converting old registration hardcopy data into digital format; proofing swimmer stories; fact-checking, and completing special research requests.

Action Items

1. Reevaluate and prioritize various History and Archives committee projects.

Agenda

1. Call History and Archives Meeting to Order, Thursday, September 14, 2017, 11:00am- 12:00 pm.
2. Roll Call – Barbara Dunbar (Chair), Meegan Wilson (Vice Chair), Maryanne Barkley, John Bauman, Marcia Benjamin, Alan Bernard, Richard Burns, Betsy Durrant, Margie Hutinger, Anna Lea Matysek, Gail Roper, Jayne Saint-Amour
Ex Officio: Christopher Stevenson (EC, VPLO).
3. Introduce and welcome new delegates.
4. Review the status of the primary History and Archives projects.
5. Action Item – Reevaluate and prioritize History and Archives projects.
6. Discuss communications, workloads, web projects, and timelines.
7. Special thanks to Anna Lea Matysek, Tracy Grilli, and Jim Matysek for all of the help and services that they have provided to the History and Archives committee, to other committees, and to volunteers in general over the years.
8. Other
9. Adjourn

Fitness Education

Committee Members

Mary Jurey, Chair; Brian Cummings, Vice Chair

Ruth Carter, Kelly Davis, Ina King, Ann Marshfield, Karen Gernert, Karen Wegner, Brigid Bunch, Anita Cole, AJ Block, Stacy Broncucia, Fares Ksebati, Lisa Ward, Ken Winterberger

Ex-Officio: Skip Thompson [EC], Kyle Deery, Casey Keiber

Introduction

The Fitness Committee began the year by creating four subcommittees focused on the following:

1. Fitness Initiative – A group to serve as a sounding board on the research and development of a fitness exercise program that the National Office undertook in 2017 (and is ongoing)
2. (Fitness) Events – Review ePostals, GTD, Check-off-Challenge events and determine which should be looked at as ‘fitness’ vs. ‘long distance’. Evaluate under-performing fitness events and determine whether we should continue them with adjustments to improve participation, or eliminate for alternative events. With the knowledge gained this could be a group that researches and recommends new fitness oriented programs or events (i.e. 30-minute swim – is that the right approach?).
3. Fitness Swimming Technology – (e.g. FLOGS, Virtual Swims, app, wearables, etc.) – What do our members want? What is attractive to a prospective member that doesn’t plan on competing?
4. Fitness Research/Education/Marketing- Research and provide recommendations on fitness related content and marketing. How can we condense the benefits of swimming exclusively for fitness (i.e. not competitive) in simple messaging? Possibly include a sports medicine committee liaison with this group to provide technical/medical input.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Fitness Initiative – The National Office kept the committee (and sub-committee) updated on progress in their research and development of Fitness Programming. The sub-committee was invited to Austin for testing in May, along with other swimmers from the South Texas LMSC. Feedback on the program was provided. Development is still underway and we will continue to work together with the National Office as the initiative proceeds.
2. Fitness Events – The Fitness Committee has discussed a 30-minute swim option for several years. This concept was combined with discussion on the ePostals and ultimately led to a thorough proposal to ‘modernize’ the ePostals and combine with shorter distances/times along with a non-competitive division for fitness-minded swimmers. This proposal was evaluated by the Long-Distance Committee and the Fitness Committee and both agreed to a joint task force to review the finer details. The Task Force met and revised the proposal and re-presented to both Long Distance and Fitness. Although the Long-Distance Committee ultimately decided not to adopt the proposal, the Fitness Committee plans to move forward with a new USMS Fitness Series as follows. Final planning is culminating at Convention and these events will be announced in the fall of ’17 and implemented in 2018. Although the general structure of these events is like the

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ePostals, in that they will be take place in home pools with clubs/coaches administering the event (or an individual participating independently), the focus will be entirely on fitness, fun and fundraising. The subcommittee is continuing work to finalize details and has adopted a liaison from the Swimming Saves Lives Board of Trustees (Bill Meier) to work on the fundraising components. Below is a brief overview and please keep an eye out for more information from the Fitness Committee and the National Office in the coming weeks and months.

