

Championship

Committee Members

Jeff Roddin, Chair; Jim Clemmons, Vice Chair

Nicole Christensen-Rembach, Barry Fasbender, Ken Halbrecht, Robert Heath, Linda Irish Bostic, Cheryl Kupan, Krisie Melsen, Mark Moore, Erin Moro, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll, Natalie Taylor, Charlie Tupitza.

Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, Casey Keiber, Ali Hall, Peter Guadagni.

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. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2018 USMS clubs
2. Produced NQT Standards file for meet operations use at 2018 Nationals and made available to local meet directors
3. Updated NQT Altitude Adjustments per 104.5.3C (1) for Appendix B in the 2018 USMS Rulebook
4. Transitioned content from the Meet Director's Guide and Bid Packet to the USMS Dropbox folders
5. Transitioned relay card stock inventory to the National Office to manage
6. Raised individual entry fees at Nationals to \$6 (these fees go to the meet host)
7. Shifted \$5 of the meet surcharge from the host to USMS
8. Updated the meet contract. Major changes include Officials and Meet Merchandise sections and moving many minor items from the contract to the Meet Director's Guide (e.g. water temperature, shade, smoking, locker rooms, etc.)
9. Submitted eleven proposed Rules changes to Article 104
10. Endorsed Meet Ref assignments for 2019 Spring and Summer Nationals
11. Discussed changes to the Logo development process and Meet Merchandise options
12. Updated the Nationals' liability waiver to include statement about banning non-approved commercial entities from using Nationals to promote their product(s)

Action Items

1. 2019 & 2020 Nationals: NQTs, assign Order of Events, approve awards, update Meet Director's Guide, assign liaisons
2. 2020 Spring Nationals contract
3. Update Championship Committee Policy documents
4. Review how NQTs impact sprint vs distance events

Championship Committee Agendas

Thursday (3:15-4:15pm)

1. Approve Minutes from last meeting(s) as required.
2. Recap/debrief 2018 Spring Nationals (Indy)
3. Review/discuss 2019/2020 Nationals
 - A. 2019 Spring Nationals (Mesa, April 25-28)
 - a. Logo/Awards
 - b. Order of Events
 - B. 2019 Summer Nationals (Mission Viejo, August 7-11)
 - a. Logo/Awards
 - b. Order of Events
 - C. 2020 Summer Nationals (Richmond, VA, August 13-16)
4. Review/discuss any proposed Legislation/Rules changes that affect Championship Committee (Articles 103/104)
5. NQT's
 - A. Enforcement
 - B. 80-84 age group
 - C. Distance vs Sprint

Friday (8:00-9:30am)

1. 2020 Spring National Championship Bids
2. Nationals procedures/activities:
 - A. Deck Seeding
 - a. Online check-in system (scratches, confirmation)
 - b. Time savings
 - B. Sixth Event refunds
 - C. Award Presentations at Nationals
 - D. Meet Programs
 - E. Relays
 - a. Administrative DQs
 - b. Online entries
 - F. Warm-up periods
 - a. "Salmon run" sprint lanes - need plan in advance
 - b. Final 30 minute session
3. Goals/Tasks for 2019
 - A. Potential Rules Proposals to remove items from 104 and shift to policy
 - B. USMS 50th Anniversary/2020 Nationals
 - C. NQT policy

Coaches

Committee Members

Bob Jennings, Chair; Kenny Brisbin, Vice Chair

Scott Bay, Patrick Brenan, Chris Campbell, David Clark, Doug Fetchen, Dean Hawks, Terry Heggy, Christine Maki, Jennifer Masqueliert, Erin Matthews, Crystie McGrail, Chris McPherson, Helen Naylor, Kerry O'Brien, Tim Waud, Steve Weatherman

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, Marianne Groening, Skip Thompson

Introduction

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

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. 2019 FINA World Masters Championships in Gwangju, South Korea (August 5 to 18, 2019). The subcommittee has created a list of Coaching/Team Managers Responsibilities for prior to, during, and following the event. An application for coaches to apply for the games has been created. There have been discussions with past coaches of World Championships, an individual that lived in South Korea, and a delegation from the South Korea meet committee
2. High Performance Camp – Greensboro, North Carolina, August 25 to 30, 2018
3. National Coaching Clinic – College Park, Maryland, October 18 to 21, 2018. The selection of coaches/instructors, programs, venue section, and meals was a joint effort with the National office and the coaches committee.
4. Certification/Coaches Education – Coaches Certification for Levels 1, 2, and 3 as well as the Coaching Clinics were very successful this year.
5. Awards – A subcommittee reviewed and selected the winners from the nominations for the Kerry O'Brien Award and Coach of the Year.
6. LMSC Communication – Committee meeting minutes have been sent out to LMSC Coaches Chairs.
7. Coaching Mentor - A subcommittee was created to begin the process of creating a Mentor program for USMS coaches.
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 to supervise warm up sessions at Spring Nationals and the Pan American Games. Sign Up Genius was also used for coaches to sign up for morning workouts at convention.
10. Level 4 Coaching Certification – A subcommittee worked with the applicants and selected the 2018 Level 4 coaches

USMS Committee Reports and Agendas

Action Items

1. Conduct the 2018 National Coaching Clinic in October.
2. Continue to plan for the 2019 FINA World Masters Championship in South Korea
3. Continue to provide Web Workouts and On Deck Coaching for warm ups at Spring and Summer nationals

Agenda

4. Welcome
5. Introduce committee
6. Review of 2017/2018
7. Subcommittee Summaries (Awards, Certification, Level 4 Coaching, High Performance Camp, LMSC Communications, 2018 National Coaching Clinic, 2019 FINA world Masters Championship, On Deck Coaching, and Web Workouts.

