

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Championship

Committee Members

Erin Sizelove, Chair; Jim Clemmons, Vice Chair

Robert Heath, Linda Irish Bostic, Cheryl Kupan, Jeffrey Roddin, Sandi Rousseau, Edward Saltzman, Pete Tarnapoll

Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, Onshalee Promchitmart

Introduction

The mission of the Championship Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered U.S. Masters Swimming members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids, and select the sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for U.S. Masters Swimming Corporate Partners.

Spring Nationals were held in Irvine, California at the William Woollett Jr Aquatics Center in from April 27-30, 2023. With 2,474 participants, this was the largest meet in USMS history. The event was managed with the assistance of NOVA volunteers and City of Irvine staff. 57 national records were broken at the meet. Dropping the 6th event and having two 10-lane courses helped to manage the timeline of the meet. However, some days were still over the goal time of a maximum of 10 hour competition days.

Summer Nationals are to be held at the Selby Aquatic Center in Sarasota, Florida August 2-6, 2023. There are 1,179 participants registered in the meet. This is an 8-lane pool, and the 6th event was dropped to manage the timeline.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Developed Spring 2023 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
2. Developed Summer 2023 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
3. Developed Summer 2023 order of events in conjunction with the host.
4. Received bids from the following organizations:
 - Greensboro – Summer 2024 and Spring 2025
 - Huntsville – Summer 2024 and Spring 2025
 - Mission Viejo – Summer 2024
 - San Antonio – Spring 2025
 - Federal Way – Summer 2025
5. Bidders and committee discussed and awarded future national meets as follows:
 - Mission Viejo – awarded Summer 2024
 - San Antonio – awarded Spring 2025
 - Federal Way – awarded Summer 2025
6. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Irvine with host and national office.
7. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Sarasota with host and national office.
8. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2023 USMS clubs.

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9. Working on ways to limit timelines of National Championship meets - sub-committee formed.

Action Items

1. Develop NQTs for 2024 SC Nationals.
2. Determine order of events for 2024 SC Nationals.
3. Come up with proposals for limiting timelines at National Championship meets.

Agenda

1. Brief Committee Introductions.
2. Review/discuss 2023 Spring Nationals (Irvine).
3. Review/discuss 2023 Summer Nationals (Sarasota).
4. 2024 SC Nationals Preview (Indy).
5. 2024 Summer Nationals Preview (Mission Viejo).
6. Discussion on ideas to limit meet timelines.
7. Anything missed, questions, comments.

Championship Committee Meeting

[Monday, August 28 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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Coaches

Committee Members

Kenny Brisbin, Chair; Chris McPherson, Vice Chair

B.J. Graham, Michael Hamm, Molly Hoover, Laurie Hug, Susan Ingraham, Wilson Josephson, Cokie Lepinski, Carol Nip, Aaron Schneider, Trey Taylor, Tim Waud, Celia Wolff, Jackie Yen (Merianos)

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner, Steve Hall

EC: Chris Campbell

Introduction

The Coaches Committee continues to have a strong and well-established list of products/deliverables as objectives for this year.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Web Workouts—A new team of coaches has been selected to submit weekly workouts to the USMS Library. In addition, a new Triathlon Training section has been added.
2. World Championship Coaching— An application to supply coaching to the USMS delegation at the 2023 Worlds in Japan was created, and candidates were requested. The Committee submitted a budget asking for financial dispensation to the chosen USMS Coaches. Applications of candidates were reviewed, and one head coach was chosen.
3. Communication to LMSC Chairs—E-mails to all LMSC Coaches Chairs are sent out monthly; these missives contain important information to be then passed on to the coaches in their LMSC. The emails also contain a consistent reminder that the Coaches' Committee is ready and available to assist with any of their needs.
4. Mentoring—The Coaches' Mentoring Program has evolved this year, now allowing mentees to apply for mentoring at any time, rather than at one designated time per year. Video chats are performed, so that the subcommittee members are better able to pair the mentor with a mentor coach who best fits their individual needs. Mentor/Mentee matchups will occur either in-person or via Zoom, with evaluations completed afterwards.
5. On Deck Coaching—The Committee proceeds to staff Nationals for on-deck warmups with volunteers by means of Sign-Up Genius. However, as Nationals meet hosts are requesting more on-deck coaching throughout the meet in the non-competition pools, finding volunteers to sign up has become difficult; most coaches need to be coaching their own swimmers during the meet sessions and may even be swimming themselves. Hence, the proper boundary conditions/scope of work for coaches at Nationals is now being evaluated.
6. Peer to Peer presentations—Although the Coaches' Committee Peer-to-Peer calls cover excellent topics, the participation for them has been very low. Sometimes the attendance is less than ten and, in the best cases, in the teens. Low attendance may be a result of how

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well these calls are advertised. Also, many other committees host similar calls in the same month, which can oversaturate the target audiences, ultimately lowering attendance. Discussion on ways to raise the numbers continues.

