

USMS Convention—Chicago, Ill. 2009

Committee Name:	Rules	Session #:	2	Report #:	18
Committee Chair:	Kathrine Casey	Vice Chair:	Leianne Crittenden		
Minutes recorded by:	Kris Wingenroth	Date/time of meeting:	9.18.09 4:53 PM		

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. To recommend R 2, as Amended

Motions Passed:

1. R 2 - MSA, as amended (Boak/Dillon)

Number of committee members present: 15	Absent: 2	Number of other delegates present: 17
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Katherine Casey, Chair, Leianne Crittenden, Vice Chair, Carolyn Boak, Peggy Buchannan, David Diehl, Sally Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Judy Gillies, Laura Kessler, Cathy Kohn, Sandi Rousseau, Jessica Seaton, Skip Thompson, William Tingley, Kris Wingenroth, Ex officio: Charlie Cockrell		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 PM.

1. Committee members were introduced and new delegates were introduced.
2. R 2 was presented from the Championship Committee.
3. MSA to consider R 2 as an emergency proposal (Boak/Dillon)
4. Discussion ensued concerning the wording of R 2.
5. MSA to Table R 2. (Boak/Dillon)
6. The Chair passed out copies of the Rules Committee's swimwear recommendation to FINA that was approved with amendments by the USMS Board of Directors. The USMS Board sent the policy, as amended, for USAS approval. The recommendation was approved by USAS and will be sent by USAS to the FINA Executive Director. The FINA Executive Director will decide whether to send the recommendation on to the FINA Masters Swimming Commission who will decide whether or not to include it as a swimwear agenda item at the FINA Masters Technical Committee meeting, which is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2009. Any recommendations the FINA Masters Technical Swimming Committee makes then go to the FINA Bureau for approval.

A summary of the recommendation for Masters Swimming follows:

Material: that the material of the swimsuits be textile

Shape: that for both men and women, the swimsuit be allowed to extend from the knee to the neck, with full coverage of the back, but not extend beyond the shoulder or cover the neck. That fasteners such as zippers and drawstrings be allowed and that elastic be allowed in the straps and ends of the swimsuit.

Use: that only one swimsuit be allowed (except for a modesty suit) and that no taping be allowed

Tests: that the thickness limit be 0.8 mm, buoyancy value 0.5 Newton and permeability have a point value more than 80 l/m²/second

Consistency: that modification for medical, religious, or physical disabilities be allowed according to FINA interpretations

Application: that the effective date be January 1, 2010 and apply only to swimming competitions and that suits approved by FINA for elite swimmers and suits that meet the above recommendations be approved for Masters Swimmers.

7. A motion was made (Boak/Dillon) that the USMS Rules Committee recommend that USMS adopt a competition swimwear requirement consistent with the FINA Masters swimming regulations and that such adoption start 1) for short course yards: immediately upon the adoption of the FINA standard and 2) for short course meters and long course meters at the time that is consistent with the FINA Masters decision.
8. A spirited discussion about swimwear followed. Many committee members and audience members contributed. The following were the main points discussed:
 - a) Whether the technical suits provided an advantage and whether they promoted fairness in our sport.
 - b) What the appropriate dates would be for implementation of whatever the FINA policy becomes (yards and meters).
 - c) The impact our implementation dates would have on swim suit vendors, many of whom are important sponsors of USMS and the impact the dates would have on our members.
 - d) Whether a change in policy concerning the technical suits would encourage or hinder participation in USMS events by our members or tri-athletes.
9. After extensive discussion, the motion (see #7) was withdrawn (Boak/Dillon) pending a decision from the FINA Masters Technical Committee meeting.
10. The Chair wrapped up the swim suit discussion by reminding the audience that she had directed the Rules Committee members to poll their local swimmers and to review the USMS discussion forums to gain insight as to the wishes of the USMS members. She was certain all committee members had thoughtfully and carefully considered all sides of the issue before working on the recommendation. She also mentioned that she had spent much time speaking with USMS members about their opinions about swimwear and found their opinions ran the gamut, with no clear favored opinion. She also indicated that the Rules Committee was aware that they were making a recommendation that could affect the worldwide Masters swimming community and tried to be cognizant of cultural, religious, and disability issues. She thanked the Committee for all their hard work on this issue.
11. MSA to take R 2 off the Table (Rousseau/Dillon)
12. R 2 - MSA, as amended (Boak/Dillon)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM