

USMS Convention — Atlanta, Georgia 2016

Committee Name: Championship	Session #:2
Committee Chair: Jeff Roddin	Vice Chair: Kim Crouch
Minutes recorded by: Pete Tarnapoll	Date/time of meeting: 9/23/2016, 8:00am

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to update Championship Committee policy to change relay entry fees at Nationals from \$12 to \$16 per relay.

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: 4	Number of other delegates present: 43
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Jeff Roddin (Chair). Kim Crouch (Vice Chair), Jim Clemmons, Barry Fasbender, Don Gilchrist, Mark Moore, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll, Charlie Tupitza, Jillian Wilkins, Natalie Taylor		
Ex-Officio: Ed Tsuzuki.		
Committee Members Absent: Kyle Deery, Patty Nardozi, Paul Windrath, Donn Livoni		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

The Agenda for the meeting was presented by Jeff Roddin, as follows:

1. 2018/2019 National Championship Bids
 - A. Bid summary
 - B. 2018 Pan Ams
 - C. Selections
2. Nationals procedures/activities:
 - A. Meet Program
 - (1) Layout policy
 - (2) Hard copy alternatives
 - B. Past Financial Summaries (Bid Packet)
 - C. Automated Online Entry seed times
 - D. Relays
 - (1) Entry fees (fees vs award cost)
 - (2) Online entries
 - E. Meet Contracts
 - (1) Safety Marshals
 - (2) Officials
 - (3) Pre-event merchandise
 - (4) Blocks and backstroke ledges
3. Goals/Tasks for 2017
 - A. Potential Rules Proposals
 - B. USMS 50th Anniversary/2020 Nationals
 - C. Coaches registration

Committee members introduced themselves.

1. 2018/2019 National Championship Bids Discussion:
 - A. Ten bid packets were sent out for 2018 Nationals and the Championship Committee received 5 back.

- B. LCM Summer Nationals -- the USMS Board directed Championship Committee to fully support 2018 Pan Ams in Orlando when considering 2018 Summer Nationals bids. Committee made the unanimous decision to not award 2018 Summer Nationals at this time, so as not to conflict with Pan Ams (Pan Ams would be within a week of Summer Nationals and both bids received were primarily in same time zone). Additionally, both the Championship Committee and Orlando decided it was not in either's best interest to pursue combining 2018 Summer Nationals with 2018 Pan Ams. A concern of the USMS National Office about not awarding the 2018 Summer Nationals was being able to meet USMS's contractual requirements for national sponsors (exposure at two national championships per year). However, Pan Ams has agreed to give USMS's national sponsors that don't conflict with Orlando (host) exposure at 2018 Pan Ams, thereby alleviating those concerns. Additionally, Orlando stated they would permit 18-24 year old swimmers to compete in Pan Ams. They won't be eligible for Pan Am awards nor be eligible for relays (unless perhaps Exhibition), but their individual times would be USMS sanctioned. The USMS rule book (104.3.6) indicates that Nationals shall be awarded 1-3 years out, so the Championship Committee would still be able to award 2018 Summer Nationals during the next bid cycle, but as of this bid cycle we will not be awarding 2018 Summer Nationals. To be determined is how to address 104.1.2 which states the Championship Committee shall award 2018 Summer Nationals.
- C. Indianapolis has been awarded the 2018 Spring National Championship by the Championship Committee -- with type (25-yard or 25-meter) and length (4- or 5-day) of meet still to be determined.
1. Karen Gernert represented Indy and shared updates about the IUPUI facility and the addition of local hotels since the last time Indy hosted Nationals.
 2. There was discussion about creating a SCM National Championship or Festival later in 2018 as a result of no 2018 Summer Nationals, so at this time we will wait on making a decision about SCY or SCM for Indy until later. The plan is to make that decision by or at convention next year. Indy also proposed adding distance relays and a fifth day. The Order of Events is required to be published six months in advance of the meet, so these decisions will be made in the coming year.