7. Coaches Community Forum—One member has been assigned to post several times a month to keep this forum active. The Coaches' Committee Chair has requested that all coaches on our committee make an effort to add or respond to topics. It has been noted that younger coaches do not use forums at the same level or frequency as our older, more established coaches. Further discussion on better ways to reach our younger member coaches is warranted.
8. Liaison Work—The Committee liaises with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, reinforcing each other's efforts as appropriate. The D&I is the most active of the Coaches' Committee's liaison positions. There is also communication, although to a lesser degree, with the Recognition and Awards Committee and the Fitness Education Committee.
9. Outreach to LMSC Chairs—The Coaches' Committee created a survey to address needs of the LMSCs, and detailed emails were sent to each LMSC Chair regarding the importance of this new focus. Zoom calls for further discussion with all LMSC Coaches Chairs are now being arranged.
10. Awards—Nominations for the USMS Coach of the Year, the Kerry O'Brien Coaches Award, and applications for USMS Level 4 Coaches Certifications have been solicited and received, and all applications are now in the review cycle. Award recipients will be announced at the USMS Annual Meeting in September.
11. As the USMS Officer Election Cycle approaches, the Coaches' Committee is positioning itself for changes in leadership and membership.

Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Web Workouts - Molly Hoover Worlds Coaching - Tim Waud NCC - Trey Taylor
 - b. Awards - Laura Hug
 - c. Education - Bill Brenner/Chris McPherson Level 4 Applications - Tim Waud
 - d. LMSC Communication - Molly Hoover Mentoring - Chris McPherson
 - e. On Deck Coaching - Michael Hamm Long Distance - Michael Hamm
 - f. Peer to Peer Calls - Trey Taylor
 - g. Diversity - Wilson Josephson/Nadine Ford Coaches Community Forums - Susan Ingraham ALTS - Michael Hamm
4. Old Business - Outreach Program
5. New Business

Coaches Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 15 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Diversity and Inclusion

Committee Members

Jeff Commings, Chair; Ally Sega, Vice Chair

Martha Arradondo, Rook Campbell, Virgil Chancy, Laura Dennison, Leo Letendre, Leann Rossi, Vicki Shu, Katherine Weathers, Sarah Welch

Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling

EC: Chris Campbell

Introduction

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was faced with a crossroads in 2023, as the group struggled to find a strong direction for the year. Thanks to VP Chris Campbell, the group has found its way again and has spent the year working on solid plans to help move USMS toward a more diverse and inclusive organization.

Two members of the committee – Rook Campbell and Martha Arradondo – resigned their positions for various reasons. The committee is sad to lose the wisdom and insight they brought to each meeting and to every discussion. It is our hope they will return to the committee at a later time.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. The primary discussion early in the year was making a list of strategic goals that the committee could spend the next two or three years getting off the ground. That list was whittled down to six initiatives, some of which are being acted on this year. Others are being tabled as we find ways to get them started.

Establishment of a D&I Coordinator/Chair role in all 51 LMSCs.

Upgrading the USMS registration database to track membership ethnicity and human challenges more accurately and completely.

Working with USA Swimming to identify Minority Clubs, with the goal of establishing USMS Clubs alongside them.

Enabling and assisting the growth of swimming programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Expansion and revision of the USMS logo to reflect inclusivity as a core value more explicitly.

Create “Heritage Themed” Masters meets across the nation.

The top priority for the committee this year is getting more LMSCs to create a D&I Coordinator/Chair role. Currently, eight LMSCs have such a person handling diversity and inclusion matters locally. Ally Sega, Katherine Weathers, and Leo Letendre are working on a statement to send to LMSC chairs to convince them to consider this addition to their LMSC leadership.

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2. Another major project for the year was participation in the Transgender/Nonbinary Task Force, created by Peter Guadagni. Three members of the D&I Committee – Rook Campbell, Leo Letendre, and Vicki Shu – participated in the task force, which reviewed the current USMS policy regarding participation for transgender athletes in competition. In spring 2023, Rook Campbell submitted an extremely thorough report that suggested that USMS keep its current policy while preparing to amend it based on what World Aquatics might do in the future.
3. The committee is also working on a webinar that will answer questions about why clubs and LMSCs should create a code of conduct, and how the code of conduct should be created. D&I Committee Chair Jeff Commings and Pacific LMSC chair Phyllis Quinn will be leading the webinar, scheduled for Thursday, November 9.
4. The committee discussed the creation of a new Masters team in Boston that limited enrollment based on a swimmer's ability to complete 100 yards of freestyle in a certain time. Committee member Laura Dennison brought it to the committee's attention because she felt it was not right to exclude members from participating on a team based on their speed. In a future discussion, the committee learned that the team was having difficulty getting members based on this requirement, and was opening up membership beyond their original time standard.