U.S. Masters Swimming Fitness Series		
Series Name	Fitness Distance / Duration	Participation Window
Winter Fitness Challenge	30 minute	last 2 weeks of Feb.
Fees	Fitness - \$10 until Feb 1 (\$12after)	
Profits	National Office hosts and administers 2018 and beyond: 100% of proceeds to go to SSLF	
Summer Fitness Challenge	2K (meters) conversion from yards allowed	last 2 weeks of Jul.
Fees	Fitness - \$10 until July 1 (\$12 after)	
Profits	2018 and beyond: 100% of registration proceeds go to SSLF & other fundraising components are possible (Driven by LMSC or Club)	
Fall Fitness Challenge	1 mile (1650yds) conversion from meters allowed	last 2 weeks of Nov.

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Fees	Fitness - \$10 until Nov 1 (\$12 after)		
Profits	2018 and beyond: 100% of registration proceeds go to SSLF & other fundraising components are possible (Driven by LMSC or Club)		

3. The Fitness Committee also decided that the interest and participation levels in the Check-Off-Challenge do not support continuing the event. This event will be eliminated in 2018 as we focus on the Fitness Series.
4. Technology – Although the committee has not progressed much on this front, we continue to be updated by the National Office on their discussions with potential Fitness App partners and integration.
5. Discussion continues effectively marketing to the ‘fitness swimmer’ and provide more content on the health benefits of swimming as a fitness option. We plan to utilize the Fitness Series as focal point of these efforts with support from the National Office marketing department.

Action Items

1. Finalize Details for Fitness Series and begin promotion.
2. Provide feedback and input on the National Office’s progress on fitness-focused programming.
3. Continue to evaluate technology options for the fitness swimmer
4. Individually champion a Fitness Series event with our Club and/or LMSC in 2018 and encourage all other volunteers to do the same.

Agenda

1. Review progress on Fitness Series, finalize remaining details on ground rules, registration and fundraising.
2. Developing best practices for Fitness Series events
3. Update from National Office on Fitness Program Development and technology related items.

Legislation

Committee Members

Meg Smath, Chair; Richard Garza, Vice Chair

Wyatt Bradbury, Joan Campbell, Rob Copeland, Sean Fitzgerald, Heather Hagadorn, Michael Heather, Nikki Merson, Jane Moore, Teddy Palmer, Steve Peterson, Heather Stevenson, Erin Sullivan, Patrick Weiss, Kris Wingenroth

Ex-Officio: Charles Cockrell, Maria Elias-Williams, Bill Brenner

Introduction

This committee considers amendments to Parts 2, 4, 5, and 6 of the rule book, plus the glossary.

Discussions and Projects Since Convention

In February, after the BOD's winter meeting, Rob Copeland made the committee aware of a conflict between part 4 and part 1 of the rule book:

At this past weekend Board meeting it came to light that a recent Rules Committee interpretation is in conflict with Part 4 Participation.

Briefly; an adult multi-sport event with a minimum age of 21 wanted to get their swimming events sanctioned (as we did for them last year). They are being denied a sanction because their lowest age group is 21-24 instead of 18-24.

401.2 Participation ... allows for participation restrictions based on the individual's age, so setting a minimum entry age of 21 (or 55, e.g. Senior Games) is allowed. However, 102.3.1 and 102.5.2 ... require all age groups. The Rules Committee was asked for an interpretation of the rules and they said that a sanctioned event must offer all age groups regardless of participation restrictions.

Since then the committee has discussed the issue but made no decisions on how to proceed. We will continue discussion during our meetings at convention. We will also discuss, possibly amend, and approve or disapprove the nine proposals submitted for consideration.

Agenda

1. Take roll
2. Discuss and vote on legislation proposals.
3. Discuss how to alleviate perceived conflicts between Part 1 and Part 4 concerning age groups and sanctioning events.

LMSC Development

Committee Members

Michael Moore, Chair; Paige Buehler, Vice Chair

Marcia Anziano, Lisa Brown, Michael Carlson, Linda Chapman, Jerry Clark, Sally Dillon, Viki Hill, Matt Hooper, Mary Hull, Tim Lecrone, Hugh Moore, Sonny Nguyen, Bruce Rollins, C.J. Rushman, Natalie Taylor

Ex-Officio: Chris Stevenson, VPLO; Leianne Crittenden, Governance

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee is responsible for managing LMSC and zone boundaries, managing the LMSC standards policy and working with the Vice President of Local Operations to conduct and communicate an annual standards report for each LMSC. The committee fosters communication across all LMSCs and LMSC volunteer roles by providing:

- a. Peer-to-peer tele-conferences for interactive discussion of issues
- b. Outreach and mentoring through the zone chairs
- c. Educational seminars and workshops on selected topics
- d. Recommended “best” practices.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. LMSC Standards– Surveyed 52 LMSC Chairs and 52 LMSC Treasurers. Some of the results were from the national office. Preliminary results were given at the LMSC Leadership Summit in March. The full results will be discussed at the LMSC Standards: Everything that you wanted to know but were afraid to ask! Workshop.
 - a. The results were given to the Vice President of Local Operations Chris Stevenson. There were eleven LMSCs that achieved full compliance. Chris partnered with the zone chairs to work through the remediation process with the LMSCs that did not achieve compliance with all mandatory standards.
 - b. Originally the committee planned to repeat the survey (with process improvements) in July, but after consultation with the VPLO and with the staffing changes in the National Office, the committee decided to postpone the collection of data. The committee will complete a follow up survey after convention that includes better methods of gathering and disseminating the information in a more timely manner.
2. Webinars – There is a webinar scheduled for August 26 on running dual sanctioned meet, whether they be combined, parallel or interwoven. The focus will be on the differences and how to prepare for, run and report on dual sanctioned meets for each of the meet

formats.

3. Peer to Peer Teleconferences. Many thanks to Jerry Clark who has kept up the momentum on holding monthly LMSC Peer-to-Peer teleconferences. The committee decided on the first Tuesday of the month as a standard date for the teleconference. The mentoring subcommittee provides opportunities each year for various LMSC volunteers to chat in a facilitated call about hot topics, areas of concern or best known methods for getting LMSC work done. Since last convention we have held P2Ps for the following roles: Registrars, Treasurers, Top Ten Recorders, Coaches Chairs, Fitness Chairs, Officials Chairs, LMSC Chairs/Vice Chairs, Open Water Chairs, and planned over the summer are Communications/Editors/Webmasters.
4. Boundaries: Under USMS Rule Book 507.1.6 “The committee may initiate and shall receive, consider, and report proposed amendments to Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries, . . .” South Central Zone submitted proposed legislation asking that there be changes to the boundaries of Border, North Texas, and South Texas LMSCs. A task force was appointed to review their request for boundary changes enlarging Border LMSC and to change the name of Border LMSC to West Texas LMSC. The LMSC Development Committee has recommended the proposals to the House of Delegates for approval and scheduled time on the committee’s agenda (below) to hear from interested parties on these changes.

Action Items

1. Approval of changes to LMSC boundaries between Border, North Texas and South Texas LMSCs and approval of the name change from Border LMSC to West Texas LMSC (both with effective dates of 1/1/2018.)

LMSC Development Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Approve July meeting minutes and/or review offline decisions
3. Discussion of changes in boundaries of Border, North Texas and South Texas LMSC Boundaries.
4. Discussion of name change of Border LMSC.
5. LMSC Standards survey and results
6. Define scope of LMSC Standards Performance Evaluation for 2017
7. Discuss recurring date/day for Peer to Peer Teleconferences
8. 2017 goals/objectives review & scoring
9. 2018 priorities
10. Review action items
11. Adjourn

Long Distance

Committee Members

Donn Livoni, Chair; Ali Hall, Vice Chair

Jim Davidson, Phyllis Quinn, Mike Fanelli, James Biles, Greta van Meeteren, Jill Wright, Laurie Hug, Allison Ware, Lorena Sims and Josie Palmerin

Ex-Officio: Chris McGiffin, Tracy Grilli, Bob Bruce, Casey Keiber, Bill Roach, Karin Wegner

Introduction

The Long Distance Committee has held conference call meetings on the last Sunday of each month. The attendance on these calls has been outstanding with a maximum of two members absent on any call. At this time the LDC is highly functioning and meeting and/or exceeding all the metrics charged under the rules. For 2017 we added two very high quality individuals who have made significant contributions to the committee. Colleen Driscoll and Melinda Greig-Walker resigned from the committee during the spring.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Coordinated marketing and promotion plans with event hosts, event liaisons, and USMS Marketing personnel.
2. Responded to a request for a disability exemption
3. Phyllis Quinn volunteered again to be the note taker and rules/legislation assistant at convention. She has done an excellent job and our minutes are sent to USMS for posting shortly after they are approved.
4. Approved the updated LDC Operating Guidelines. James was the lead on this effort.
5. Approved a recommendation by Club Assistant to establish upper limits on ePostal entries.
6. Approved five goals for the LDC for 2017. Ali was the lead on this topic.
 1. Increase participation by 10 percent over 2016 in total for postal national championships
 2. Identify two LDC members who will collaborate with two different USMS committees for mutual interests
 3. Incorporate diversity/inclusivity language into 2019 LDNC bid documents
 4. Recruit at least one 2019 festival bid
 5. Identify an LDC member to generate a standard entry form (SEF) for use by OWNC hosts and liaisons
7. Updated Championship Packet and Timelines for 2016 ePostal and Open Water National Championship events.
8. Ali Hall, James Biles and the Bid Selection working group updated the forms for 2019 as well as reached out to former bidders. The LDC and Champs Committee continue to communicate to avoid date conflicts in 2109.

