

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Championship

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### Committee Members

Erin Sizelove, Chair; Jim Clemmons, Vice Chair

Robert Heath, Cheryl Kupan, Sonny Nguyen, Britta O’Leary, Jeffrey Roddin, Sandi Rousseau, Edward Saltzman, Teri White

Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, Onshalee Promchitmart, Robin Smith

### 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 Indianapolis, Indiana at the IU Natatorium from June 20-24, 2024. The event was managed by the IU Natatorium and Indianapolis Sports Corp. 2,320 athletes were entered in the event, and 27 National records were broken. The meet was held at the same time as the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for swimming which were held at Lucas Oil Stadium. This gave participants the opportunity to attend the Trials and also gave the opportunity for some to attend a stroke clinic in the Trials pool. The timeline for the Nationals meet was extended an extra day to a 5 day format which assisted in managing the daily timelines. One day still extended over the goal time of a maximum of 10 hour competition days.

Summer Nationals will be held at the Marguerite Aquatics Complex in Mission Viejo, California August 21-25, 2024. Registration closed on July 29, 2024, and there are currently 1,298 athletes registered.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Developed Spring 2024 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
2. Developed Summer 2024 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
3. Developed Summer 2024 order of event in conjunction with the host.
4. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Indianapolis with host and national office.
5. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Mission Viejo with host and national office.
6. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2024 USMS clubs.
7. Submitted a proposal for limiting timelines at National Championship meets.

### Action Items

1. Solicit bids for 2026 National events and select locations.
2. Develop NQTs for 2025 Spring Nationals.
3. Determine order of events for 2025 Spring Nationals.
4. Determine meet liaisons for 2025 National meets.

### Agenda

1. Brief Committee Introductions.
2. Review/discuss 2024 Spring Nationals (Indianapolis).
3. Review/discuss 2024 Summer Nationals (Mission Viejo).

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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4. 2025 Spring Nationals Preview (San Antonio).
5. 2025 Summer Nationals Preview (Federal Way).
6. Discussion on rules proposal to limit National event timelines that will be presented to the house of delegates.
7. Anything missed, questions, comments.

### **Championship Committee Meeting**

**[Wednesday September 4, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Coaches

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### Committee Members

Trey Taylor, Chair; Molly Hoover, Vice Chair

Brandi Bashor, Nadine Ford, Michael Hamm, Terry Heggy, Laurie Hug, Cokie Lepinski, Chris McPherson, Jacky Merianos, Aaron Schneider, Andreas Seibt, Celia Wolff

Ex-Officio: Bill Brenner (National Office), Kenny Brisbin (Executive Committee)

### Introduction

The Coach's Committee has spent this year working towards the 2024 National Coaches Clinic, securing a Coach for Pan Am's, and providing On Deck Coaching at National Meets. In addition, we continue to support Coaches Education, Web Workouts, Level 4, Mentoring, Coaching Awards and many other projects. (see below)

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. **Web Workouts – Molly Hoover**, The new LCM web workouts are live and gaining traction. All online coaches are posting regularly and are supported by the sub-committee chair and national office if issues arise.
2. **Worlds/Pan Am Coaching – Cokie Lepinski, Jacky Merianos**, Cokie and Jackie secured a Coach for Pan Am's in Trinidad and Tobago, supporting the national office in budget review for this project. They are further developing a "template" to simplify this recruitment process/budgeting process in the future as well as preparing a requested budget for 2025 Worlds to be submitted to the finance committee.
3. **Education – Terry Heggy**, Terry and subcommittee support Bill Brenner at the National Office in updating Videos for Level 3 and supporting Bill in Level 1 online offerings and Level 2/3 in-person offerings. (Level 4 reported below). Year to Date: 6 Level 1 Online Classes (188 Coaches), 4 Level 2 In-Person Classes (60 Coaches), 3 Level 3 In-Person Classes (41 Coaches), 4 In-Person Offerings of Clinic Course for Coaches (30 Coaches)
4. **National Coaches Clinic – Celia Wolff**, Four of five presenting coaches have been secured at the time of this report. One additional coach needs to be secured for a full slate. In addition, we have a full panel of coaches available for the Round Table discussion. The schedule is set and registration is live. There are 9 Coaches registered at the time of this submission.
5. **Awards – Nadine Ford, Lauri Hug, Chris McPherson, Aaron Schnieder, Celia Wolff**, There were 3 nominations for Coach of the Year and 9 Kerry O'Brien Grassroots Coaching Award Nominations. Decisions to be made after the time of this reporting.
6. **Level 4 – Michael Hamm**, There are 2 submissions for Level 4 recognition, the deadline was extended to July 17 to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> applicant.
7. **Mentoring – Chris McPherson, Nadine Ford**, Mentoring is being brought "in house" to the National Office, this subcommittee is supporting that effort and assisting with the transition.
8. **Peer to Peer – Jacky Merianos**, Peer to Peer Coaching calls have been on hold for 2024 as the LMSC Development Committee works to restructure volunteer education offerings and opportunities. Once this process is complete, they will