Action Items

1. Approved meeting minutes
2. Approved the creation of a code of conduct webinar
3. The committee voted unanimously to remove the committee's name and diversity from the new calendar document created by the national office to make meet directors aware of various holidays and observances
4. Approved the recipients of the 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

Agenda

1. Welcome and approve July meeting minutes
2. Year in review (Jeff)
3. Committee strategic plan overview (Jeff)
4. Code of conduct webinar (Jeff)
5. D&I LMSC Coordinator Role update (Ally)
6. Diversity and Inclusion Committee response to Summer Nationals in Florida (Jeff)
7. Chris Campbell update
8. Wilson Josephson update
9. Other announcements

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

[Wednesday, August 2 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

History and Archives

Committee Members

Kirk Clear, Chair

Bob Anderson, Maryanne Barkley, Barbara Dunbar, Ann Lea Matysek, Walt Reid, Meegan Wilson, Frank “Skip” Thompson

Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling

EC: Ed Coates

Introduction

The History and Archives Committee records, collects, and preserves documents, stories, photos, exhibits, oral histories, and other memorabilia in an appropriate repository and in durable formats to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The archived information will be available on the USMS website in the USMS History & Archives section and elsewhere. The committee encourages LMSCs to document and archive their LMSC history so that each LMSC collects and preserves its LMSC photos, documents, stories, and newsletters.

The History and Archives committee is broken up into two subcommittees. The traditional committee works on the traditional projects that have been performed for many years. The Living History is the other subcommittee that works and gives direction to LMSC's to document and archive their LMSC history as it happens through photos, documents, stories, newsletters, LMSC and Club websites, and social media outlets.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. This year has been dominated with the news that the USMS Board of Directors (BOD) voted to sunset this committee. The current members of the History and Archives Committee disagreed with this decision and decided to make sure that was recorded in the official record, voting to officially disagree with the Board's decision. The USMS Executive Committee invited the Chair (Kirk Clear) and one other member (Meegan Wilson) to attend a special session and express the thoughts of their committee members. That was followed at the next BOD meeting with the USMS President recommending they withdraw the previous decision to sunset the committee and offered up the establishment of a Task Force to investigate the purpose of the committee and its projects and provide recommendations for the future direction of the committee and its work. The Board agreed and the proposal to sunset the History and Archives Committee will not be presented to the House of Delegates in 2023. The Task Force was established and is currently proceeding with its charge.
2. Relay Top 10 Project: Relay Top 10s are being converted by year and course from paper hard copies into digital files for ID assignment and upload to the USMS Top 10 Relay database. The Relay Top 10 Project requires transcribing Relay Top 10 data (names, times, ages, club, and LMSC) into a template for each year and course missing from the

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online database; proofing; researching and adding missing first names; and adding permanent IDs. Obtaining IDs for those swimmers who have no ID requires help from the National Office. The committee is still working through some issues with a few years of missing data.

3. USMS Remembrance Project: Our committee creates a slide presentation of USMS members who have deceased over the past year. We verify the members, pull together relevant data, create a slide for each member, and set music to the slides, creating a video that is shown during the USMS Annual Meeting. The remembrance video is also available online to any USMS member.
4. Living History Project: The Living History Project is designed to help LMSCs document and archive their LMSC history as it happens through photos, documents, stories, newsletters, websites, and social media outlets. We have approached this by interviewing multiple LMSCs and talking to individuals about what works for them and suggestions they may have to ensure their history is maintained. With all the efforts around the topic of sunseting the committee, not much has been done on this project in 2023. We are ready to develop a best practices paper and communicate these findings to LMSCs.
5. USMS Rule Book Project: Project designed to locate and scan missing USMS and AAU Masters Rule Books. With the assistance of the National Office, 10 more years of rule books were uploaded and are now available on the website: www.usms.org/volunteer-central/us-masters-swimming-rule-book. We now have rule books from 1997-2021 posted.
6. Assistance to members: Multiple times during the year, we were contacted by members with various historical questions. In each case, we were able to employ the experience and knowledge from our committee members, as well as reach back to records to provide responses. The National Office also requested assistance with old USMS logos. We were also contacted by some members and family of deceased members who were willing to donate records and memorabilia to USMS. We are working with them to take ownership of these items.

Action Items

1. Evaluate and prioritize the traditional H&A committee projects
2. Living History project next steps after completion of the LMSC interview process
3. Consider a feasible repository for historical artifacts that is searchable and retrievable to members and researchers
4. Review History page on USMS website and provide recommended updates
5. Collaborate with Task Force in their mission to study the History & Archives Committee's purpose and future

Agenda

1. Call History and Archives Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call – Communication members and ex officio
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes
4. Review the status of History and Archive projects
5. Evaluate and prioritize traditional H&A projects with workloads and timelines.
6. Other
7. Adjournment

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History and Archives Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 22 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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Fitness Education

Committee Members

Ann Marshfield, Chair; Christopher Rieder, Vice Chair

Anita Cole, Emily Cook, Mary Jurey, Andy Seibt, Lisa Watson, Ken Winterberger

Ex-Officio: Christopher Campbell, VP, Allison Abad, Onshalee Promchitmart

Introduction

The Committee has accomplished a great deal in 2023. Several items were moved out of Committee to the National Office and Board of Directors for consideration and/or implementation.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Discussed pros and cons of sunseting/disbanding the Committee.
2. Discussed ways to seek nominations for the annual Fitness Education Award.
3. Discussed the development of educational information for fitness swimmers.
4. Suggested a new milestone award for the Go-The-Distance virtual fitness event.