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9. The Rules and Legislation working group and the LDC, as a committee of the whole, finished rule proposals.
10. The LDC is within budget at this time.
11. Worked with the USMS National Office on an “ePostal Modernization” proposal. Changed the ending date for the Virtual One Hour Swim from Feb. 28 to Feb. 14.
12. Entry numbers: OHeP 2015 -- 2293, 2016 – 2335, 2017 – 1862 decrease of 20%
2-mile cable 2015 – 85, 2016 – 213, 2017 – 77 decrease of 63% ; 10K, 2015 – 110.
2016 – 63, 2017 -- 140 increase of 122%; 10 miles 2015 – 75, 2016 – 53, 2017 -- 98
increase of 85%; the 1-mile is happening 9/23 and the 5K was held on 7/30 with 96
participants.

Action Items

1. Rule and Legislation proposals.
2. Others as needed

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from final summer conference call.
2. Presentation of bids for 2019 Virtual and OW NC events.
3. Discussion and possible action on changes to the LDC budget.
4. Discussion and action “Virtual Swims”
5. Discussion and action on rules and legislation proposals.
6. Reports from Chair, Vice Chair and working group leaders.
7. Reports from event liaisons.
8. Discussion of possible goals for 2018.
9. Review of year - What went well and where can we improve our performance.
10. Committee changes for 2018
11. Other business as needed.

Officials

Committee Members

Brian Albright, Chair; Teri White, Vice Chair

Pat Baker, Dave Coddington, Alina de Armas, Omar de Armas, Judy Gillies, Steve Goldman, Michael Abegg, Al Ness, Herb Schwab, Sandy Drake, Kim Bogg

Ex-Officio: Jim Holcomb-USA Swimming, Chris McGiffin-EC, Laura Hamel-USMS Staff

Introduction

The goal of the USMS Officials Committee is to offer training and education opportunities for officials so ensure that competitive meets offered by USMS are officiated according to the highest standards.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Proposed three rules proposals regarding officials.
2. Proposed a USMS service award to recognize a meet official.
3. Reviewed and revised some committee policies.
4. Continued to certify USMS meet officials.
5. Discussed the creation of a referee certification to go along with the starter and stroke & turn certifications.
6. Continued with the Rules Committee a dialogue about the instructions given to officials working USMS Nationals during the officials briefings.

Action Items

1. Rule proposals were approved by the committee and sent to the Rules Committee.
2. USMS Service Award for Officials was approved by the committee and sent to the Awards & Recognition Committee.
3. Committee policies updated.

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from last conference call.
2. Update on USMS Officials Certification program.
3. Discuss potential projects for the committee in 2018.
 - Update official's resources on USMS site
 - Identify any potential rule changes involving officials
 - Review committee policies
 - Identifying potential officials for working nationals
 - Implement USMS Officials Service Award

Open Water

Committee Members

Bob Bruce, Chair; James Kennedy, Vice Chair

Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Charlotte Brynn, Mia Erickson Stevens, Kathryn Farrell Guizar, Lynn Hazelwood, Jenny Hodges, Bob Kolonkowski, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Sega, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright (scribe), & Jim Wheeler.

Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Tracy Grilli (now retired), Donn Livoni, Casey Keiber, Chris McGiffin, & Bill Roach.

Introduction

The Open Water Committee (OWC) is charged under 507.1.9. The OWC meets monthly by phone conference (seven meetings since this version of the OWC was convened) to pursue that charge, with generally good participation moving forward this year.

The OWC goal is to promote the development of and participation in open water swimming, and to support quality open water swimming experiences for adults in line with the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategy of USMS. The measurement of this goal will be the quantity of events, swims, & splashes, the quality of those experiences, and other metrics that will help us measure our progress to accomplish these goals.