History and Archives

Committee Members

Barbara Dunbar, Chair; Meegan Wilson, Vice Chair

Maryanne Barkley, John Bauman, Marcia Benjamin, Kirk Clear, Betsy Durrant, Kathy Gallagher, Anna Lea Matysek, Gail Roper, Jayne Saint-Amour, Rick Schumacher, Sandy Thatcher

Ex-Officio: Christopher Colburn (EC), Jessica Porter, Onshalee Promchitmart

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 the efforts and accomplishments since last convention and for working many, many volunteer hours.

History and Archives Active Projects and Progress

1. The Top 10 Publication project (locate, scan, OCR convert, and post all Masters Top 10 lists, booklets, publications, and errata) is nearly completed. More legible copies of Top 10 publications will be posted at <http://www.usms.org/content/top10print>.
2. H&A is locating, scanning, and converting Open Water and Long Distance National Championship 1974-1997 results for posting onto the USMS website as was done for pool National Championship results. Long Distance and Open Water National Championship results from 1998 onward are posted on the USMS website and are being reviewed. Link problems have been reported and missing results are being located, scanned, and posted. Donn Livoni, Long Distance Committee, sent LD and OW documents to H&A. These are being examined, indexed, scanned, and archived.
3. In April, H&A Vice Chair Meegan Wilson created “History and Archiving 101, A Guide to Preserving USMS History” which lists basic guidelines; archiving problems (mold, insects, rodents, temperature, humidity, and light) and solutions; procedures for handling, preserving, and archiving documents; and more.
4. USMS current and former members with multiple permanent Swimmer IDs have been located and reported to the National Office so that the IDs can be merged into a single ID for the swimmer. Issues with the format of newly assigned permanent IDs and confusion resulting from the use of previously prohibited letters are being discussed amongst the National Swims coordinator, Records and Tabulations, History and Archives, Registration, and the National Office.
5. In February 2018, H&A reported navigation problems on the Swimmer Stories page in which titles for some stories were not viewable and did not appear until the columns on the page were sorted. The problems remain to be corrected.
6. Posted Swimmer Stories were proofed but need to be re-checked due to link problems following the USMS website update. Some swimmer stories have been updated.

USMS Committee Reports and Agendas

7. Relay Top 10s are being converted for upload to the USMS Top 10 Relay database by Mary Beth Windrath and Walt Reid. Mary Beth and Walt finished converting the 1993 and 1994 LCM Top 10 Relays, and Mary Beth added them to the USMS Top 10 Relay database. Remaining to be done are the 1971-1987 SCY Relays, 1972-1992 LCM Relays, and 1986-1997 SCM Relays. For Relay Top 10s prior to 1988, a digital file in the proper format needs to be created from paper copies.
8. Following the April 2 USMS website update, problems were noted with missing documents, bad links, and other issues and are being reported. In some cases, replacement documents have been located and provided for upload.
9. Committee members have made more progress on the project to locate missing National Record chronology dates. Committee members and USMS members are now able to search the posted *Swim-Masters* for some missing National Record dates.
10. Convention documents (minutes, agendas, etc.) continue to be located and are being scanned and posted onto the USMS website (at <https://www.usms.org/admin/conv/>).
11. The final phase of the project to scan, OCR convert, and post all 181 *Swim-Masters* includes locating more legible copies of some *Swim-Masters* posted on the USMS website at <http://www.usms.org/content/swimmaster>. A complete index of *Swim-Master* content was created, posted, and is in the process of being re-checked.
12. Following research and verification, additional Olympians and/or Olympic event information have been added to the “Olympians who are USMS members” list at <http://www.usms.org/hist/oly/>.
13. The USMS registration database is updated as deceased members and dates of death are identified or as Top 10 swimmers are identified and assigned a permanent ID.
14. Copies of missing USAS convention booklet covers were located and scanned.
15. A correction to information listed in the *Swimmer Magazine* article about John Spannuth was sent to the editor.
16. Some old ASCA Newsletters and other historical documents that were sent to the History and Archives committee were forwarded to John Leonard at the American Swimming Coaches Association in November 2017.
17. Fact-checking, old registration file conversion, identifying swimmers on the 1970-1992 USMS Top 10 lists without assigned IDs, and other H&A projects continue.
18. Continuing H&A projects include fact-checking, conversion of old registration files, and identification of 1970-1992 USMS Top 10 list swimmers without assigned IDs.