Action Items

1. Submitted proposal to the Legislative Committee to sunset the Fitness Education Committee at the end of 2023.
2. Updated criteria of nominees for the Fitness Education Award.
3. Created and distributed an infographic to aid in the solicitation of nominees for the FEA.
4. Voted to award the 2023 Fitness Education Award to two swimmers.
5. Submitted a health and Fitness article, authored by Dr. Jim Miller, for USMS publication.
6. Submitted proposal for a new milestone award for the Go-the-Distance virtual fitness event. Milestone award would be a swim cap with 365 miles for “Swim a-Mile-a-Day”.
7. Updated write ups for past Fitness Education Award winners, as requested by the Recognition and Awards Committee.

Agenda

1. Provide names of committee members interested in serving as Advisors or volunteers to work on Ad Hoc basis regarding fitness swimmers.
2. Discuss logistics of awarding annual Fitness Education Award

Fitness Education Committee Meeting

[Sunday, August 13 • 7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Legislation

Committee Members

Stephanie Gauzens, Chair; Kristof Kertesz, Vice Chair

Marcia Benjamin, Rob Copeland, Omar de Armas, Diana Dolan Lamar, John Dussliere, Kirsten Hoffman, Teddy Palmer, Steve Peterson, Meg Smath, Jeff Strahota, Patrick Weiss

Ex-Officio: Mollie Grover, Dawson Hughes, Katie Kenyon, Jessica Reilly

EC: Chris Colburn

Introduction

The Legislation Committee met throughout the year to consider potential amendments to administrative regulations in the organizing principles, parts two, four, five, and six in the USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

The Chair consented to changing the acronym FINA to World Aquatics to match the organization's rebranding prior to the printing of the 2023 USMS Code of Regulations.

Considered and forwarded to the House of Delegates a list of proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Passed two housekeeping amendments in accordance with 601.1.2

Issued an interpretation pertaining to the use of the word "Olympic" in 202.1.1D and 202.2.1D with regards to Senior Olympic events.

Housekeeping Amendments

1. Fixed incomplete sentences and added compound modifiers to 203.1.1

203.1.1 Sanction Options—USMS shall offer sanction options as defined below.

A Standard USMS Sanction—Open water events are restricted to USMS members, one-event registrants, and Masters swimming members of a World Aquatics Member Federation. All swimmers entered shall be considered part of the same event and shall swim under applicable USMS open water swimming rules and administrative regulations.

B Events Including Both USMS and USA Swimming Members—USMS-sanctioned open water events can be held in conjunction with a USA Swimming-sanctioned open water event. USMS members shall swim under applicable USMS open water swimming rules and administrative regulations and USA Swimming members shall swim under applicable USA Swimming rules and administrative regulations. USMS athletes and USA Swimming athletes may swim at the same time on the same course. Athletes

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holding both USMS and USA Swimming memberships must declare their affiliation, in writing, prior to the start of the event.

2. Changed “must” to “shall” in 403.6 to conform with the rest of Article 403

403.6 Authority of the National Board of Review Chair

With regard to matters within the original or appellate jurisdiction of the National Board of Review, the National Board of Review chair shall take one or more of the following actions when reviewing a matter:

3. Edited 202.1.1E(5) to conform with changes made at the 2020 Annual Meeting through R-4

202.1.1 Sanction Requirements—Sanctions shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with the following:

E All sanctioned events are subject to the following conditions:

(5) Sanctioned events may be conducted in facilities not meeting the dimensional tolerance for required pool length, but the results of those events shall not count for USMS records and Top 10. It must be noted in the meet announcement that events conducted in these facilities are noncompliant.

Action Items

1. Submit proposed amendments to the House of Delegates and prepare the final report for updates to the 2024 USMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates
2. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2024 USMS Rules and Regulations

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from the June and July Legislation meetings
2. Discussion of interpretation for organizational name changes under 601.1.2
3. Discussion of Committee recommendation for 201.1.2A

Legislation Committee Meeting

[Wednesday, August 16 • 7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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LMSC Development

Committee Members

David Brancamp, Chair; Crystie McGrail, Vice Chair

Linda Chapman, Nicole Christensen, Doug Garcia, Arlette Godges, Karen Harris, Ian King, Christine Maki, Tom Moore, Doug Sayles, Martin Torres, Robin Tracy, Jill Wright

Ex-Officio: Jessica Reilly, Bethany Burchill, Dawson Hughes

EC: Ed Coates

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee is responsible for supporting the LMSC with information and resources to support their growth and sustainability; managing the LMSC standards policy and committee roles and responsibilities; and working with the Vice President of Local Operations to conduct and communicate an annual standard report. The committee works to strengthen LMSC governance and operations by providing multiple educational opportunities and relationship building / mentoring for local LMSC boards and officers to improve the local volunteer base. The committee shall provide support for the local LMSC and the various roles through newly defined peer-to-peer teleconferences to enhance the various volunteer roles and build networks for collaborative leadership and improved partnerships with our swimmers and awareness of USMS events and activities.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

- **Volunteer Role Descriptions:** In 2021 the committee determined that existing role descriptions should be reviewed/ updated on a biannual basis moving forward, as most roles do not drastically change year-to-year. This subcommittee, which is led by Linda Chapman, started to work on the “Zone Chair” role description in late fall 2022 and at the start of 2023 they began the biennial review of all the role descriptions as found at <https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/guide-to-local-operations/lmsc-operations/lmsc-volunteer-roles>. The subcommittee also is looking at the main role descriptions for the USMS Committee Chair, Committee Vice Chair and Committee Member. The subcommittee if they have time will look at an “on-boarding” guide or training for all our volunteers to their new roles.
- **Sanction Chair Education Training:** During the 2022 year, this subcommittee led by Karen Harris, drafted the outline of the process for sanction chairs for both pool and open water events. This process also included looking at the dual sanctions with USA swimming. The subcommittee discovered some key areas that need to be addressed in the process and to make the process more streamlined and understandable for all involved. The subcommittee is working with one LMSC that is initiating this work this fall. The subcommittee will present a general overview of the Sanction Chair role at Relay 2023 as we await the USMS National office updating the online process for some time in 2024.

