

1999 USMS LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Items

- MSC** To purchase a two year supply of medals from Hasty Awards this year @ \$1.24 for 1st-3rd place and \$1.11 for 4th-10th.
- MSC** To change the National Championship contract (effective 2001) and require that the signed contract is due to the chairman by November 1 and the rough draft of the entry form, January 1.
- MSC** to lower the cost of medals to the championship hosts (effective 2001) to \$1.50 for 1st-3rd and \$1.30 for 4th-10th.
- MSC** LD-1 NEW p. 67 Long Distance
- 305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM-A USMS Long Distance All-Star Team shall be selected each calendar year from the official results of the USMS Long Distance National Championship events.
- .1 A swimmer shall earn points for a top ten finish in each Long Distance National Championship event in the following manner: 1st-22 points, 2nd-19 points, 3rd-17 points, 4th-16 points . . . 10th-10 points.
- .2 To be considered for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three events, of which one shall be an open water event and one shall be a postal event.
- .3 If a swimmer scores points in one age group and ages up to another age group in the course of a year, the points earned shall be transferred up to the new age group.
- .4 Ties shall be allowed.

Rationale: The selection of an All-Star Team has been done for four years and is being included in the committee description proposed by the Legislation Committee. The procedures are in the Long Distance Committee "policies" but also need to be included in the Long Distance Rules.

- MSC** Long Distance Committee advise LMSC's that they have the option of recognizing events when a sanction is inappropriate. The wording in the LMSC Handbook will need to be changed.

MINUTES

September 16 3:30-4:50 PM

Attendance

Number of committee members present: 11 Number of committee members absent: 2
Total number of delegates attending the meeting: 36

1. The committee members were introduced and asked to make corrections on a roster that was circulated.
2. Chairman's report:
Sally Dillon, commented on the 1998 and 1999 Long Distance National Championship Event summaries that were shared with the committee. The One Hour Postal Swim set a new record with 1838 swimmers. The One Mile Open Water (with about 170 swimmers) was smaller than expected for a Southern California event. The 5/10 K and 3000/6000 yd postals are not finished and the two Catalina swims will take place next weekend. Evaluators were selected for the 2000 National Championship events. A subcommittee (Lynn Hazlewood, Peter Crumbine, Robert Zeitner and Maureen Koss) will meet Friday at 8 AM to review the Open Water Manual. Sally thanked the committee for their participation via e-mail, snail mail and phone to handle the following committee business during the past year: The deadline for the One Hour Postal Swim was discussed at length and it was agreed that the deadline for entries should remain at 10 days after the last day of the swim. The entry form for 2000 will emphasize that USMS registration needs to be obtained in a timely manner so proof can accompany the entry. The 2000 event has been given permission to have the swim start in 1999 so teams can organize a Millinium swim that will conclude in 2000. The committee will discuss club scoring at it's meeting on Friday. A race host should include National Championship wording and have design appropriate for the event on t-shirts. Jim Wheeler will work on wording for the LD contract. A race director shall make the decision as to whether they

need a separate start or finish for wetsuit competitors. The All Star team was smaller in 1998 but the hope is that swimmers will make an effort to swim more events in order to make the team. Sally announced that a swimmer was disqualified in the One Hour Postal Swim this year and a swimmer withdrew their entry in the 6000 event last year. Both were due to erroneous times. She attended the USA Open Water committee meeting on Wednesday and they are going to use an adaptation of our rule on swim caps.