Action Items

1. Reevaluate and prioritize various History and Archives committee projects

Agenda - Thursday, September 27, 2018, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

1. Call History and Archives Meeting to Order.
2. Roll Call – Committee members and ex officio.
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. Other
8. Adjourn

Fitness Education

Committee Members

Mary Jurey, Chair; Brian Cummings, Vice Chair

Stacy Broncucia, Brigid Bunch, Anita Cole, Kelly Davis, Stephanie Gauzens, Karen Gernert, Fares Ksebati, Ann Marshfield, Andy Seibt, Frank “Skip Thompson (EC), Lisa Ward, Lisa Watson, Karin Wegner, Ken Winterberger

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, Kyle Deery, Casey Keiber

Introduction

This year’s Fitness Education’s primary focus was on the roll out, implementation and promotion of the new Fitness Challenge Series. Since these were new events, most of our discussion was based on how to encourage participation and then reviewing results to see how we could improve.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Winter Fitness Challenge (Half Hour Swim)
2. Summer Fitness Challenge (2K Swim)
3. Fall Fitness Challenge (One Mile Swim)

Action Items

1. Effectiveness and ease of sign-up for Series
2. Social Media promotion for each series
3. Fund raising component
4. Measuring success
5. Learning from the first time
6. Fun component and how to encourage

Agenda

1. Intro – outline rollout of Fitness Series
2. Details of participation, fundraising results
3. How to better market the Summer and Fall Challenges
4. What made the Winter Challenge/Half Hour Swim successful
5. Brief outline of other Fitness Initiatives
6. Wrap-up, What the future brings!

Legislation

Committee Members

Richard Garza, Chair; Meg Smath, Vice Chair

Brian Albright, Chris Barta, Joan Campbell, Rob Copeland, Heather Hagadorn, Bruce Hopson, Michelle Jacobs-Brown, Leo Letendre, Jane Moore, Steve Peterson, Erin Sullivan, Dan Wegner, Patrick Weiss, and Kris Wingenroth.

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

Introduction

The Legislation Committee is responsible for proposed changes to the Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2, Part 4, Part 5, and Part 6 of the USMS Code and Regulations (601.1.1). It's our job to report on such proposals and provide a recommendation to the House of Delegates. Since the 2017 Convention, the committee chair position was filled by Richard Garza, and the committee was left with two objectives for 2018: take a close look at Part 2 and Article 508.2.

Discussions and Projects Since Convention

1. The committee was asked to provide its recommendations for proposals prior to the HOD packet distribution. The committee agreed to do its best.
2. The committee provided two interpretations relating to convention organization and sanction requirements.
3. A sub-committee was formed to go through Part 2 with a fine-toothed comb and present proposals to the rest of the committee.
4. A total of 66 proposals were submitted.
5. A sense of the committee on each proposal was gathered after the June 10th deadline using Google Forms. This was used to determine the best course for discussion.
6. In July, the committee had a conference call on 5 different occasions to discuss and vote on the proposals.

Action Items

Consider and recommend proposed changes to the Glossary, Part 2, Part 4, Part 5, and Part 6 of the USMS Rule Book to the House of Delegates.

Agenda- Legislation Committee Meeting #1 – Thursday, September 27

1. Approval of minutes from the previous legislation committee conference call.
2. Consider comments and motions from delegates.
If you have questions or concerns and would like to discuss them with the committee, this is the time and place to do so.

Agenda- House of Delegates Forum – Thursday, September 27

1. Open forum to hear comments from convention delegates on rules, legislation, and long distance proposals before the House of Delegates.

Agenda- Legislation Committee Meeting #2 – Friday, September 28

1. Consider comments from delegates and motions for reconsideration as needed.
2. Consideration of new business.

LMSC Development

Committee Members

Michael Moore, Chair; Tim Lecrone, Vice Chair

Stacy Abrams, Marcia Anziano, Lisa Brown, Michael Carlson, Linda Chapman, Jerry Clark, Sally Dillon, Mollie Grover, Sally Guthrie, Mary Hull, Andrew Le Vasseur, Hugh Moore, Bruce Rollins, CJ Rushman, Ed Saltzman

Ex-Officio: Chris Colburn, VPLO

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:

1. Peer-to-peer tele-conferences for interactive discussion of issues
2. Outreach and mentoring through the zone chairs
3. Educational seminars and workshops on selected topics
4. 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. The full results will be discussed at the LMSC Standards:
 - a. The results were given to the Vice President of Local Operations Chris Colburn. There were twenty-three LMSCs that achieved full compliance with all mandatory Standards. There were ten LMSCs that met all LMSC standards. Overall, LMSCs did better in 2018 than in 2017. Chris partnered with the zone chairs to work through the remediation process with the LMSCs that did not achieve compliance with all mandatory standards.
2. Webinars – There was one webinar this year. Glenn Gruber gave a presentation on Ultra Short Race Pace Training. His presentation is linked on the US Masters Swimming website.
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 to move to the second 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: Annual Meetings, Officials, Treasurers, Fitness, Top Ten and Recorders, Open Water Referee, Awards and Treasures and planned over the summer are Coaches, and Communications. The sub-committee will be creating a document for p2p

leaders to help guide them in their Peer to Peer Presentation.