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- ***Communication and LMSC Support:*** The communication and LMSC support subcommittee, which is being led by Tom Moore, has organized, and planned several peer-to-peer meetings and LMSC Community meetings for the 2023 year. There has been some great conversation and networking established this year among the participants along with the sharing of fantastic information for specific roles and areas of educational need for our LMSC's. The subcommittee has established a communication plan based on USMS staff approval of monthly summary emails to share with the LMSC chairs and vice chairs key dates, trainings, and information to be shared within their LMSC. The subcommittee will also be looking into the best way to communicate these educational opportunities, and how to sign up for the peer-to-peer meetings as well as relationship building opportunities to our LMSC's in the standards survey. Finally, this subcommittee will collaborate with our Relay 2023 subcommittee around the potential topic for Relay 2024.
- ***USMS Volunteer Relay 2023:*** Subcommittee members under the guidance of Crystie McGrail, spent the beginning of 2023 in preparation with the USMS National office staff and board members to assist with the planning and logistics for the 2nd annual event in October. Using the results from the survey of the participants of Relay 2022 the subcommittee shared next steps to make Relay 2023 a larger and even more successful event. The theme for Relay 2023 will be around "Event Development" to be held in Houston, Texas on October 20 – 22. The subcommittee is currently reviewing and working with our various presenters for this great event. Looking forward to October.
- ***Club and Event Development Outreach:*** This is a new subcommittee for the LMSC this year. Thank you to both Doug Sayles and Doug Garcia for leading this work in collaboration with Dawson Hughes. This subcommittee worked with Dawson and the Coaches Committee to solicit responses around how to support club and event development at the local level. As of this report we have received 48 completed survey responses to the online *LMSC Chair Club & Event Development Questionnaire*, which you can view here:

LMSC chairs' survey responses to date:

- <https://bit.ly/lmscchair-surveyresponses>

Revised LMSC chair outreach process:

- <https://bit.ly/lmscchairoutreach-revised>

Google Forms LMSC chair respondent link:

- <https://bit.ly/lmscchairsurvey-respondentlink>

We have not yet received responses from five LMSC chairs which could be due to vacation, travel, competing demands, or any number of other reasons. The online survey remains open on Google Forms just in case any of these chairs can respond.

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In a general overview it appears that while some chairs provided detailed answers, others provided one-word Yes/No answers or general answers that omitted specifics about clubs, facilities, or events that could serve as potential leads for national office staff to follow up on. The subcommittee believes that the national office staff will parse the chairs' responses, ascertain which leads to pursue, and glean any lessons learned.

- ***LMSC Standards and Implementation:*** This subcommittee, led again by Linda Chapman, finalized the new standards and in March of 2023 they were presented to the USMS Board of Directors for review and possible adoption. The USMS board approved them with one suggested change that the subcommittee worked with the Officials Committee drafting. This revision to the standards will be presented to the USMS Board of Directors for final approval. Once the USMS Board of Director gives their final approval the subcommittee will share these and the implementation plan to the LMSC's this fall.

Action Items

1. Continue the conversations, evaluation, and prioritization of the various Volunteer and LMSC Zone educational resources in a uniform format and an integrated timeline with the National USMS office around the USMS events and activities.
2. Continue to build upon the success of Relay 2022 and Relay 2023 events and refine the role that the LMSC Development Committee plays in the development and facilitation of the 2024 event.
3. Implement the more user friendly and supportive LMSC standards to enhance and increase the successes of the volunteer's involvement with the local LMSC operations for our USMS swimmers.
4. Share the updated Roles and Responsibilities with the USMS volunteers to support and assist in the work of the LMSC's and the USMS committees.

Agenda

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| I. | Welcome | Dave and Crystie |
| II. | USMS VP Report | Ed Coates |
| III. | Subcommittee Reports | |
| | a. Relay 2023 | Crystie , Tom & Ian |
| | b. LMSC Volunteer Roles | Linda , Dave, Robin, Arlette,
Nicole & Douglas Sayles |
| | c. Sanction Chair Education Training | Karen , Linda, Nicole, Robin, and Jill |
| | d. LMSC Standards Implementation | Linda , Dave, and Arlette |
| | e. Communication / LMSC Support | Tom , Martin, Christine, Doug Garcia |
| | f. Club and Event Dev Outreach | Doug Sayles and Doug |
| IV. | Next Meeting: September 19th | |
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LMSC Development Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 15 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Long Distance

Committee Members

Phyllis Quinn Chair; Catherine Rust: Vice Chair

Jill Wright, Lorena Sims, Jim Davidson, Tim Murphy, Nicki Phillips, Stephen Rouch, Anna Jordan, Jenny Hodges, John Fox, Bob Bruce, Ali Hall.