3. Subcommittee reports

Peter Crumbine reported that 4 events are complete for the All American and he has a copy available for people to see. Lynn Hazlewood reported that the Calendar and Bid forms went out on schedule in January. She gets fewer and fewer calendar forms back each year - most come via the internet. Lynn also reported that the Long Distance contract will now require that hosts provide "on line" entry forms and results. Robert Zeitner reported that some hosts are late with their order for medals and claim that they did not receive the necessary form. Sally explained what goes in the event director's packet and noted that they are checked for completeness but some directors have been known to lose them. Robert obtained written bids from 6 medal suppliers. It was MSC to purchase a two year supply of medals from Hasty Awards this year @ \$1.24 for 1st-3rd place and \$1.11 for 4th-10th. Other bids came from Hodges, Maxwell, Emblematics, Wilson, and Crown. Maureen Koss reported that she has the recording of records under control. Sally noted that we had experienced a few problems with corrections to the web site that Jim Matysek has resolved. Randy Nutt, Steve Schofield and Lynn reported on the progress they are making on the comparison of FINA, USA and USMS open water rules. It appears the relevant differences relate to wet suits. After much discussion, Randy, Steve, Ernie Leskovitz and Graham Johnson agreed to meet on Friday at 8 AM to discuss wet suits and full body suits and report back to the committee.

4. Discussion of USMS Championship events - non compliance of contract: Sally informed the committee that some of the event hosts are very late with their signed contracts and entry forms, in addition to the problems mentioned by Robert earlier. She has added a line to the contract to emphasize that two signatures are required and she will return contracts in the future that aren't filled out completely. The committee discussed the option of taking an event away from a host if they are severely delinquent with their contractual obligations. In an effort to get the paperwork taken care of properly, it was MSC to change the National Championship contract (effective 2001) and require that the signed contract is due to the chairman by November 1 and the rough draft of the entry form, January 1.

5. Discussion of recognition/sanction for Long Distance events: It has been suggested that the Long Distance committee encourage recognized open water swims to allow for more participation. After much discussion, it was decided that more information from the Insurance committee was required so the topic was tabled until Friday.

The meeting was "recessed" at 4:52 PM

MINUTES

September 17 9:00-10:20 AM

Attendance

Number of committee members present: 10

Number of committee members absent: 3

Total number of delegates attending the meeting: 28

6. Financial report/budget review: The proposed budget was approved. Due to the acceptance of a bid for medals that was significantly lower than our previous costs, it was MSC to lower the cost of medals to the championship hosts (effective 2001) to \$1.50 for 1st-3rd and \$1.30 for 4th-10th. It was suggested that we consider using a

larger medal for our previous cost but race directors present agreed that they would prefer our current medal at a lower cost.

7. Discussion of priorities/criteria for selection of National Postal Swim bids: Sally reviewed LDOG with respect to our policies for accepting bids. She expressed concern that we have awarded too many open water swims in one year to the same geographical regions.
8. 2001 Long Distance National Championship Bid Selection: Sixteen timely bids were presented for the 2001 events (no untimely bids were received) and hosts were selected as follows:

EVENT	HOST	LOCATION	DATE	OTHER BIDDERS
One Hour Postal	PNA	any pool	January	none
5/10 K Postal	Central Oregon	any 50 meter pool	May 15-Sept.	none
3000/6000 Postal	O*H*I*O Masters	any 25 yard pool	Sept./Oct.	Florida Mavericks, GRIN and Central Oregon
One Mile OW	Empire State	Atlantic Ocean New York City	July 14	Central Oregon
Two Mile Cable	Greater Indiana	Eagle Creek Res. Indianapolis, IN	June 23	none
1-3 Mile OW (2 miles)	Central Oregon	Elk Lake Bend, OR	August 4	Alameda Aquatics Sierra Nevada
3-6 Mile OW (5 K)	Florida Gold Coast	Atlantic Ocean Hollywood, FL	April 29	Clemson Aquatics
6+ Mile OW (6 miles)	Greater Indiana	Eagle Creek Res. Indianapolis, IN	tba	LaJolla Cove Swim Club

The meeting was recessed at 10:20 AM

MINUTES

September 17 12:00-112:45 PM

Attendance

Number of committee members present: 11 Number of committee members absent: 2
 Total number of delegates attending the meeting: 23

9. All Star rule proposal: The new legislative description of the Long Distance Committee includes a reference to the long distance All Star team. The committee felt the details of the All Star selection process should be included in our section of rules. It was MSC to propose to the House of Delegates the following new rule for Long Distance:
 LD-1 NEW p. 67 Long Distance
305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM-A USMS Long Distance All-Star Team shall be selected each calendar year from the official results of the USMS Long Distance National Championship events.
.1 A swimmer shall earn points for a top ten finish in each Long Distance National Championship event in the following manner: 1st-22 points, 2nd-19 points, 3rd-17 points, 4th-16 points . . . 10th-10 points.

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- 10. New Business:Barney Hungerford shared with the committee an issue of poor sportsmanship that was exhibited at the recent Maui Channel Swim. The committee suggested that the Hawaii LMSC make contact with the teams involved and the event director to express the displeasure of USMS over such behavior.The USMS Strategic Plan was discussed and the Long Distance Committee's contribution. A method of determining the growth of open water swimming was discussed and a letter and survey will be sent to LMSC's. The letter will include "facts" we think are overlooked such as:-Sanctioned events should recognize 5 year age groups; especially if awards are given.-How to become an All American or All Star.-Part 3 of USMS Rules covers Long Distance rules; at the very least, race directors should be given a photocopy of that section.-USA and USMS open water events can be run together.-The Open Water Manual is available through the National Office or the LD web site.The survey will seek information about growth for open water swims over the past 10-20 years for both men and women.Committee members will follow up with LMSC's and enlist Zone Reps to get the surveys returned.
- 5. Continued from Thursday: Sandy Blummit spoke to the committee about the coverage for recognized and sanctioned events. Apparently, if USMS recognizes an open water event, the USMS swimmers will be fully covered with liability and medical insurance. A non USMS host would not be covered. Subsequent discussion led the committee to MSC that the Long Distance Committee advise LMSC's that they have the option of recognizing events when a sanction is inappropriate. The wording in the LMSC Handbook will need to be changed.
- 11. Discussion of 301.2.3 regarding USS and USMS swimmers competing together in open water swims: Combining USA and USMS swimmers on an open water relay was discussed and Sandy advised us that it was not an insurance issue- but one for USMS and USA Swimming to determine. A subcommittee led by Randy Nutt and including Steve, Lynn, Alan Levinson, Dale Petranec and Dennis West was formed and they will report back before next convention with a rule if necessary. It was emphasized that our insurance carrier is not concerned if we conduct USA and USMS events at the same time as long as each is sanctioned as per our rules. Policies or rules we set are covered by our insurance.
- 12. Discussion of club scoring and rule proposal for 2000: A rule will be proposed in 2000 to describe the club scoring method for events other than the One Hour Postal swim. Up to four divisions will be recognized for men, women and mixed and the events will be scored to 10 places.
- 13. LMSC problems sanctioning open water swims. Committee members shared problems they see in their LMSCs. Pacific finds that sanctioning requirements are too stringent for some local events. Lynn has found that entry forms are incorrect and don't follow USMS rules. It's hoped that some of our ideas from this convention will alleviate these problems.
- 14. Wet suit requirements: The subcommittee reported back that they had a productive meeting and will be submitting a rule proposal for 2000.

15. T-Shirts: Jim Wheeler reported back with wording for future Championship contracts that will require event merchandise to include the year, USMS National Championship wording, open water or postal wording and appropriate design.
16. Notable achievements: Randy reported on a number of open water related events:-43 year old Gail Rice recently swam the English Channel in a season record time of 8 hr, 12 min.-58 year old Carol Sing (from San Diego) became the oldest woman to swim the channel in 12 1/2 hrs.-Suzanne Heim-Bowen (40+) has made the USA All American open water team this year.-Marcia Cleveland has produced a delightful book called DOVER SOLO about her channel swim.
17. Requests to add conversions for 3000/6000 postal swim: Sally reported on recent requests to allow conversions for this championship event which is unavailable to foreign swimmers. The committee voted to keep the event restricted to a 25 yard pool.

Final announcements: The recent revisions to the Open Water Manual will be included in the web site and hard copy edition. An open water swim will take place Saturday AM in the LaJolla Cove. BE THERE!

The final Long Distance committee meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sally Ann Dillon, Chairman