assist the Coaches Committee and this Sub Committee in bringing Peer to Peer back online.

9. **On Deck Coaching – Celia Wolff**, Celia along with Michael Hamm and the rest of the subcommittee worked tirelessly to secure .... Coaches to assist On Deck at Indy. They ran lanes, gave advice, called starts and worked to support all swimmers at Short Course Nationals. Long Course Nationals sign up is currently live at the time of this report.
10. **Publications/Forum – Terry Heggy**, Terry has worked with any Coaches that have submitted articles to “clean up” and prepare them for publication. In addition, the subcommittee has been supporting and adding to the Coaches subforum on the website.
11. **LMSC Communication – Molly Hoover**, Molly has worked to disseminate all information from the Coaches Committee including Minutes and Summaries to a wide range of Coaches, both to the Coaches Chairs of LMSC’s and directly to the coaches that the committee has emails for.

## Action Items

1. Support the Awards Committee in obtaining bios for previous awards winners to be used in updating the USMS Website.

## Agenda

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**
2. **Web Workouts** – Molly Hoover
3. **Worlds/Pan Am Coaching** – Cokie Lepinski, Jacky Merianos
4. **Education** – Terry Heggy, Bill Brenner
5. **National Coaches Clinic** – Celia Wolff, Bill Brenner
6. **Awards** – Aaron Schnieder
7. **Level 4** – Michael Hamm
8. **Mentoring** – Chris McPherson, Nadine Ford
9. **Peer to Peer** – Jacky Merianos
10. **On Deck Coaching** – Celia Wolff
11. **Publications/Forum** – Terry Heggy
12. **LMSC Communication** – Molly Hoover
13. **Old Business**
14. **New Business**

## Coaches Committee Meeting

**[Tuesday August 13, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

## Diversity and Inclusion

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### Committee Members

Jeff Commings, Chair; Chris Campbell, Vice Chair

Lina Bot, Virgil Chancy, Lucila Davies, Laura Dennison, Nadine Ford, Mary Jurey, Tim Murphy, Leann Rossi, Ally Sega, Vicki Shu

Ex-Officio: Kenny Brisbin (VP Community Services)

### Introduction

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee spent 2024 focused on two initiatives but kept its attention on other issues that USMS faced in regards to diversity and inclusion across all levels of the organization. The committee has effectively shifted from being a reactive committee to one that wants to take the lead in making USMS a better organization.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. The main priority of the committee in 2024 was to identify barriers that would hinder USMS clubs from starting in facilities that only have a USA Swimming club operating there. A subcommittee was formed to discuss these barriers in depth and share with the entire committee. Vice Chair Chris Campbell wrote a report highlighting those major barriers.

To quote Campbell's report: "The most obvious obstacle to standing up a USMS Club is the availability of time and space in a facility. Of equal importance is the availability of qualified leadership personnel who have the time and dedication to guide such a club. This means that it takes more than a good coach on deck. There must also be considerations for facility management and liaison work, club governance and direction, appropriate financial control and oversight, as well as arrangements for the health and safety of club members as they engage in club activities. Qualified personnel may be available, but they need to have the dedication, perseverance and support to do the job."

The number of USMS clubs who are run by a board/administration that also manage a USA Swimming club is small. We do not recommend that a new USMS club be run under the auspices of a USA Swimming club, but that there could be a partnership with facility management and the current USA Swimming club to allow an adult swimming team to operate there.

Perhaps the most pressing issue is putting a new USMS club in underprivileged areas. To quote the subcommittee report, "the establishment and sustainment of a USMS Club in any venue or location, let alone an underprivileged one, takes time and money." Education and collaboration with facility managers can help ease this problem.

The report was sent to CEO Dawson Hughes for distribution among the national staff. The goal of the subcommittee was not to offer solutions, but highlight some

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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barriers that the staff can work to erase. It will take time, but we are hopeful that the growing partnership between USMS and USA Swimming can help grow our organization.