2. Nationals Procedures/Activities Discussion:

A. Meet Program

1. Layout policy -- There currently are no policies that outline format/design for Championship programs. The Championship Committee will work with the National Office to create guidelines so there is consistency from meet-to-meet.
2. Hard Copy vs. Digital -- Discussion ensued relative to each alternative and the Championship Committee will continue to monitor based upon Championships survey data, etc.

B. Past Financial Summaries (Bid Packet) -- Are provided to bidders to help in developing their bids. However, the financial summaries only list overall revenue and overall expense (and the bottom line) but these can be misleading because no two nationals are the same. For instance, swimmers may pay the same fees to park at two different meets, but one may be profit to the host while the other is profit to the facility or other third party. Likewise for pool rental costs - some hosts have to pay a hefty fee to the facility, while the facility is the host for others. Going forward, the Championship Committee will provide actual P&L statements for all Nationals, beginning with 2010 Nationals.

C. Automated Online Entry seed times -- discussion occurred about how best to auto-populate seed times to help produce more accurate seed times. The Championship Committee will continue this discussion during future meetings.

D. Relays

1. Entry Fees -- discussion about while all relay entry fees go to the host, the actual cost of awards (medals and patches) vs revenue is out of balance. **MSA to update Championship Committee policy to change relay entry fees at Nationals from \$12 to \$16 per relay.** This policy will take effect beginning with 2017 Spring Nationals (Riverside).
2. Online entries -- Discussion ensued about offering online relay entries. It was agreed by the Championship Committee that a sub-committee would be created to define requirements to an online relay entry system. Charlie Tupitza, Kim Crouch and Don Gilchrist will comprise the sub-committee, with Charlie as chair.

E. Meet Contracts

1. Safety Marshals -- each host for 2016 had different experiences relative to providing volunteer marshals as per the rule book. It was agreed by the Championship Committee that a sub-committee would be created to reevaluate our requirements. Pete Tarnapoll, Natalie Taylor, Sandi Rousseau, and Jeff Strahota will comprise the sub-committee, with Sandi as chair.

2. Discussions occurred about assigning of meet and admin referees. Currently, those appointments are at the discretion of the host, which is expected to consult with the Officials Committee. The Championship Committee continues to feel this is the best approach.
3. Pre-event merchandise -- discussion about the options hosts have for pre-event merchandise orders. The Championship Committee will pursue expanding options for hosts to pre-sell merchandise (e.g. via the online entry process, on the USMS website, pre-event emails, etc.) to help hosts sell more merchandise and to make the process attractive to swimmers entering the meet.
4. Blocks and backstroke ledges -- Should we consider requiring the use of track start plates and backstroke ledges at Nationals? It was agreed that due to the potential cost ramifications to hosts for doing so the bid packets would only ask if potential hosts have fins/ledges and the Championship Committee could use that information as part of its evaluation during bid review, but it would not make it a requirement of bidders.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Potential Rules Proposals -- ongoing.
2. There will be continuing discussions about celebrating USMS 50th Anniversary as part of Nationals (or perhaps the 50th anniversary of Nationals, etc.) via branding and/or special location.
3. Championship Committee will consider ways to register coaches at Nationals as a way to help create an expectation for meet hosts and to provide value to coaches. It was agreed by the Championship Committee that a sub-committee would be created to explore this. Mark Moore, Jillian Wilkins and Jeff Strahota will comprise this sub-committee, with Mark as chair.
4. Review current financial model for contracts with hosts.
5. Address 104.1.2 and its implications with not awarding 2018 Summer Nationals.
6. The Championship Committee will continue the discussion implementing online relay entries
7. A sub-committee (Pete Tarnapoll, Natalie Taylor, Sandi Rousseau, and Jeff Strahota will comprise the sub-committee, with Sandi as chair) will evaluate the Safety Marshall requirements for Nationals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34AM.