Ex-Officio: David Minor, Jay Eckert

EC: Robin Smith

Introduction

The Long Distance Committee (chaired by Phyllis Quinn) is responsible for the oversight of the rules and administration of open water and long distance events, and for promoting the development of, and participation in, open water swimming. The committee works in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and makes recommendations to enhance the quality of long distance championship events. And the committee is also responsible for assuring that the competitive rules in Part 3 of the USMS rules and regulations provide for fair and equitable competition in the best interests of all USMS members.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Discussion on recent rules for the use of technology determined we are following the current rules.
2. Discussion on the current Category 1 swimwear rule. The committee has submitted a proposal to the HOD, language to clarify that suits with ties are allowed.
3. The LDC National Championship and the Open Water Service awards will be presented at the Annual meeting.
4. The LDC and the National Office continue to coordinate and define the different responsibilities for the Virtual and the Open Water National Championship Events.

Action Items

1. Swimsuit rule proposal for Category 1 swimsuits submitted to HOD.
2. Other proposals submitted are mainly housekeeping of reformatting a section of the rulebook.

Agenda

1. Welcome and roll call.
2. Approval of any outstanding meeting minutes
3. Reports from the chair (Phyllis) and vice chair (Catherine) and vice president (Robin) and USMS National Office (Jay)
4. Working groups – reports (please send your report to all in advance)
5. 2023 Rules/Legislation – Jim and Tim, Lorena, Steve, Bob B, John.
6. PARA – Jim and Nicki; Patches & Awards – National Office; All-Americans (AA) - Men – Lorena, Bob B; (AA) Women – Jenny, Tim; (AA) Relays – Phyllis, Anna; Records –

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Jill, Tim, All-Stars – Lorena, John; Postal Series – TBD, Lorena; ePostal Series
Recognition: Catherine, Jenny

7. 2024 NC Recruitment/Selection – Jill, lead; Ali, Steve, Catherine & Jenny.
8. Goals – Catherine, lead; Lorena, Catherine, Tim, Bob B, John Fox
9. LDNC Award – Jill, lead; Lorena, Nicki, Jenny, Ali; 1.
10. 2023 Clinic Working Group—Catherine, Anna, and Ali
11. New Business

Long Distance Committee Meeting

[Sunday, August 27 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Officials

Committee Members

Michael Abegg, Chair; Teri White, Vice Chair

Jerrilynn Bayless, Emily Cook, Omar de Armas, Alina de Armas, David Diehl, Judy Gillies, John King, Mark Marshfield, Rob Duguay, Chris Ottati

Ex-Officio: Onshalee Promchitmart (staff), Robin Smith (EC-VP Programs)

Introduction

The Officials Committee's purpose is to offer training and education opportunities for officials to ensure that USMS competitive meets are officiated to the highest standards. In addition, the committee is responsible for working with the hosts of each National Championship meet to ensure an adequate supply of masters-trained officials are present.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Officials Certification Program:

- a. Status: Since it was established in 2016, we have certified 426 officials, of whom 372 are currently active. Including 202 Starters and 100 Referees. This reflects increases of 80 total officials, 17 Starters, and 30 Referees over last year. Nevertheless we have some areas of the country with no or few officials and continue to be depend on our partners at USA Swimming, YMCA, NCAA, and high school to conduct meets in those places.
- b. Administrative Official Certification: A subcommittee began work on training and certification requirements for USMS Administrative Officials. This position already exist in the USMS rule book as an optional official, and the initial goal is to ensure that larger meets (e.g., LMSC Championships) are staffed with a USMS-certified Administrative Official to relieve Meet Referees of that duty. At its current pace, the Committee expects to roll out the program in 2024.

2. National Championship Meets:

- a. 2023 Spring Nationals 4/27-4/30 Irvine, CA Teri White (Meet Referee), Judy Gillies, Mike Abegg, Omar de Armas, Alina de Armas (Admin Referee), Rob Duguay, and Mark Marshfield from the committee officiated. 36 officials total, and for the first time 100% of officials were certified by USMS!
- b. 2023 Summer Nationals 8/2-6 Sarasota, FL: Ed Saltzman Meet Referee; Mike Abegg, Rob Duguay from the Committee officiated. Final official numbers not available at press time. This year's meets have run smoothly with no "USA calls" in conflict with USMS rules and have set the standard for the environment we wish to see on a USMS National Championship deck.
- c. Reimbursement Policy: effective with 2024 Championship meets, a new Committee policy will be in place limiting USMS reimbursement to officials certified through the USMS program by the start of the meet. Host reimbursements will continue to be available to non-certified officials as

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determined by the meet hosts. This is considered reasonable in light of the growth in our ranks as well as increased requests for reimbursement in the post-Covid era.