2. The committee followed up on its 2023 initiative to place a D&I Coordinator/ Committee in as many LMSCs as possible. As of July 2024, the committee is aware of 13 LMSCs (one-quarter of the 51 total LMSCs) that have a dedicated D&I Coordinator or Committee in place. The national D&I Committee is working to educate LMSC leaders on the importance of having such a role on their board, and to guide those D&I coordinators on how they can help grow diversity and inclusion at the local level.
3. In early 2024, CEO Dawson Hughes asked USMS President Ed Coates to create a task force that would examine the organization's current transgender competition policy. That task force was made of Hughes, USMS Marketing Director Kyle Deery, and five board members. D&I Committee Chair Jeff Commings, also a member of the board as the Southwest Zone at-large director, participated in this task force. The task force met once per month to discuss any changes or revisions that could be made to the policy in order to get ahead of any possible circumstances in which a transgender athlete (likely a transgender female) would compete in a Masters meet and set records and/or place high on the national rankings. Commings kept the D&I Committee informed of the task force's progress, and some of the discussions in committee meetings were shared with Hughes. The D&I Committee has read all documents from the task force, including updates to the process for a member to review an athlete's eligibility. No requests for changes or revisions were made by the D&I Committee.

### Action Items

1. The D&I Committee has voted to approve the recipient of the DEI Award in 2024. The name of the recipient will be announced at the annual meeting in September.
2. The committee approved all meeting minutes in 2024.

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. D&I Committee Year in Review
  - a. *Adding USMS clubs to facilities with USA Swimming clubs Adding D&I Coordinator/Committee to LMSCs*
3. Final review of D&I presentation at Relay 2024
4. Kenny Brisbin Board update Other announcements
5. Open floor to guest questions

### Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

[Wednesday August 7, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## History and Archives

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### Committee Members

Kirk Clear, Chair

Maryanne Barkley, Barbara Dunbar, Jessica Feng, Terry Heggy, Anna Lea Matysek, Walt Reid

Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling

EC: Crystie McGrail

### 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 into multiple project teams, where members collaborate and work collectively on assigned projects as described below.

The committee held two meetings this year; sub-committees (project teams) met individually as needed.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Much of the focus for committee members this year was once again on the future status of the History & Archives Committee. Early in 2023, the USMS Board of Directors (BOD) voted to sunset this committee. However, after further discussions with committee members, the BOD agreed to rescind that vote and establish a Task Force to look into the feasibility of sunsetting the committee. Two members of the H&A Committee (Kirk Clear and Maryanne Barkley) were assigned to the Task Force, along with other USMS members with differing perspectives and experiences. The Task Force delivered its findings and recommendations to the USMS President and BOD in late February; however, these results were not made available to the rest of the H&A Committee members until late July. As a result, the BOD decided not to propose any changes to the Committee structure this year.

With this decision on the committee's future looming for the past two years, it took some energy and passion out of its members, which affected progress on some of active projects. Still, the work of the History & Archives Committee continued, and there was some substantial progress made on several projects, which are summarized below.

2. **Relay Top 10 Project:** Prior to the early 2000s, the USMS Top 10 achievements were only available in hard copy form. The History and Archives Committee took on the task to convert Relay Top 10s by year and course from paper hard copies into digital files for ID assignment and upload to the USMS Top 10 Relay database. This effort requires transcribing Relay Top 10 data (names, times, ages, club, and LMSC) into a template for

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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each year and course missing from the 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.

Since last year's meeting, substantial progress was made on this effort. The following Top Ten relays were completed and uploaded to the USMS website:

- 1975 SCY & LCM
- 1976 SCY & LCM
- 1977 SCY & LCM
- 1978 SCY & LCM
- 1979 LCM

Short Course Yards (SCY) relay data for 1975 is currently undergoing final review prior to upload; 1973 and 1974 SCY relays remain to be completed. Transcription of all Relay Top 10 hard copy data is complete with the exception of the 1982 SCY Men's Relays. No official copy has yet been located. An interim, reconstructed list was generated and uploaded and would need to be amended if an official copy of the 1982 Men's SCY Top 10 Relays is found. Top 10 Relays for Short Course Meters (SCM) are posted for all years starting with 1986—the first year that SCM Relay Top 10s were tabulated.