Report from Bill Roach, USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator (7/7/2017):

1. 2017 Open Water USMS sanctioned events:
 - a. 52 Total USMS sanctions issued (8 New, 44 Repeats).
 - b. 1 Event cancelled.
 - c. 84 Safety Directors certified.
2. 2017 Open Water Workshop at convention will include:
 - a. Discussion & walkthrough the online open water sanctioning process.
 - b. Bidding for national championship (open water & postal/virtual) events, including the responsibilities of event hosts & timeline following bid award.
 - c. Q&A

Discussion and Projects since the 2016 Convention:

1. Rules & Legislation (jointly with the Long Distance Committee): Bob Bruce (Chair), Lynn Hazlewood, & Donn Livoni.
 - a. Although the Long Distance Committee (LDC) has the task of considering rules proposals to part 3 of the rule book and preparing proposals to the House of Delegates under 507.1.7, the OWC in cooperation with the LDC reviews all rules proposals relating to open water swimming before the LDC formally considers them. This partnership assures that both committees fully discuss pertinent issues and craft strong proposals.
 - b. At this point, The OWC has considered 21 rules proposals with much discussion, particularly on issues concerning safety. It has recommended those proposals to the LDC as written and/or amended.

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2. Open Water Guide to Operations: Bob Bruce (Chair), Lynn Hazlewood, Kathy Farrell Guizar, & Denise Brown.
 - a. The OWC continually updates the OWGTO on the USMS website as needed.
 - b. To make the OWGTO a more streamlined and user-friendly construct, the OWC Subcommittee is considering an overhaul in the structure of the OWGTO. This is a major project, and it is progressing at a modest pace.
3. Education & Officials: Bob Bruce (Chair), Bob Kolonkowski, Will Reeves, & Bill Roach.
 - a. Safety Director: The OWC has developed and implemented a PowerPoint training program and subsequent test, required for prospective event safety directors; successful completion of both items results in certification to perform the role of Safety Director at USMS-sanctioned swims. This program was piloted in 2016, and revised for 2017 based on our experience. The training and testing programs are run by USMS Safety Compliance officer Bill Roach as a part of the sanction process, and has proven to be quite successful in raising awareness of USMS rules & safety standards and in better safety director performance at race venues.
 - b. Referee: Currently, there is no training/certification program for USMS open water referees. The OWC Officials Subcommittee has drafted a PowerPoint training program for referees, much like Safety Director training, with a goal of implementing this program for the 2018 open water season. This will be a major step in standardizing best referee practices across the country and providing safer & fairer swims for our membership. It is anticipated that this training will be approved before convention.
 - c. Event Director: The OWC is continuing to develop this comprehensive training, a portion of which was piloted at the 2015 Convention. This project is on the back burner this year, but the OWC plans to roll it out in 2018. Ultimately, the OWC will work towards making this training central to event development materials and education.
4. Safety: Jim Wheeler (Chair), Bob Kononkowski, Will Reeves, & Bill Roach. Although not tasked with specific projects this year, but assisted in all discussions of open water safety, as always one of our central concerns.
5. Awards: Sully Nutty (Chair), Joanne Wainwright, Mia Erickson Stevens, & Ally Sega.
 - a. Open Water Service Award: The OWC has improved its evaluation matrix. It has advertised for nominees for its annual major award, and has received four nominations so far.
 - b. Open Water Pioneers: The OWC has discussed briefly methods of honoring those individuals who have served as pioneers in USMS open water swimming, but has taken no action yet. This will be a long term project.
6. Open Water Development: Lynn Hazlewood, James Kennedy, Bob Kolonkowski, Will Reeves, Ally Sega, & Bob Bruce.
 - a. Lynn has developed a draft document that will guide this recently-formed subcommittee through the near future.
 - b. The work of this group will be central to the direction of the OWC as it starts 2018.

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7. OW Swim Training: Ally Sega, Jim Kennedy, Mia Erickson Stevens, Will Reeves, Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, & Charlotte Bryn. This subcommittee will work with the Coaches Committee as they develop the open water training module for coaching certification.
8. Task force: Will Reeves (Chair) & James Kennedy
 - a. FLOG query results generated by Sterling were provided to James from 2016 thru May 2017. Further analysis of the data is needed.
 - b. This task force will consider ways to track swimmer open water yardage (perhaps as an extension of the Go-the-Distance program) and to collate information about where USMS swimmers can find programs that include safe open water swimming practices.
9. Administration:
 - a. Minutes: Approved OWC meeting minutes—very capably compiled by scribe Joanne Wainwright—have been submitted to the USMS Secretary.
 - b. Action items: All action items have been dutifully noted in each set of minutes.
 - c. Budget: Other than the expense of committee calls, the OWC has not incurred any expenses.