4. Workshops: The LMSC Development Committee works with the Executive Committee in planning workshops for convention. This year there are seven workshops that will be presented at convention.
5. 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, . . .” This year there were no requests for boundary changes.

Action Items

1. Reevaluate and prioritize various LMSC Development committee projects.

LMSC Development Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Approve July meeting minutes and/or review offline decisions
3. LMSC Standards survey and results
4. Define scope of LMSC Standards Performance Evaluation for 2019
5. Discuss recurring date/day for Peer to Peer Teleconferences
6. 2018 goals/objectives review & scoring
7. 2019 priorities
8. Review action items
9. Adjourn

Long Distance

Committee Members

Ali Hall, Chair; Phyllis Quinn, Vice Chair

Lorena Sims, Catherine Rust, Robin Smith, David Brancamp, Jim Davison, Matt Miller, Stephen Rouch, Sarah King; Laurie Hug, Alana Aubin, Bob Singer, Josie Palmerin and Jill Wright

Ex-Officio: Bob Bruce, Casey Keiber, Jay Eckert, David Miner

Introduction

The Long Distance Committee has had a productive 2018 working year and is in the process of bringing the OWNC season's events to a successful conclusion. Our membership and leadership are almost entirely new, and we have prioritized sharing accumulated wisdom to bring new members and working group leads rapidly up to proficiency, developing strong back-ups for each important task. We have worked well together as a Committee and collaborated effectively with the National Office toward our shared mission.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. We set and achieved goals of creating a strong bid process and posted bid FAQs for our 2020 Long Distance National Championship events; as of July 1, we have received qualifying bids for all but one event (2-mile Cable) and are currently cultivating potential hosts.
2. We collaborated with the National Office to create shared document folders, for all information and timelines related to the LDNC events.
3. The 2018 One Hour ePostal event, hosted by Indy Aquatics, had 1363 entrants.
4. The Middle Distance Open Water National Championship (OWNC), hosted by Reston Masters Swim Club, had 197 entrants.
5. The Sprint Distance OWNC, hosted by Saluki Masters, had 63 entrants.
6. The Long Distance OWNC, in Fire Island, hosted by Open Water Swim LLC, had 80 entrants.
7. The Oregon SWIMcation, a modified festival format, included 3 events over a 6-day period across Oregon.
8. The Ultra-Marathon OWNC, in Portland, Oregon, hosted by Portland Bridges, LLC, had 85 entrants.
9. The 2 Mile Cable OWNC, in Foster Lake, Oregon, hosted by Central Oregon Masters Aquatics, had 121 entrants.
10. The Marathon OWNC, at Applegate Lake, Oregon, hosted by Rogue Valley Masters, had 131 entrants.
11. With the Open Water Committee, and our ex-officio representative, Bob Bruce, the LDC considered and voted on 48 rules and legislation items. Those items have been forwarded to the National Office for HOD consideration
12. Preparations for the 2019 One Hour ePostal Swim (hosted by Central Illinois Masters) are begun. The liaison and back up are already working with the host and National Office for a successful event.
13. Other 2019 ePostal events are as follows:
 - 5k/10k (MEMO, Oakland CA)
 - 3000/6000 (Sawtooth Masters, Idaho)

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14. 2019 OWNC events are as follows:

- 6/1 Davis Aquatic Masters Middle Distance 2 mile Body of Water (BOW) Lake
- 6/15-16 Indy Aquatic Masters 2 mile Cable OWNC (and 1 mile non-champ sprint) BOW Lake
- 7/14 Oregon Masters, Portland Bridges Ultra Marathon Distance >9 mile BOW River
- 8/15-16 Kingdom Games/NEKOWSA , VT Willoughby Lake OWNC Festival, Sprint Distance and Long Distance, 1 mile and 5k (*) BOW Lake
- 9/22 KOWS/TNAQ Knoxville TN, Marathon Distance, 10k OWNC (and 1 mile non-champ fun swim) BOW River

15. The 2020 Bid Selection Working Group successfully attracted multiple timely, qualified bidders for available events, proposed and received unanimous approval for a slate of hosts to the LDC; the Working Group Lead has reached out to the awarded hosts to confirm their commitment.

The 2020 LD NC Events and Hosts are proposed as follows:

| EVENT | HOST or EVENT NAME | LOCATION | DATE(S) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| OHePostal | Tamalpais Masters | Virtual | 1/1-2/28 |
| 5/10K Postal | Southern Oregon Masters | Virtual | 5/15-9/15 |
| 3/6000 yd Postal | Palm Beach Masters | Virtual | 9/15-11/15 |
| Long Distance (5K) | Del Valle | Livermore CA | 13-Jun |
| Sprint Distance 1 mile | Semana Nautica Ocean Swims | Santa Barbara, CA | 27-Jun |
| Middle Distance 2 miles | Brogan OW Classic | Lake Erie, OH | 18-Jul |
| Ultra Marathon 10 mile | Kingdom Swim | Newport, VT | 25-Jul |
| 2 mile cable swim | Betsy/Terry Memorial Swims | Lake Placid, NY | 8-Aug |
| Marathon 10K | Lake George OWS | Hague, NY | 15-Aug |

(All OWNC course bodies of water aside from the Sprint Distance (ocean) are lakes.)