Top 10 relays for Long Course Meters (LCM) are posted for 1976 through to the present; 1972 through 1974 LCM Top 10 Relays remain to be completed. Note that the age groups for the early LCM relays were not cumulative and were the same as for SCY. Additional directions for how to search for old Relay Top 10s, for both SCY and LCM, remain to be posted to explain the differing age groups used over the years (cumulative versus based upon youngest swimmer).

3. ***All-American Relay Project:*** This project aims to ensure Relay All-American achievements are recognized in swimmer's profile. Relay All-American recognition began in 1991. As a result of the ongoing Relay Top 10 Project, Relay All-American recognition appears on swimmer profile pages provided that IDs were found and added in the Relay Top 10 database for all members of the relay. Many swimmer IDs remain missing for relays between 1991-1996. Work continues to assign and/or add IDs for members of all #1 relays. Some additional issues remain, such as the fact that IDs for all #1 relay members must be included in order for the Relay status to appear for any one of the individual relay members. A possible work-around may be devising an IT solution to override the current coding that require all relay members to have a swimmer ID.
4. ***USMS Remembrance (In Memoriam) 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 highlighted during the USMS Annual Meeting. The remembrance video is also available online to any USMS member.
5. ***USMS Rule Book Project:*** Project designed to locate and scan missing USMS and AAU Masters Rule Books. This past year, we posted USMS rule books from 1981 through 1988. During this time span, the USMS rules were a chapter or Appendix in the United States Swimming (USS) Rule Book. We extracted not only the Masters section for each



## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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of these years, but also the various sections that were referenced in the Masters section. We now have USMS Rule Books available on the website for 1981-1988, 1997, 1999, and 2001-2023. We have hard copies of the remaining rule books; but still need to scan and upload. Those include: 1989-1996, 1998, and 2000.

6. ***National Record Chronology***: USMS maintains a database for the chronological listing of National records for all events and courses. This project aims to add precise record dates, since many older records were missing month and day. Members are working to locate precise dates for both individual and relay National records. During this past year, we were able to find a few more dates that were added to the record book.
7. ***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. This project started a few years back when the previous USMS President asked the committee to research how history is being captured at the LMSC levels and then explore options to assist LMSCs with enhancing ways to record their achievements for future posterity. Much of the research is complete; however, there does not seem to be a lot of interest at the top levels of the organization. The H&A Committee needs to evaluate the Living History project and determine the next steps. Part of that may include collaborating with LMSC Development Committee to understand the needs of LMSCs.
8. ***Physical/Digital Archives & Records Repository***: Historical artifacts are routinely sent to USMS; but there is currently no way of inventorying and uploading these into a useable format that can be accessed by members and researchers. Many physical records are being held at a member's house until ISHOF Library/ repository has completed renovations or alternative plans can be made. Need to inventory records, then work with National Office on alternative repository until ISHOF is complete.
9. ***Updating/ Maintaining Olympian List***: This project aims to confirm accuracy and veracity of USMS members who participated or were named to an Olympic team. We added approximately 10 names to the list this past year.
10. ***History Page on USMS Website***: Update and maintain information on USMS History Page. Requires working with National Office to make updates. There were a few updates made this year and we continue to look for improvements to benefit the membership's interest in the organization's history.
11. ***Assistance to USMS members and other activities***: 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. We were also contacted by some members and/or family of USMS members who had potential historical documentation and memorabilia they were willing to donate to USMS.

### Action Items

1. Continue efforts on active projects
2. Evaluate Living History project and determine next steps; collaborate with LMSC Development Committee to understand the needs of LMSCs

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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3. Consider a feasible repository for historical artifacts that is searchable and retrievable to members and researchers
4. Continue to review History page on USMS website and provide recommended updates

### **Agenda**

1. Call History and Archives Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call – Committee members and ex officio
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes
4. Review the status of History and Archive projects
5. New Business/Other
6. Adjournment

### **History and Archives Committee Meeting**

**[Tuesday August 6, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Legislation

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### Committee Members

Stephanie Gauzens, Chair; Kristof Kertesz, Vice Chair

Chris Campbell, Rob Copeland, Omar de Armas, Diana Dolan Lamar, Ahren Lehnert, Jane Moore, Teddy Palmer, Maddie Sibilica, Meg Smath

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

### 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

1. Considered and forwarded to the House of Delegates a list of proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
2. Passed one emergency amendment in accordance with 601.5.2
3. Issued an interpretation of 201.3.5

### Housekeeping Amendments

There were no housekeeping amendments passed this year.