Agenda

1. Opening: Attendance, review of previous minutes
2. Standard business:
 - a. Rules & legislation review, as needed
 - b. OW Guide to Operations update
 - c. Education & officials program update
 - d. Awards update
 - e. Safety & sanction update
3. Open discussion: Development & promotion of open water events for 2018.
4. Other/New Business
5. Closing

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Ray Novitske, Chair; Megan Lassen, Vice Chair

Carolyn Boak, Rich Burns, Chris Campbell, Ruth Carter, MJ Caswell, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Viki Hill, Lori Payne, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val

Ex-Officio: Tracy Grilli, Chris Stevenson

Introduction

The Recognition and Awards Committee oversees all U.S. Masters Swimming volunteer service awards, even though some awards are selected by other committees. The committee receives nominations and selects recipients for the Capt. Ransom J. Arthur MD, Dorothy Donnelly Service, June Krauser Communications, and the Club of the Year awards. The committee membership includes past recipients of the Ransom Arthur Award, and representatives from the Coaches, History & Archives, Long Distance, and Records & Tabulation committees.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee held conference calls in November and March to discuss projects, assign tasks, select subcommittees, and report progress on promotion of award nominations. A third conference call is scheduled for August to plan for award presentations, announcements, and ongoing projects in time for the convention.
2. Local media releases announcing the committee's service award recipients were prepared by committee members and sent to local swim organizations after presentations at the 2016 convention. This was done to encourage recognition of the recipients at the local level, and was accomplished with the help of the National Office communications.
3. The Ransom Arthur Award was presented to Michael Moore of Pacific Masters. The announcement was made at the Spring Nationals meet, and a presentation was made to Michael prior to the meet since he was not attending. There were seven nominations this year.
4. The committee continued in its effort to encourage national service award nominations. The "Wanted" theme campaign began at the Spring National Championship and was later utilized in *Streamlines* and in an email campaign to LMCSs. The number of nominations for this year's June Krauser Communications and Club of the Year awards were highest ever.
5. A subcommittee reviewed potential USMS nominees for the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Honor Contributor category and recommended Walt Reid. The committee voted to nominate Walt Reid to IMSHOF, and nomination was made in May. Unfortunately, Walt was not selected this year, but the committee plans to resubmit his nomination in 2018.
6. The committee continues to write USMS web page bios for our service award recipients.
7. The Officials Committee has proposed a new national service award for USMS officials. The committee will review the proposal and vote at the convention.
8. An effort to encourage local recognition of volunteer service continues. Last year, an online store was set up to allow local clubs and LMCSs to purchase small USMS branded merchandise to purchase for volunteer appreciation. Results are mixed to date

Action Items

1. Review, discuss, and vote on new national Officials Service Award

Agenda

1. Chair's Report
2. Budget review for past year and for 2018
3. Reports on annual projects
 - a. Capt. Ransom J Arthur MD Award
 - b. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award
 - c. June Krauser Communications Award
 - d. Club of the Year Award
4. Reports of 2017 projects
 - a. Increasing award nominations
 - b. International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame nomination
 - c. Promotion of service awards at the local level
 - d. Online volunteer recognition store
5. Review of new service award honoring officials
6. Committee policy changes review
7. Projects for the upcoming year

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

Jeanne Seidler, Chair; MJ Caswell, Vice Chair

Cheryl Gettelfinger, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid, Mary Sweat, Kim Thornton, Hans Van Meeteren

Ex-Officio: James Matysek (USMS Office), Mary Beth Windrath (National Swims Administrator-USMS Office),

EC: Chris Stevenson (VP of Local Operations)

Introduction

The Records and Tabulation Committee is responsible for the process of recording and verifying Top 10 times, All-American and All-Star rosters, and USMS national records for all three courses. In addition to a chair and vice-chair, the committee includes the National Swims Administrator, who collects, verifies and compiles Top 10 submissions from the LMSCs, and also receives and verifies record applications and maintains the USMS records. The pool measurement process is within the domain of the committee. The committee maintains the USMS List of Measured Pools. The committee works with the LMSC Top Ten Recorders.

