

## Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

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### FINA Representative

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#### **Nadine Day**

First I would like to thank Mel Goldstein for serving on the FINA Masters Technical committee for 3 terms, he has been vital in the Masters presence internationally and representing the USA. He served as Chairperson during this last term however due to COVID no international events were being held. Mel however has been vital with the planning of the 2024 Masters World Championships.

In addition, the USA has Walt Reid, who has been the FINA Masters Recorder. He actually built the system that FINA Masters is using for FINA Masters World Records and FINA Top Ten. No easy task when we are talking about 209 Federations. I am thankful that Walt will be continuing to work for FINA.

Thank you, Mel and Walt, for your service.

FINA represents 209 Federations worldwide. They are divided into 5 continents: Americas (Pan Am Aquatics), Europe (LEN), Asian, Oceania, and Africa.

I am truly honored to find out on July 4th, that I was appointed to the FINA Masters Technical Committee and then I was selected as the Chairperson of the committee. Being new to the committee and being appointed chairperson will present many new challenges and I am ready to accept them. I am happy that FINA recognizes my value to the Masters Aquatic.

I am happy to report that Fukuoka, Kyushu Masters World Championships are still on for 2023. Registration to open around January 2023.

FINA is committed to Masters Aquatics and growing and developing Masters are an important part of their strategic plan. They have a vision of promoting Masters and supporting Masters in the near future.

This year is a rules year for FINA Technical Committees with exceptions for FINA Masters rules. Once the rules are adopted, they will start on January 2023. While I do not have any updates to report at this time, I wanted to give you a heads up that rule changes MAY occur.

Thank you for entrusting me to represent the United States Aquatic Sports in this capacity.



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### International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Liaison

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#### **Jessica Seaton**

The IGLA Championships were held in Palm Springs, CA April 6-10, 2022 and was hosted by West Hollywood Aquatics and the Long Beach Grunions. Because there had been no IGLA Championships since February 2020 in Melbourne, Australia due to the pandemic, the IGLA Board approached West Hollywood Aquatics in late November about hosting the 2022 IGLA Championships. Palm Springs was a natural site, as it is a go-to destination in April, before it is too hot. West Hollywood Aquatics asked the Grunions to co-host the Championship and they agreed, even though the entire event had to be organized in only 5 months. The Championships included swimming, water polo, exhibition artistic swimming, and the Pink Flamingo event. The swimming was sanctioned and supported by SPMS. Total number of swimmers were 419 (354 men, 65 women) representing 66 clubs, along with 165 water polo players, and 12 artistic swimmers. The Championships were held over 4 days.

The 2023 IGLA Championships will be held in London, England from June 26-June 30 at the London Aquatics Center, the West Reservoir Center, and the Britannia Leisure Center Training Facility.

Gay Games had been planned for November 2022 in Hong Kong, but had to be postponed to 2023. The Federation of Gay Games decided to have Hong Kong and Guadalajara, Mexico co-host the 2023 Gay Games in November 2023.

**National Board of Review**

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**Juliet Cox**

**USMS National Board of Review Chair**

**National Board of Review Activities, September 2021 to August 2022**

I became National Board of Review Chair in mid-November 2020 and have continued to serve during 2021 and 2022.

*NBR Hearing Panelists*

The pool of NBR hearing panelists currently is complete. The available panelists are:

- Tom Boak (South Texas LMSC)
- Erika Braun (North Carolina LMSC)
- Nathan Dean (Florida LMSC)
- Arlette Godges (Southern Pacific LMSC)
- Laura Groselle (Florida LMSC)
- Karen Chuang Harris (Pacific LMSC)
- Ian King (Pacific LMSC)
- Chris McGiffin (New Jersey LMSC)
- Tom Moore (Minnesota LMSC)
- Sandi Rousseau (Oregon LMSC)
- Meg Smath (Kentucky LMSC)
- Paul Smith (Arizona LMSC)
- Erin Sullivan (Nebraska LMSC)
- Diana Triana (South Texas LMSC)
- Greg Weber (South Carolina LMSC)
- Sarah Welch (Pacific NW LMSC)

Many of these people have been in the hearing panelist pool, as well as in other active volunteer roles with USMS, for a very long time. Their experience is valuable; but bringing new perspectives into this role also is valuable, as is sharing the work. Publicizing this volunteer opportunity more widely will benefit USMS by allowing us to recruit new potential hearing panelists.

*Grievance Activity*

The NBR has addressed and resolved three grievances since September 2021, all involving the same respondent. The USMS National Office maintains records from each of these grievances.

One grievance was an administrative grievance initiated by USMS CEO Dawson Hughes, alleging unsporting conduct (displays of anger and threats of violence) by a swimmer at the 2021

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USMS Long Course National Championship meet. Because of the allegation that the respondent swimmer had threatened violence toward meet participants and officials, I issued an order in mid-October 2021 suspending him from participation in any USMS activity or event until resolution of the grievance. The second grievance was against this same swimmer, by another swimmer who alleged that she had experienced unwelcome physical contact from him at the 2021 Long Course Championship meet as well as at several prior meets.

I consolidated these two grievances for a single hearing before a three-person panel. After a videoconference hearing in which many witnesses participated but in which the respondent swimmer declined to participate, the panel found all allegations true. The hearing panel issued an order in January 2022 continuing the respondent swimmer's suspension from USMS membership through May 1, 2022.