### Action Items

1. Submit proposed amendments to the House of Delegates and prepare the final report for updates to the 2025 USMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates
2. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2025 USMS Rules and Regulations

### Legislation Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Thursday August 29, 2024 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## LMSC Development

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### Committee Members

Douglas Sayles, Chair; Ian King, Vice Chair

Voting Members: Linda Chapman, Nicole Christensen, Susan Ehringer, Jason Ellis, Maria Teresa Frias, Doug Garcia, Arlette Godges, Karen Harris, Jenny Hodges, Ann Marshfield, Jacky Merianos, Tom Moore, Aaron Schneider, Jill Wright

Ex-Officio: Bethany Burchill, Jessica Reilly

EC: Crystie McGrail

### Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee works to strengthen LMSC governance and operations by providing support, educational opportunities, and mentoring to LMSC boards and officers. It identifies LMSCs that are not meeting LMSC standards and assists them in achieving compliance. To that end, it may consult with other committees, coordinators, and special appointments. The committee may also provide recommendations to the Legislation Committee regarding proposed amendments to LMSC and zone names and boundary descriptions.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

- **USMS Volunteer Relay Planning:** This subcommittee, led by Tom Moore, has been coordinating with national office staff and content experts nationwide to plan the [2024 Volunteer Relay](#) on October 18 in Houston. This annual gathering of LMSC leaders provides an in-person forum for sharing best practices and examples of successful initiatives related to the event theme and session topics. The subcommittee's work has included helping plan and staff the "Event Development" themed Relay in October 2023; summarizing the post-event attendee survey for the USMS board; creating a [2024 Relay overview document](#) that describes this year's "Community Development" event theme, goals, and format; developing [informative session topics](#); and recruiting and working with the presenters. The subcommittee has also proposed to the USMS board a theme for the 2025 Volunteer Relay and will begin considering future event themes beyond 2025.
- **LMSC Standards Rollout:** This subcommittee, led by Linda Chapman, finalized and received USMS board approval of the [updated LMSC Standards](#) in October 2023. These standards define LMSC governance best practices. During 2024, this subcommittee has been developing an LMSC Standards rollout plan and training and mentorship resources. Tactics that may be implemented in the coming months in coordination with other subcommittees and the national office include updating standards and sanctions webpages, guidance documents and templates (e.g., the [meet announcement template](#)); auditing meet announcements in each LMSC; and creating an LMSC Standards "roadmap" infographic, emails, and webinars. Gamification is also under consideration. The subcommittee plans to field the first backward-looking LMSC Standards compliance survey since before the pandemic in 2025 to identify LMSCs needing remediation support.

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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- **Volunteer On-Demand Training:** The 2023 subcommittee, led by Karen Harris, presented a sanctions chair role overview at Relay 2023. The 2024 subcommittee, led by Jason Ellis, has been developing on-demand training frameworks for LMSC sanctions chairs and event directors, which has been an iterative process. The subcommittee's initial frameworks indexed existing online resources and ideated video tutorials; however, the national office's forthcoming functionality updates to the event sanction system will affect these training frameworks. The subcommittee is working with the national office to restructure the sanctions chair webpage's navigation and has coordinated with the LMSC Standards Subcommittee to update the sanctions guide-to-operations document (not yet posted). For the event operations training project, the subcommittee is building upon its initial framework to create an event management handbook and leverage the meet announcement template and meet announcement examples from several types of meets.
- **LMSC Communication:** The LMSC DC was asked to minimize the number of blast emails it sends and instead promote USMS volunteers' use of the Community Forums. To that end, this subcommittee, led by Tom Moore, has worked with the national office to create a Community Forums navigation tutorial and to subscribe LMSC volunteers (starting with chairs and vice chairs) to their corresponding role-based forums. Each role-based forum has an LMSC DC moderator. The subcommittee hopes to increase engagement in these forums then reinstate peer-to-peer relationship building webinars in early 2025. On October 20, 2024, LMSC DC members Jacky Merianos and Bethany Burchill will present an overview of [USMS volunteer communications channels](#) during the "Communications Tools & USMS Resources for Volunteers" session at Relay 2024.
- **Volunteer Role Descriptions:** The committee determined in 2021 that template [volunteer role descriptions](#) should be reviewed on a biennial basis. In 2023, the committee updated the zone chair, national committee chair, committee vice chair, committee member, and LMSC sanction chair role descriptions; the zone chair description was subsequently updated to reflect that, per changes to the USMS Election Operating Guidelines, zones no longer vote to endorse USMS board candidates from their zone. The committee will revisit volunteer role descriptions in Q4 2024 or Q1 2025.
- **Committee Policies:** The committee updated its [operating policies](#) in November 2023.