Agenda for Convention

1. Welcome and roll call; recognition of committee members
2. Approval of 7/29/18 meeting minutes
3. Reports from the chair (Ali), vice chair (Phyllis) and vice president (Donn); including recap of LDC accomplishments in 2018
4. Working groups – reports as needed
 - a. 2018 Rules/Legislation Updates – Bob B.
 - b. 2020 LD NC Hosts Announcement: Jill
 - c. NC Oversight Updates - Ali
 - d. 2019 OHeP: Central Illinois Masters
 - o Liaison: Lorena
 - o Back Up: Sarah

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5. Presentation and Discussion: Rules for All American and All Star Status; Jim, Laurie and Matt will lead
6. Presentation and Discussion: LD NC Bid Process; Jill, Matt and Ali will lead
7. Discussion: increasing participation and improving LD NC events; Ali and Phyllis will lead
8. Other business for the good of the order

Officials

Committee Members

Teri White, Chair; Herb Schwab, Vice Chair

Mike Abegg, Pat Baker, Virgil Chancy, Dave Coddington, Omar de Armas, Alina de Armas, Judy Gillies, Steven Goldman, Chris Lysinger

Ex-Officio: Donn Livoni-EC, Jim Holcomb-USA Swimming, Casey Keiber, Onshalee Promchitmart-USMS Staff

Introduction

The Officials Committee's purpose is to offer training and education opportunities for officials to ensure that USMS competitive meets are officiated to the highest standards.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Officials certification program – Referee certification finalized. Implementation 1/1/19. Continued to certify USMS Stroke & Turn and Starter officials. 113 total as of Aug 1.
2. National Championship meet support:
 - A. Helped Host recruit officials attending the SC National meet in Indianapolis (May). Thirty officials total worked the meet. Twelve traveling officials qualified for USMS Travel funds.
 - B. 2018 UANA Pan American Masters Championship meet in Orlando (August). An Over-Budget request successfully submitted to fund traveling Officials working majority of the meet (resulting in 12 of 14 total). Host provided hotel rooms, Committee to help with Travel costs for qualifying officials.
3. Submitted one Rules proposal, one modification to Appendix B for officials.
4. USMS Service Award for Officials implemented, first award recipient in 2018.
5. Continued review of USMS website content for officials.
6. Working with Open Water Committee on combining certifications onto one USMS Officials Certification card.

Action Items

1. Rules proposals approved by the committee and sent to the Rules Committee.
2. Referee certification program approved by Committee, implementation 1/1/2019.
3. Over-Budget request submitted to the Finance Chair.

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from last conference call
2. Update on USMS Officials Certification program
3. Update on USMS Service Award for Officials
4. Discuss potential goals/projects for the committee in 2019:
 - * Update on potential officials for 2019 FINA World Masters in Seoul, Korea
 - * Update officials resources on USMS site, revisions, deletions and new materials
 - * Identify any potential rule changes involving officials
 - * National Championship meet support for 2019
 - * Combined certification card with Open Water

Open Water

Committee Members

Bob Bruce, Chair; James Kennedy, Vice Chair

Denise Brown, Mia Erickson Stevens, Lynn Hazlewood, Jenny Hodges, Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Karen LeFebre, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Segal, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright (scribe), & Allison Ware.

Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Bill Brenner, Jay Eckert, Ali Hall, Casey Keiber, Donn Livoni, & David Miner.

Overview:

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

Discussion and Projects since the 2017 Convention:

- Open Water Development & Promotion: The OWC has a large committee working on this primary function. They have compiled a list of development & promotional topics and is now working on strategies to implement them. Work in this group has been slowed by the resignations of two key leaders of this project due to family emergencies.
- Rules & Legislation (jointly with the Long Distance Committee):
 - 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 with the consent of 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 before Convention.
 - At this point, The OWC has considered 44 rules proposals with much discussion, particularly on issues concerning safety. It has recommended 43 of those proposals to the LDC as written and/or amended. Although this seems like a lot of action, most proposals involve small adjustments or housekeeping matters.
- Open Water Guide to Operations:
 - The OWC continually updates the OWGTO (as charged under 301.2) on the USMS website as needed.
 - To make the OWGTO a more streamlined and user-friendly construct, the OWC Subcommittee overhauling the structure of the OWGTO. This is a major project, and it is progressing at a modest pace.
- Safety Education:
 - This subcommittee constantly reviews all matters involving safety at USMS open water events.
 - They continue to compile safety information from other agencies and groups involved with open water with an eye to insuring that the OWC & USMS maintain the overall standard of care for safety.
- Officials:

- Safety Director: In 2016 & 2017, the OWC 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 training and testing program continues, run by USMS Safety Compliance officer David Miner as a part of the sanction process. It has proven to be quite successful in raising awareness of USMS rules & safety standards and in better safety director performance at race venues.
- Referee: In 2017 & this year, the OWC has developed and implemented a PowerPoint training program and subsequent test, required for prospective event referees; successful completion of both items results in certification to perform the role of Safety Director at USMS-sanctioned swims. This is a major step in standardizing best referee practices across the country and providing safer & fairer swims for our membership. It is too soon for effective evaluation.
- Event Director: The OWC continues to develop this comprehensive training, a portion of which was piloted at the 2015 Convention. To reach more event directors across the nation, we have decided to use the PowerPoint training model rather than a meeting mode for this training; this will save USMS substantially when we implement this training.
- Other officials: The OWC is developing descriptions for officials other than the “big three” listed above. This document is in first draft phase.
- Event management: This year, the OWC is preparing material for seamless presentation of events and to develop the training a course on event development & management for Event Hosts/Event Directors (see above). This is another large project, and the primary document is in first draft phase.
- Awards: The OWC has advertised for nominees for the Open Water Service Award, its annual major award, has received several nominations so far, and is now in the selection process.
- Open Water Swim Training: This subcommittee is developing guidelines and materials for coaches to prepare swimmers for open water swims. There has been good discussion and an outline for materials, but no draft yet.
- Budget: Other than the expense of committee calls, the OWC has not incurred any expenses.

Succession: Last fall, I announced my intention to retire from the position of OWC Chair, effective after Convention this year. Personally, I prefer to devote my time to working on projects rather than serving as ringmaster. The committee faces the question of planned succession.

Agenda for the OWC Meeting at the USAS Convention

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

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- e) Safety & sanction update
- 3. Open discussion: Development & promotion of open water events for 2019.
- 4. Other/New Business
- 5. Closing

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Ray Novitske, Chair; Megan Lassen, Vice Chair

Charis Anderson-McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Carolyn Boak, Rich Burns, Chris Campbell, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Cathy Hallman-Kenner, Linda Irish Bostic, Lori Payne, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val,

Ex-Officio: Jessica Porter, Onshalee Promchitmart, Chris Colburn (EC)

Introduction

The Recognition and Awards Committee oversees all US Masters Swimming volunteer service awards, even though some awards are selected by other committees. The committee receives nominations and selects recipients for the Ransom J. Arthur MD, Dorothy Donnelly Service, June Krauser Communications, and the Club of the Year awards. The committee membership includes representation from past Ransom J. Arthur Award recipients, and several representatives from other committees that present national service awards.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee held conference calls in December, May and plans for one in August/September prior to the annual convention. These minutes are posted on the USMS website.
2. The 2018 Captain Ransom J. Arthur MD Award was presented to Ed Tsuzuki of New Jersey LMSC. Ed was presented with the award by some of his fellow New Jersey LMSC volunteers. Past USMS President Nadine Day skyped in to the gathering to offer congratulations. A new voting system was successfully used this year that required the voters to rank the nominees, eliminating the need for a second ballot. The presentation at the Spring National Meet took place on deck before relay races.
3. Committee Service Awards
 - a. The committee received 22 nominations for up to 15 recognized awards for, representing an increase over last year.
 - b. The committee received five nominations for the two Club of the Year Awards.
 - c. The committee received two nominations for the June Krauser Communications Award, a decrease from last year.
4. The committee continued its promotion of local service recognition.
 - a. A subcommittee prepared press releases/announcements for 2017 recipients of the Dorothy Donnelly Service, Club of the Year, and June Krauser Communications awards and sent them out to the recipients' LMSC webmasters and newsletter editors.
 - b. Two contacts to all LMSC leaders were performed during the year to remind them of local merchandise available in the USMS Volunteer Recognition Store online, and to offer assistance in setting up local service awards if none existed.
 - c. A Peer to Peer Teleconference on Recognition and Awards at the Local Level was held on July 10 by the LMSC Development Committee with participation from our

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committee. The Volunteer Recognition Store, methods for recognizing local volunteer, and types of volunteers were discussed during the call.

5. Due to the increasing number of nominations for service awards over the past few years, the committee did not spend as much energy on promoting the national services awards this year.
 - a. A reminder of deadlines was placed in SWIMMER magazine as well as Streamlines.
 - d. Reminders of service award nomination deadlines were sent to all LMSC chairs.
 - e. Plans are underway to again prepare press releases for 2018 recipients after the convention presentation and to send them out to their local LMSC and media outlets.
6. The committee resubmitted a nomination of Walt Reid to the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame as Honor Contributor. This year we are happy to report the Walt was selected and will be inducted into the Hall during the induction ceremony at the annual USMS Convention.
7. The new Officials Excellence Award was promoted and nomination materials uploaded to the awards page.
8. IMSHOF contacted the USMS National Office for reviewing induction requirements and service recognition. The NO in turn passed along the information to our committee. A subcommittee was formed of interested individuals to work with IMSHOF outside of our committee.