3. Rules:
 - a. One rule change was submitted to the Rules Committee, which is being Recommended for approval by the House of Delegates. This change (R-1) clarifies and strengthens the requirement of have certified officials at all sanctioned meets, given the size of the USMS Officials pool and continued availability of officials sanctioned by partner bodies. The goal by the time this rule would take effect on 1/1/25 is to make sure USMS-certified officials are available to support all LMSC meet calendars.
 - b. Mid-Year Rules Changes: With the changes to World Aquatics rules announced in fall 2022 and made effective in early 2023, the Committee helped to propagate to the USMS Officials' community the changes affecting the USMS Rule Book, specifically the elimination of the "horizontal plane" requirement in breaststroke, and the allowance for a backstroke swimmer to be fully submerged at the finish once the head has passed the finish end flags.
4. USMS Excellence in Officiating Award: Award for 2023 to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Action Items

1. Complete Administrative Official certification path.
2. Recruit officials in areas currently underserved.
3. Policy Handbook

Agenda

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of 7/3/2023 Minutes.
3. Old Business
 - Officials Certification program status
 - Championship meet reports for 2023
 - Summer LC Championships 8/2-6 Sarasota
 - WA World Masters 8/2-11, Japan
 - USMS Officials Award
 - USMS Officials website
 - Administrative Official certification process
 - Nametag order
 - Testmoz Test site update
4. New Business
 - Annual Meeting (September, Houston)
 - Relay (October, Houston)
5. Future Agenda items
 - Policy Handbook

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- Update Training/Certification materials
- 2024 Nationals (Indianapolis and Mission Viejo)

Officials Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 15 • 8:30pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Beth Nymeyer, Chair, Stacy Abrams, Vice Chair

Richard Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Michael Hillegonds, Mary Jurey, Nancy Kryka, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, and Nancy Ridout.

Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling

EC: Ed Coates

Introduction

The goal of our committee is to recognize outstanding service by local and national level volunteers of USMS. The committee is responsible for four annual awards: the Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award, Club of the Year Award, June Krauser Communications Award, and Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. Nominations come from members across USMS. The committee also provides assistance and support for awards given by other USMS committees and groups. The committee also maintains the history of all USMS awards and award winners.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Procuring New Nominations: Emailing Zone chairs and LMSC leadership directly. Posting on social media and tagging fellow clubs, USMS members and LMSC's.
2. Successfully presenting a Webinar on LMSC peer to peer development.
3. Revised committee policies to reflect actual practices.
4. Began project to develop Google forms for award nominations.
5. Submitted a candidate for the MISHOF Contributor of the Year category.
6. Formed selection committees for 2023 awards (RJA, DDSA, June Krauser, COTY).
7. Continued to collect stories of past award winners.
8. The committee met approximately every six weeks to discuss and move forward with all 2023 projects.

Action Items

1. Catalog awards and streamline branding.
2. Google award form pilot to other awards.
3. RJA Presentation: Make it flexible for award winner.
4. Look at value add for ALL USMS awards. How do they add value to USMS members and fit with our overall mission?

Agenda =Sunday August 20, 2023 at 7pm ET

1. Introductions of Committee Members
2. Subcommittee reports
3. Award Presentations 2023
4. 2023 Projects and Committee Goals

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Recognition and Awards Committee Meeting

[Sunday, August 20 • 7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

MJ Caswell, Chair;

Michael Abegg, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Chris Ottati, Walt Reid, Jeanne Seidler, Mary Sweat.

Ex-Officio: Onshalee Promchitmart, Mary Beth Windrath

EC: Ed Coates

Introduction

The Records and Tabulation Committee is responsible for the process of recording and verifying Top 10 times, All-American and All-Star rosters, and USMS national records for all three courses. The committee supports the National Swims Administrator, who collects, verifies and compiles Top 10 submissions from the LMSCs, and also receives and verifies record applications and maintains the USMS records. The committee works with the LMSC Top Ten Recorders to use the Top 10 Tools for meet uploading to the Event Results Database.

The committee works closely with the USMS office for the online publication of lists, rosters and records, and to simplify and automate the compilation and verification of all swim performances in pools measured as per USMS pool measurement rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. For the past year, the National Swims Coordinator, a contractor employee of USMS (Mary Beth Windrath) continued to verify, compile and publish USMS Records and Top 10 Swims along with maintaining the USMS List of Measured Pools. She is assisted in these processes by committee member Mary Sweat, who independently verifies all uploaded meet information and the Top 10 data. The Committee chair uploaded the list of Top 10 swims and did the processing necessary to tabulate the All-Americans and All-Stars and updated the USMS website with that information.
2. Committee business was taken up during video conferences and electronically through email and the secure Records and Tabulation USMS Community page
3. Numerous inquiries were made to the committee, mostly to the Chair and National Swims Administrator regarding various questions related to Top Ten, pool measurement, availability of Top Ten times, and split request listings in the Event Results Database (ERDB). The bulk of the work of this committee actually goes on behind the scenes. Swimmers in the LMSCs are helpful in reporting potential errors in the meet results uploaded to the ERDB. An example of this is a request from a LMSC TTR to upload the meet results from the Canadian Short Course Meters Championships. MJ contacted Mary Beth and Committee member Walt and Walt was able to get a copy of the meet results with only USMS swimmers included, and MJ uploaded that file to the USMS Swims DB.
4. We discussed the use of the word “Olympics” in recognized meets, as several LMSC are still using that language despite it being against our rules. We consulted with the Rules committee chair and requested a rule interpretation that was created by the Rules committee and sent out to all LMSC Sanction chairs and Top Ten recorders.