The respondent swimmer then registered with Masters Swimming Canada, although he lives in the United States. He entered and swam in at least two meets sanctioned by the Florida LMSC during February 2022. The third grievance, an administrative grievance initiated by Dawson Hughes, alleged that the swimmer's disobedience to the prior panel's order also was unsporting conduct.

I appointed a different three-person panel to hear this third grievance. Again, the respondent swimmer declined to participate in the videoconference hearing. The panel found the swimmer's conduct in attempting to circumvent his suspension to be unsporting, and extended his complete suspension from all USMS activities through August 8, 2022.

### *Other Activity*

I have responded to questions from several LMSC leaders about addressing and resolving conflicts or formal grievances within their LMSCs. During my tenure as NBR Chair, the NBR has not received appeals from grievance decisions by any LMSCs. I also have corresponded with several USMS members about conflicts or potential grievances, and more generally about the NBR's role.

After learning that a swimmer USMS had suspended was able easily to register with Masters Swimming Canada and enter events that otherwise would have required USMS membership, I corresponded with Dawson Hughes and USMS General Counsel Maria Elias about USMS rules relating to participation in USMS events by members of other countries' masters swimming organizations.

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## National Senior Games

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### William Tingley

The National Senior Games are held in odd years, with the qualifying meets held in even years at each state's local Senior Games. Due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic, National Senior Games Association postponed the twenty-one sport, 2021 Ft Lauderdale National Senior Games to May 10-23, 2022.

Swimming was conducted at Plantation Central Park Aquatic Complex in Plantation, FL, May 13-16, 2022.

The National Senior Games has been recognized by the host LMSC for the last twelve games, and this year the games were recognized by the Florida Gold Coast LMSC.

Florida Gold Coast Top Ten Chair Francois Caudrillier, worked tirelessly with USMS National Swims Coordinator, Mary Beth Windrath, making sure all of the USMS swimmers' times were properly entered into the USMS database.

In the past 22 years, both USMS records and Top 10 swims have been achieved at National Senior Games and this year was no different. Despite weather delays, Doug Springer set two USMS Records in the 75-79 50 yd Breaststroke, 33.89 and the 75-79 200 yd Butterfly, 2:48.81. Kathleen Lewis established a new mark in the 70-74 50 yd Breaststroke, 38.35. All of the times of the 471 USMS registered swimmers were submitted to the USMS database and Top Ten for 2021-22.

Online results can be found at: <https://nsga.com/results-2022/>

All of our deck officials were USA Swimming certified, Referee Bob Griffiths, Mike Whaley (also USMS Certified), Jan Whitlock (also USMS Certified), Mel Barber, Tere DeMoss, Mary Felix and Ross Gonzales. Finally, Herb Schwab acted as administrative official and USMS official observer for this Recognized meet.

Qualifying for the 2023 National Senior Games will started at the state Senior Games around the country in January of 2022. For more information about the 2022 state Senior Games, contact the local coordinators listed at <https://nsga.com/state-games-information/>. Swimmers should directly contact the state senior games office(s) in any location(s) where an athlete plans to participate in any remaining state games in 2022.

The 2023 National Senior Games will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 7th through 18th. The tentative dates and location for swimming are Trees Pool on the University of Pittsburgh campus, July 14th through the 17th.



## Pan Am Aquatics Masters Committee

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### Mel Goldstein

Pan Am Aquatics (formerly Union Americana de Natacion) went through a branding and name change which was passed during an extraordinary congress in Budapest in July 2022. Pan Am Aquatics represents one of the five continents recognized by FINA. Pan Am Aquatics has four zones of representation: Zone 1: CONSANAT-South America (12), Zone 2: CCCAN-Caribbean and Central America (28), Zone 3: USAS-United States Aquatics Sports, Zone 4: AFC-Aquatics Canada Aquatique

Committee Members whom were present for the Pan Am Masters technical meeting and the Pan Am Masters Championships:

Mel Goldstein, Chair-USA, Ed Evelly Secretary-Canada

Other members who attended the event: Edith Clashing (Antigua & Barbuda-CONSANT), Nadine Day (USMS), Carlos Robert de Silva (Brazil-CONSANT), Sebastian Paddington (Trinidad & Tobago-CCCAN), Dot Padget (Canada), Ed Tsuzuki (Athlete Rep-USMS)

The committee is made up of four members from CONSANT, four members from CCCAN, two members from USAS and two members from Canada, plus one athlete member

The Pan Am Aquatics Masters Committee is very pleased to report an extremely successful Pan American Aquatics championship held on July 21 through July 28 at the Cesar Zapata Aquatic Complex in Medellin, Colombia. The 12 pool site hosted 1600 athletes in all 4 disciplines (swimming, diving, water polo, and artistic swimming. Open Water was held in Gutape. The host committee had to endure particular hardships in the planning process as the meet, originally scheduled for 2020, had to be postponed three times due to COVID interruptions, but managed to pull off a flawless event. There was one FINA World Record, and 101 Pan Am Aquatic Masters Championships Meet records broken. They also had to update all logo merchandise due to the rebranding of Pan Am Aquatics. This was the largest Pan Am Masters Water polo tournament and open water event.

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The committee has selected Trinidad and Tobago to host the 2024 Pan Am Aquatics Masters Championships on **July 17 through July 26, 2024**. The Championship Committee has been informed of these dates to consider in their 2024 USMS long course nationals planning.