Action Items

None

Agenda

1. Chair's Report
2. Budget review for past year and for 2019
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 2018 projects
 - a. Recognition at the local level
 - b. International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame
 - c. USMS website awards pages
 - d. Peer to Peer Teleconference
5. New Business
 - a. Review of service award nomination forms and materials

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

Jeanne Seidler, Chair; MJ Caswell, Vice Chair

Kathrine Casey, Stacey Eicks, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Erin Moro, Walt Reid, Mary Sweat, Kim Thornton

Ex-Officio: Steve Hall (USMS Office), Casey Keiber (USMS Office), Jessica Porter (USMS Office), Mary Beth Windrath (National Swims Administrator-USMS Office)

EC: Chris Colburn (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 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 to use the Top 10 Tools for meet uploading to the Event Results Database.

The committee works closely with the USMS office 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 uploaded the list of Top 10 swims and All-Americans on the USMS website. Mary Sweat provided volunteer assistance for the Top 10 processing as she has done in the past.
2. Committee business was taken up during three conference calls and electronically through email and the secure 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) will be tested with a fill-in Adobe form option in 2019.
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 Excel spreadsheet version, but the project has no priority.

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5. In 2019, a request will be made to prioritize projects including a USMS record identification process in the Top 10 tools. This will be a discussion topic at the meeting at Convention.
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 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. With the rollout of the new website, the “Contact Us” webpage changed such that the RT Chair and also the Top 10/Records e-mails are no longer listed. That really cut down the volume of inquiries made to this committee by USMS members.
7. On April 11th, a Peer-to-Peer session for Top 10 Recorders was facilitated by the RT Committee. Feedback from the participants was very positive. We would consider the possibility of facilitating a session in 2019 and will discuss further during the RT meeting at Convention.
8. With the rollout of the new USMS website, several issues occurred in the Top 10 Tools and the Records display sections. The RT Knowledge Center access was removed. Items have been fixed. On the USMS calendar, there is a discussion topic noted on the 2018 Convention Agenda for this concern for the RT Committee. Shortly after the rollout, we issued an e-mail to all the Top 10 Recorders advising them of the problems and recommended alternatives until the problems were corrected.
9. One Proposal has been submitted to the BOD to add a form to Appendix B of the Rule Book. The form supports the requirement in 202.2 of the Rule Book pertaining to the USMS observer at recognized meets. The observer must verify “... in writing that the conduct of the competition conforms to the relevant USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations.” This form provides the checklist and a signature space for the USMS observer.
10. In the May conference call, Kyle Deery presented the essential elements of the new College Club swimming initiative. The committee gave feedback and pointed out areas for concern. On the same topic, Jeanne met with Dawson at the USMS Spring Nationals to discuss College Club swimming prior to the RT Committee meeting.

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. Briefly discuss remaining projects in E2EEM.
4. Summarize Appendix B form proposed for the 2019 Rule Book.
5. Open Discussion on RT projects for 2018-2019, potential rules, legislation or policy changes for 2019 Convention. A new request will be made to prioritize any proposals including a USMS record identification process in the Top 10 tools. Emphasis will also

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be on the priority for the pool measurement database to replace the spreadsheet currently maintained and published once per month.

6. Open Feedback Session ... members and audience are invited to discuss the topic of supporting needs of Top Ten Recorders on the LMSC level. (e.g., items like access to sanction system information and access to historical calendar entries) Items/topics may be brought up from the floor.

Registration

Committee Members

Susan Ehringer, Chair; Marcia Anziano, Vice Chair

Diann Bauer, Douglas Handler, Tim Lecrone, Christine Ottati, Chris Powers, George Simon, Kim Thornton, Diana Triana, Jill Wright

Introduction

The most important business that the Registration Committee did in 2018 was to determine the necessity of the committee. A survey was completed by the committee members and the results were discussed. The committee determined the need for the committee to continue to exist.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The committee participated in a survey. Highlights of results:
 - a. The committee should be responsible for developing procedures for registering members
 - b. The committee should be responsible for advising the Board of Directors on registration policies
 - c. The committee should be responsible for assisting LMSC registrars
 - d. The committee should be responsible for communicating current policies and procedures to LMSC registrars
 - e. Identified other duties and tasks the committee can be responsible for adding value to U.S. Masters Swimming
 - f. The committee agreed that the Membership Value is the most important U.S. Masters Strategy to support
 - g. The most performed duties performed as a Registrar are:
 - i. Answering various questions
 - ii. Printing cards
 - iii. Registering and transferring members and clubs
 - h. Identified the most important duties performed as a Registrar are:
 - i. Answering questions
 - ii. Mailing cards
 - iii. Transferring members
 - i. Identified as Registrars or Member Services Coordinators
2. Recommend support to give and receive from National Office by continued discussion of printing cards and launch of the new website by providing feedback about registration site issues.
3. Recommended the proposal by National Office of Printing of Cards

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4. Recommended the proposal by National office of the new College Club/USMS Bridge Membership

Action Items

1. Revise description in Rule Book
2. Submit necessary Legislation/Rules
3. Review LMSC Standards concerning Registrars
4. Provide education/support with a group of mentor registrars and support with Peer to Peer calls for Registrars.

