6 USMS R&A Committee Meeting Notes 7-19-26, 7:30 PM ET
2026 Recognition & Awards Committee US Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards July 19, 2026 Meeting
Committee Chair: Tara Mack "TMack" Vice Chair: Caitlin Gagnon
Minutes recorded by: TMack & Zoom AI Meeting Date/Time: 7/19/2026; 7:30pm ET

Actions Taken: Subcommittee Reports

Number of committee members present: 12 **Absent:** 3 **Guests:** 0

Committee Members Present: Tara Mack "TMack" (Chair); Caitlin Gagnon (Vice Chair); Rich Burns; Hill Carrow; Sara Dunn; Hayley Martin; Jane Moore; Michael Moore; Nancy Ridout; Crystie McGrail (VPLO); Ann Marshfield; Dan Underbrink

Committee Members Absent:
Emily Cook; Beth Nymeyer; Daniel Paulling (Ex-Officio)

Guests: n/a

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm ET. Meeting agenda here

1 Welcome: "Roll Call": TMack recorded attendance automatically.

2 VPLO Report, Crystie: Crystie reported the Streamlines July 2026 edition has been released and encouraged us to look it over. It has leadership notes and summaries in it. The BOD met for their summer meeting and updates have been and will continue to be forthcoming. Zone calls are available and all are encouraged and invited to join. Be sure to get the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Relay onto our schedules as they pertain to us.

3 May Minutes were previously approved. No June meeting as we worked on our subcommittees. Thank you

4 Awards **update** and subcommittee **needs** (if any). NOTE: We are not discussing recipients, just status of subcommittees and if any additional assistance is needed. Thank you! a RJA= Michael sent out the nomination packets earlier this week and will share the voting links this week. He thanked Hill and Sally Dillon, past R&A member, for their efforts to the nomination packets, and reminded everyone to vote for all three (that is the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice recipients)

b June Krauser Communications= Nancy updated that 3 of the 4 subcommittee members had shared their feedback which was enough to determine the recipient. Hayley shared that she is the 4th and agrees with the selection.

c Club of the Year (COYA)= This subcommittee needed additional members and this was coordinated this week/weekend. The information has been and will be sent out to all of the subcommittee members by tomorrow and they will have their selection to TMack as soon as possible. Ideally by the end of this week. Sara and Beth are leading this subcommittee together.

d Fitness= Jane updated that the subcommittee has selected a worthy recipient. Ann and Emily served on this subcommittee as well. Thank you all.

e DDSA= TMack updated: we received 24 nominations- and highlighted that Caitlin's efforts and those of the R&A committee who were able to send reminder emails clearly had an impact! The subcommittee can put 15 nominations forward as per the frameworks. There were 13 selected as there became a clear line of delineation through the voting methods of the subcommittee. Hill requested the recipient info to begin work on his poems. TMack said she will get the table summaries and the selected nomination recipients information packets to Hill so he can have ample information to create his clever poems. Hill asked who is doing the video and Caitlin said she will do it again this year. Thank you Hill & Caitlin!

Hill wondered about the video and if the Annual meeting is virtual this year. TMack and Crystie confirmed that it is virtual and that 2 of the awards are presented in person. Hill reminded us about the idea of having more in person awards at in person events. This is something to be discussed in the near future.

Caitlin is focused on having the video completed by September 12th. Sara mentioned we could have a 'watch party' as a committee meeting. Fun! TMack noted that we do keep the recipients under wraps until the annual meeting. (Not to be a party pooper!)

5 Awards 'issues': Please compile a list of any specific issues you experienced if you sent in nominations. I had some "work throughs" as the recipient of the Jot Forms and have a list of items to have sorted out for next year. Nancy shared a challenge she had as a nominator and TMack asked her and the committee to make lists that indicate challenges or glitches that were noted either as a subcommittee member or a nominator or both. All agreed. This can be done over the next month or two as it is fresh and we can utilize a later in the year meeting to request updates through the national office to JotForm.

Hayley asked if we ever receive more than 1000 nominations in any given year. It was unanimously agreed that we do not. Hayley mentioned there may be an alternative option (to JotForm) and TMack mentioned we could table that for now and certainly look at that at a later month meeting as well.

Caitlin mentioned one of the COTY video links was glitchy. Hayley asked if it was Texas. It was.

That has been addressed and updated. Sara asked to add someone to the COTY info email. Beth and TMack will confirm that process and make sure everyone on the subcommittee receives the info.

6 Bios=> TMack asked that subcommittee members write up bios for the USMS Page for each recipient as soon as possible. These are best done while the info is fresh in our minds. We have a template to follow and will link that here. Thank you! This will be the last focal point for subcommittee work for now. *Noted earlier in the discussion that these bios will also help Hill with his poems.

7 TMack thanked everyone for their work on these awards and the entire process this year! Rock star group to work with!

8 Other business

a TMack mentioned that the Committee Operating Guidelines need updating: specifically the date on RJA and process for the Fitness Award including defining that subcommittee and any additional details as the R&A took that award in a few years ago. We will also review all of our awards on this document and follow the proper process to update them. Tabled for now, but an upcoming meeting will be beneficial as it is fresh in our minds.

b Ann mentioned the chat information that Crystie shared regarding the annual meeting. We clarified the meeting date and time for the open committee zoom call. Discussion occurred regarding the time listed in “Sched” and Crystie mentioned it could possibly be changed. The committee said they may prefer it to be at 7:30 pm ET for continuity. Crystie will inquire and update us.

c TMack asked for any other business. There was none.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hill seconded.
Meeting Adjourned 7:59 pm ET.

Next Meeting is Sunday, August 16th, 7:30 pm ET *tentative time AND a unique link for this meeting as per the National Office. TMack will share this link with the committee and it can be found here as well.