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5. We submitted a rule change for 105.1.2, which lists the swim seasons and the dates for the top 10 files to be submitted. The current top ten file submit date is January 26th, and we are requesting that it be changed to January 20th to allow 6 extra days of processing time for Short Course Meters in order to have a more accurate Top 10 submission for World Aquatics.
6. We drafted an updated our committee description in the bylaws, as the old description was out of date. The new description is as follows
 - i. *The Records and Top Ten committee maintains and updates standardized policies and procedures to record and verify pool meet times in accordance with US Masters and AQUA rules and determines appropriate awards. Activities include assisting and educating LMSC Top 10 recorders, maintaining accurate documentation for all Top 10 and Record related rule proposals, forms, web tools, and the National Swims Coordinator. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and a minimum of 5 members.*

Our intention was to present the new committee description at the annual meeting, but we were asked to hold off as further discussions regarding the future of this committee take place.

7. We spent significant time discussing the future of this committee, given the BOD vote to sunset this and 3 other committees. It is the opinion of this committee that what we do may not have been fully understood by the BOD when they voted and some of the BOD members expressed surprise at some of the questions asked during the meeting. We feel that we provide duplication of the work that Mary Beth does and are a valuable source of feedback, support and ideas. We don't always tell her exactly what she wants to hear, but the process improves the reporting we do and provides support for TTRs. There is currently a task force looking at the future of this committee and committee members Mike Abegg, MJ Caswell and Cheryl Gettelfinger are on the task force.
8. We consulted with the History and Archives committee about uploading historical Top Ten relay data. A lack of swimmer IDs makes this project very difficult. The National Office staff would need to get involved for this project to move forward.
9. We submitted bugs and worked with USMS staff so that this information is preserved for when the updated system is designed.
10. We are considering the best way to provide feedback for the national office with regards to new systems design. Some items that are being updated currently, such as the sanctions system, could really assist TTRs if sanction information is more available to them. The Top 10 tools will be updated at some time and it's our hope that they will be made easier to use, with some bug checking tools so that some of the tedious work of checking splits would be automated. The Records and Tabulations committee was part of implementing end to end event management and that goal has not been fully implemented. We hope to be able to provide guidance to make all events easier to setup, run and process.

Action Items

1. Update policy and procedures.

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2. Create a document that lists the information that TTRs would like to see from the new sanctions system.
3. Update FAQs.
4. Finalize new Pool Measurement Form

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Update policy and procedures.
3. Update the FAQs.
4. Finalize the new Pool Measurement Form.
5. Create a document that list the information that TTRs would like to see from the new sanctions system.

Records and Tabulations Committee Meeting

[Monday, August 14 • 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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Rules

Committee Members

Mollie Grover, Chair; Christina Fox, Co-Vice Chair; Claire Letendre, Co-Vice Chair

David Benjamin, Kathrine Casey, Julie Dussliere, Marilyn Fink, Susan Nolte, Barbara Protzman, C.J. Rushman, Bill Tingley, Jason Weis, Kris Wingenroth, Ben Wyckoff

Ex-Officio: Mike Abegg, Stephanie Gauzens, Onshalee Promchitmart, Teri White

EC: Chris Colburn

Introduction

The Rules Committee is responsible for ensuring that the competitive rules in part one of the USMS rules and regulations provide for fair and equitable competition in the best interests of all USMS members. The committee works throughout the year to ensure that USMS members are informed of current rules, interpretations, and changes to rules. The committee accepts, considers, and reports proposed amendments to part one and the glossary to the USMS House of Delegates in conjunction with the USMS annual meeting. The committee held a winter organizational conference call and then met in June and July to consider proposed amendments and prepare the pre-meeting delegate packet for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. The chair answered rules questions from LMSC leaders, other standing committees, and general membership inquiries as received throughout the year.
2. The Rules Committee updated the stroke rules for breaststroke (removal of the phrase “horizontal plane”), based on World Aquatics (AQUA) changes that were disseminated in January.
3. The Rules Committee updated the finish rule for backstroke (allowing swimmers to be fully submerged at the finish of the race), based on AQUA changes that were disseminated in March.

Action Items

1. Submit proposed amendments to the House of Delegates. Motions to reconsider proposed amendments are in order if additional work is required in committee meetings held in conjunction with the USMS Annual Meeting.
2. Prepare the final report for updates to the 2024 UMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates.
3. Update any language changes in USA Swimming proposals U-1 through U-3 after the USA Swimming House of Delegates meets later in September.
4. Discuss and vote on disposition of the USA Swimming proposals and housekeeping proposal(s) (after the adjournment of the USMS Hybrid Annual Meeting).
5. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2024 USMS Rules and Regulations.

Agenda

1. Approval of July 18th meeting minutes.

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2. Review of fall schedule to deal with USA Swimming proposals and housekeeping proposal(s).

Rules Committee Meeting

[Thursday, August 10 • 7:30pm - 8:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)