Convention Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Chair Report
2. Future ideas
3. Discussion of Registrar issues
4. New Business

Rules

Committee Members

Charles Cockrell, Chair; Mollie Grover and Claire Letendre, Vice Chairs; Christina Fox, Secretary Carolyn Boak, Kathy Casey, Julie Dussliere, Marilyn Fink, Judy Gillies, Laura Groselle, Karen Harris, Matt Hooper, Barbara Protzman, Bob Seagraves, Jessica Seaton, Steve Unruh, Rand Vaillancourt.

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, Richard Garza, Peter Guadagni, Jessica Porter, Jay Thomas, and Teri White

Introduction

Since the 2017 Convention, the rules committee has been reviewing specific sections of the part one rules based on issues identified from proofreading the 2018 rule book, questions received from USMS members, situations arising at USMS sanctioned meets, and rules changes from USA Swimming. 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 updated guidelines for officials to cover interpretations of Article 107, Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with Disabilities. The updated guidelines are available on the USMS website under the rules committee policies.
2. The chair issued an interpretation regarding the use of prohibited devices in competition that impact speed, space, buoyancy, or endurance. As a local option, meet referees may permit swimmers to use such devices if this is the only way to facilitate participation in competition with the swimmer being disqualified.
3. The chair considered a protest of interpretation of part one rules dealing with acceptance of a USMS record application using watch times from a tertiary backup system due to failures of the primary automatic and secondary semiautomatic system.
4. The chair assisted the Officials Committee Chair with an update to the list of briefing points for officials for use at national championship and other sanctioned USMS meets.
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 2018.
7. The committee reviewed article 104, National Championship Rules, for potential amendments and reviewed the requirements for meet announcements to check for consistency between part one and part two requirements.
8. 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.
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) and submitted a proposed extensive format change for enhanced readability and clarity.
10. The chair answered numerous questions received from USMS members throughout the year and continued to maintain 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, including proposed amendments to USA Swimming rules that affect USMS rules.
2. Ongoing project to compile and review previous situations and resolutions.

Agenda – Rules Committee Meeting #1 – Thursday, September 27

1. Approval of minutes from rules committee conference calls.
2. Consideration of a motion to authorize the chair to interpret part one rules in between meetings of the rules committee.
3. Consider comments from delegates and motions for reconsideration as needed on the following proposals: R-4 (Relay Age Groups); R-6 (Transgender Athlete Eligibility); R-8 (Use of Cameras and Video Equipment)

Agenda – House of Delegates Forum – Thursday, September 27

Open forum to hear comments from convention delegates on rules, legislation, and long distance proposals before the House of Delegates. While comments are invited on any proposals, comments will be solicited on proposals discussed at rules meeting #1 as well as R-11 (timing system requirements for USMS records).

Agenda – Rules Committee Meeting #2 – Friday, September 28

1. Consider comments from delegates and motions for reconsideration as needed on the following proposal: R-11 (timing system requirements for USMS records).
2. Discussion of Appendix B updates, Rules Committee Blog, National Championship Liaisons, and other current projects.
3. Discussion of additional projects for 2019.

Agenda – Rules Committee Meeting #3 – Friday, September 29

1. Consider comments from delegates and motions for reconsideration as needed on any additional proposals, including article 104 proposals.
2. Discussion on approach to article 104 with Championship Committee.
3. Consideration of new business.

Agenda – Rules Committee Meeting #4 – Saturday, September 30

1. Consider any additional actions needed for the USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules.

Sports Medicine and Science

Committee Members

Meg Carlson, Chair; Clare Kubiack, Vice Chair

Jim Miller, Jane Moore, Jim Izzi, Sally Guthrie, Jessica Seaton, Arlette Godges, Melodee Nugent, Carlos Rodriguez, Eddie Tiozzo, Robin Tracy

Ex-Officio: Daniel Pauling

Introduction

Sports Medicine and Science Committee met 5 times this year.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Sports Medicine Blog – Jessica Seaton is the major poster to the SMS blog. We are continually looking for new topics that may be of interest to USMS members.
2. Spring Nationals Sports Medicine Booth – Due to Pan Ams we only did a booth for Spring Nationals. SMS Committee member Carlos Rodriguez created a video demonstrating “animal locomotion” a form of dry land requiring no equipment and only a small space. Carlos was also on hand in person to answer questions and given insight on the video. The video was played on a loop most of the weekend and USMS participants were able to leave their email address if they wanted a copy of the video sent to them.
3. Pregnancy elite athlete research proposal – We were approached by Dr. Ben Kogutt, from John Hopkins asking for feedback on a research survey being created titled:

“Survey of Current Experience regarding Elite and Vigorous Recreational Exercise in Pregnant Athletes”

Our committee was given the opportunity to review the survey and provide feedback. Dr. Kogutt was waiting on IRB approval before proceeding with dispersing the survey to USMS athletes. We have followed up with Dr. Kogutt but have not received a response to date.

4. USAS presentation preparation – Dr. Tanaka will be returning
 - Description: presenting his research on a variety of topics surrounding Masters swimming, including swim performance, aging, training preparations, and health benefits.

Action Items

1. None

Agenda

1. Review of previous year projects listed above.
2. Discussion for future projects, vision for 2019