The committee works closely with the USMS Webmaster & IT Director for the online publication of lists, rosters and records, and to simplify and automate the compilation and verification of all swim performances in pools measured as per USMS pool measurement rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. For the past year, the National Swims Administrator continued the customary roles of verifying, compiling and publishing USMS Records and Top 10 Swims along with maintaining the USMS List of Measured Pools. The committee chair published the list of Top 10 swims and All-Americans on the USMS website. Mary Sweat provides volunteer assistance for the Top 10 processing.
2. Committee business was taken up during one conference call and electronically through email and the secured Records and Tabulation USMS Administrative Forum defined for this business purpose.
3. The following documents were updated for clarity and accuracy: the Application for USMS and/or World Record, the Pool Length Certification form and the Split Notification Form. The two forms used most often by the LMSC volunteers (pool measurement and record application) are being developed with a fill-in Adobe form option.
4. The USMS List of Measured Pools has been kept up to date with pool measurement documents provided by LMSC Top Ten Recorders. The USMS List is a comprehensive reference of all pools which have been measured for USMS competition. This effort continues as an on-going process. There has been a project on the projects list to provide a database for pool measurements to replace the spreadsheet version but the project has no priority.
5. A request will be made to prioritize including a USMS record identification process in the Top 10 tools.
6. Numerous inquiries were made to the committee, mostly to the Chair and National Top Ten Administrator regarding various questions related to Top Ten, pool measurement,

availability of Top Ten times, and split request listings in the Event Results Database (ERDB). The bulk of the work of this committee actually goes on behind the scenes without a lot of committee interaction. Swimmers in the LMSCs are helpful in reporting potential errors in the meet results uploaded to the ERDB.

7. One Proposal has been submitted to the Legislation Committees as noted below:
 - a. **505.1.11** Adds reference to pool measurement as area of responsibility
8. Two members, Walt Reid and Mary Beth Windrath, having participated in a joint project with the Rules Committee in 2016 to review timing rules related to FINA changes are again consulting on the new FINA rule pertinent to timing precision required for FINA records that becomes effective September 21st.

Action Items

None

Agenda

1. Introductions.
2. Summarize changes in the past year, new information for Top Ten Recorders published in the Guide to Operations, various issues resolved during the year.
3. Summarize remaining projects in E2EEM. Summarize legislation proposals for the 2017 Convention.
4. Open Discussion on RT projects for 2017-2018, potential rules, legislation or policy changes for 2018. A request will be made to prioritize including a USMS record identification process in the Top 10 tools. Emphasis will also be on the priority for the pool measurement database to replace the spreadsheet currently maintained and published once per month.
5. Open Feedback Session ... members and audience to discuss the topic of supporting needs of Top Ten Recorders on the LMSC level. (Access to Sanction Information, Publishing local records & Other topics from the floor.)

Registration

Committee Members

Leo Letendre, Chair; Marcia Anziano, Vice Chair

Susan Ehringer, Douglas Handler, Tim Lecrone, Arni Litt, Charlene O'Brian, George Simon, Kim Thornton, Dave Young

Ex-Officio: Steve Hall

Associate Member: Diann Bauer

Introduction

The registration committee has initiated work on its 2015-2016 goals as well as working on day-to-day issues as we are required.

Discussions and Projects Since Convention

None

Rules

Committee Members

Charles Cockrell, Chair; Kathy Casey, Vice Chair

Carolyn Boak, Chris Colburn, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Laura Groselle, Mollie Grover, Karen Harris, Matt Hooper, Brian Hoyt, Claire Letendre, Chris Lysinger, Barbara Protzman, Jessica Seaton, Steve Unruh, Rand Vaillancourt.

Ex-Officio: Brian Albright, Tracy Grilli, Meg Smath, Jay Thomas, Ed Tsuzuki.

Introduction

Since the 2016 convention, the rules committee has been reviewing specific sections of the part one rules based on issues identified from proofreading the 2017 rules book, questions received from USMS members, situations arising from USMS sanctioned meets, and rules changes made by FINA, USA Swimming, and other swimming organizations. Throughout the year, the chair routinely answers questions received from USMS members and provides rulings on interpretations of part one rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee considered and issued an interpretation on age groups at USMS meets, clarifying that any event offered at a USMS sanctioned meet must be offered for all of the age groups listed in article 102.3 without exception.
2. The committee considered a protest of interpretation of part one rules dealing with acceptance of watch times as a secondary system to a semiautomatic primary timing system for USMS records.
3. The chair updated the list of briefing points for officials for use at national championship meets.
4. The chair addressed several questions regarding the use of equipment at USMS sanctioned meets. USMS article 102.12.1E says that no swimmer is allowed to wear or use any device or substance that enhances speed, pace, or buoyancy. Article 107.1.2B(3), concerning disability accommodations, says that modifications which involve aids to buoyancy or speed are not permitted. Therefore, use of this kind of equipment is not permitted in any sanctioned competition, even as a disability accommodation. The chair clarified further that referees should not knowingly permit the use of equipment, illegal swimwear, or other practices that would lead to disqualification.
5. The chair considered and issued rulings for swimwear medical exemptions per USMS rule 102.12.1C.
6. The chair attended the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting in June 2017.
7. The committee reviewed and considered additional proposed changes to the USMS rules of competition proposed by the rules committee and other standing committees per USMS article 601.
8. The committee received and reviewed changes to the FINA rules that affect acceptance of times reported by manual (watches) and semiautomatic (buttons) primary timing systems for world records.
9. The committee reviewed the sections of appendix B that deal with rules differences between USMS and other organizations (USA Swimming, NCAA, and High Schools).

