

# **U.S. Masters Swimming Championship Committee Minutes – Mesa, AZ**

## **April 28, 2011**

### **Action Items:**

- MSA to allow the following two national meet hosts to place ads in the national meet program at no charge.
- MSA to discuss with the USMS Rules Committee the possibility for adopting the USA-S rules wording that would allow for a video timing system to be used.
- MSA to not allow exhibition swims at nationals.

=====

**Members Present:** Sandi Rousseau (Vice Chair), Jody Smith, Mark Moore, Ed Saltzman, Barry Fasbender, Jack Groselle, Tom Boak, Jim Clemmons, Jeff Strahota, Michael Heather (ex officio), Rob Butcher (ex officio)

**Guests Present:** Hannah Caldas (Sports Medicine and Science Committee), Don Gilchrist (2012 Greensboro Nationals Meet Director), Brian Ambuehl (Greensboro CVB), Kim Strable (Greensboro CVB), Josh Todd (Mesa, AZ CVB), Erin Shields (Mesa Nationals Meet Director), Rick Walker (Sarasota, FL), Steve Hogen (Mesa Facility Director)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Sandi Rousseau, Vice Chair.

**Introductions:** Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Championship Committee Conference Call minutes from March 20, 2011 were approved as distributed to committee members via the forum.

### **Meet Updates:**

- 2011 SC - Mesa: Jody introduced Erin Shields, Meet Director and Steve Hogen, Facilities Director, and Erin gave a brief overview of the ongoing nationals to date. The meet is going smoothly and ahead of timeline. There is a problem getting real time results online due to school security issues. They will continue to try to improve this, but Sandi will ask Jim Matysek to make people aware of the problem in the discussion forum. The Sports Medicine and Science Committee's presentation will take place during the meet with the topic of injury protection, and announcements will be made regarding time and location.
- 2011 LC – Auburn: A mailed report was received. Plans are going well with no unexpected problems. They have elected to use USMS to put the meet program together. There will be no open water event. The University is building a new building so meet parking will be impacted.
- 2012 SC - Greensboro: Don Gilchrist reported that the pool construction is on target and is scheduled to open July 2011. There will be several major events prior to USMS nationals. The meet referee, Joel Black, is here in Mesa for two days to observe and officiate. Two 10 lanes courses will be used for competition. Meet logo is near completion. Meet contract will be signed soon.

- 2012 LC – Omaha: Rob Butcher reported 600 rooms within 10 blocks of the pool have been reserved and hotel shuttles within this area are complimentary. Due to a change of plans for the Olympic team to leave the Qwest Center soon after the Trials, the facility and pool are available to USMS on Tuesday, July 3 and Wednesday, July 4. A possible IMSHOF presentation is being considered for Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for Trials will go on sale June 25, 2011. USMS would like to use the Omega video timing system. Cost to USMS would be for the 6 technicians and no more than has been budgeted for timers and hospitality for timers. USMS rules will not currently allow this, so this will need to be addressed.

#### **Potential Bidders for Nationals Championships:**

- 2013 Spring Nationals : IUPUI – Indianapolis, IN; Santa Clara, CA; Austin, TX
- 2013 Summer Nationals: Mission Viejo, CA; Gresham, OR (plans to withdraw if Mission Viejo bids);
- 2014 Summer Nationals: Iowa; Greenville, SC

**Conflict of Interest Policy:** Jim Clemmons read the proposed policy after comments received on the discussion forum. Further discussion resulted in many questions being asked as to whether this was too detailed, would it apply to the selection subcommittee only, etc. It was suggested to keep the policy general and consider any specific situations on a case by case basis. The policy was referred back to the subcommittee for a rewrite.

#### **Meet Program:**

- National office has produced a schedule for production of the meet program and timeline for submission of information. This is a service offered to meet hosts if they choose to use it. Mesa used it and Auburn plans to use it. The timeline will continue to be evaluated for accuracy.
- The *Swimmer* magazine article/meet info has historically been included in the meet program but much of the meet info is duplicated in the program in other places and the glossy attraction part of the article is not really necessary. It was agreed that the actual article from *Swimmer* may be eliminated in the future. However, the three column “rules” page information needs to be included.
- Payment for ads for future meet hosts was discussed. Historically every meet host had paid for an ad in the one or two prior meet programs, but it seems reasonable that we stop this practice and allow an ad from the next two national championships for no charge. Greensboro has already paid for an ad in the Mesa program but is agreeable that this practice be started with the Auburn meet. If an ad submission is not made by the host, USMS will submit an ad for the meet. **MSA to allow the following two national meet hosts to place ads in the national meet program at no charge.** Language to be added to the meet contract will be worked out on the forum.

**Nationals Entry Procedures:** There is a subcommittee working on a proposal for allowing relay only swimmers to enter after the individual meet entry deadline. It was decided that permitting seed time changes and/or events up until the individual entry deadline will also be considered by this subcommittee. It is acknowledged that changes to these entry processes may take considerable programming time. Kim Crouch was added to the subcommittee. Target date for implementation is Greensboro 2012.

**NQT Frequently Asked Questions:** There has been little comment on this on the forum but the committee does support continuing to develop this. All are encouraged to review this topic and provide comments.

**New Business:**

- Timing at Omaha Nationals: For USMS to utilize the Omega timing system that does not require timers on deck, a change to USMS Rules would need to be made. It may be as simple as adopting the wording from the USA-S rule book, but this would need to be accepted as an emergency rules proposal at convention. **MSA to discuss with the USMS Rules Committee the possibility for adopting the USA-S rules wording that would allow for a video timing system to be used.** Sandi will contact Kathy Casey. The committee also decided that if this was not accepted as an emergency rules proposal that we would pursue an 'exception' to the current rules in the HOD to allow for this system at the Omaha meet.  
Concern was also voiced about not having timers on deck to assist swimmers getting into the proper lanes without a ready room atmosphere. A possible solution included having volunteers on deck to ask swimmers' names for each heat, and there was agreement that this potential problem should be addressed.
- Exhibition Swims at Nationals: Mike Heather proposed this concept for exhibition swims to be allowed but to not count for team points. Discussion generally did not favor allowing for this under any circumstances. **MSA to not allow exhibition swims at nationals.**

**Announcements:** Rick Walker from Sarasota, Fl announced that Sarasota plans to submit a bid for the Masters Pan American Championships in early to mid June 2013. The Championship Committee has discussed this in the past and is supportive of a meet in early to mid June and will plan to schedule USMS national championship meets to not conflict.

**Next Meeting Date:** A potential next conference call meeting date was suggested by Jeff Roddin for Wed, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Several expressed that Sundays were in general better days to meet and some suggested that alternating Sundays and Wednesdays might be workable. Feedback will be given to Jeff.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Sandi Rousseau