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10. The chair answered numerous questions received from USMS members throughout the year and initiated a USMS Rules Committee blog on the USMS website to address rules questions and provide a resource for USMS coaches, swimmers, and officials.

Action Items

1. Consider and recommend proposed changes to USMS part one (swimming rules and glossary) to the USMS House of Delegates.
2. Consider and approve changes to committee policies (disability, championship liaison, others).
3. Ongoing project to compile and review previous situations and resolutions.

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from rules committee conference calls.
2. Proposed changes to the Glossary and Part One of the USMS rules.
3. Changes to committee policies.
4. Review progress on situations and resolutions project.
5. New business.

Sports Medicine and Science

Megan Carlson, Chair; Sally Berry, Vice Chair (resigned July due to conflicts)

The Sports Medicine and Science Committee met every other month this year. Our meetings included the following topics:

Ongoing subcommittees

- **Sports Medicine Blog**

- Jessica Seaton continues to promote health and wellness through our blog on the USMS website. Topics vary depending on what's "hot" or in the news. We do occasionally receive topic requests from USMS members and Committee members.

- **Nationals Booth**

- We did not have a booth at Spring Nationals; plans were in place but closer to the event our participant regretfully chose not to continue with the planned event.
- Summer Nationals we hosted a research study held by Jasmine Hanson, from Concordia University, looking at the effects/benefits of taping Her synopsis was as follows:
 - "Swimmers! If you are interested in how range of motion and pain are related in the shoulder please participate in a study ongoing the meet. This study will look at a potential non invasive treatment option for shoulder pain very common in swimmers using kinesiology tape. The study only takes about 30 minutes to complete and all can participate to support what could help make an impact on how we can deal with shoulder and upper torso issues as swimmers.
The project will include an upper body questionnaire. A simple functional assessment of the upper body. Then kinesiology tape will be applied to the anterior muscular of the shoulder. After 30 minutes, the functional assessment will be redone and tape removed. You are free to do as you wish for the 30 minutes waiting period. Tape will need to be removed prior any competitions."
 - Several SMS Committee members were able to attend the meet and assist with the event.
 - We are awaiting feedback from Jasmine regarding the event and hope to present that information at USAS Convention.

- **Convention Presentation**

USMS Committee Reports and Agendas

- Update from last years presentation:
 - Dr. Tanaka and his team reported a large influx of surveys completed by USMS members, which was key to their research study. They expressed their gratitude and have interest in continuing to work with USMS for future endeavors.
- For the 2017 presentation, initial plans were to present changes to the Open Water regulations from FINA. Unfortunately no changes were decided upon this year. We changed our presentation in August, with the help of Committee member Sally Guthrie. Her presentation is as follows:
 - Title:
 - All about us - Results of the health status of USMS swimmers survey
 - Description:
 - The presentation will include a synopsis of four publications resulting from a study of the USMS population. In 2010 a survey of health status was conducted in USMS members. These four resulting publications evaluated overall health, hypertension and treatment, statin use, and dietary supplement use in USMS respondents - in comparison to the general US population.

Other items:

- **Public Service Announcement -**
 - **Getting Checked Out**
 - SMS Committee had been working with a USMS member requesting a PSA supporting cardiac check-ups with a cardiologist. While the SMS Committee supports annual wellness visits, we could not officially endorse the requested PSA message.
 - **Health benefits of swimming**
 - SMS Committee is working with the National Office to help identify USMS members to participate in a PSA-style video prompting the health and wellness benefits of swimming.
- **Fitness Initiative**
 - This project is being led by the National Office and the Fitness Committee. The initiative is in its initial stages and has the support of the SMS Committee as needed.

The SMS Committee plans to meet once more before the USAS Convention in Dallas.