### Agenda

1. Chair's Welcome & Roll Call
2. VPLO Update
3. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Volunteer Relay Planning
  - b. LMSC Standards Rollout
  - c. On-Demand Volunteer Training
  - d. LMSC Communications & Support
4. Coaches Committee Liaison Report
5. New Business (if any)

### LMSC Development Committee Meeting

[Tuesday August 20, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Long Distance

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### Committee Members

Phyllis Quinn, Chair; Catherine Rust, Vice Chair

Jim Davidson, Bob Bruce, Tim Murphy, John Fox, Nicki Phillips, Stephen Rouch, Jenny Hodges, John Dussliere,

Ex-Officio: David Miner, Robin Smith, Jay Eckert

### Introduction

The Long Distance Committee 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. The committee is 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. The committee works with the National office for the administration and review of the results for the three Virtual events.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Prepared the rule proposal for Part 3 for the HOD
2. Working on a policy document for the timeline regarding protests of national championship events. (There was a protest submitted this year and it was resolved.)
3. Working on time limits guidelines for OWNC and what needs to be considered.
4. Subcommittee formed to review annual awards.
5. Four OWNC events were held this year. Thank you to the three race committees for another successful year.

### Action Items

1. LD-1 and swimmers and responsibility of the Referee, swimmers and coaches for disabled swimmers, and added definitions for accommodations and modifications.
2. LD-2 Swimsuit rule proposal for Category 1 swimsuits. This proposal clarifies that a suit tie at the waist is acceptable.
3. LD-3 Allows the LDC to waive the prohibition on personal buoys in swims which individual escorts are required, and drafting is not permitted.
4. LD-5 is housekeeping striking “only” from the last sentence.
5. LD-6 clarifies that the USMS national Office shall have jurisdiction over the National championship events.
6. LD-7 changes who is responsible for setting the event fee for National Open water and virtual events.

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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### **Agenda for LDC forum**

1. Introduction of committee members
2. Introduction of the 7 rule proposals, ask for discussion.

### **Long Distance Committee Open Forum and Meeting**

**[Tuesday September 3, 2024 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Officials

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### Committee Members

Michael Abegg, Chair; Omar de Armas, Vice Chair

Ed Stranc, Emily Cook, Teri White, 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 431 are currently active, including 283 Starters and 135 Referees. This reflects increases of 96 total officials, 81 Starters, and 35 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: The committee established training and certification requirements for USMS Administrative Officials. 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. The Committee will be test-driving the materials at the Summer National Championships and plans to begin making it available as a certification by the end of the year.
2. National Championship Meets:
  - a. 2024 College Club Swimming National Championship, 4/5-7, Indianapolis, IN. Lucy Duncan was Meet Referee. Mike Abegg from the Committee attended. Great response from local officiating community.
  - b. Spring Nationals 6/20-24 Indianapolis, IN; Brenda Haflich was Meet Referee. Teri White, Omar de Armas, Alina de Armas (Admin Referee), and Mark Marshfield from the committee officiated. 42 officials total, including a healthy contribution from local officials despite the competition with the Olympic Trials.
  - c. 2024 Summer Nationals 8/21-25 Mission Viejo, CA: Omar de Armas was Meet Referee; Mike Abegg, Teri White, Judy Gillies, John King 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. We continue to increase the standard for the performance of our National Championship officials while simultaneously improving the unique environment we wish to see on the USMS National Championship deck.



## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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- d. Reimbursement Policy: effective with 2024 Championship meets, a new Committee policy was 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 determined by the meet hosts. This policy will continue to be monitored to ensure we deliver a “national” feel to our officiating crews but also constrain costs for USMS and the local championship hosts.
3. Rules:
  - a. No rules changes were submitted to the Rules Committee this year. The Chair participated as ex-officio on the Rules Committee in a number of discussions regarding adjustments to technical rules in order to ensure rules are not only fair to competitors but clear in their enforcement
4. USMS Excellence in Officiating Award: Award for 2024 to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

### **Action Items for 2025**

1. Refine Administrative Official certification materials based on rollout experiences.
2. Recruit officials in areas currently underserved.
3. Policy Handbook

### **Agenda for Annual Committee Meeting**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Old Business
  - Officials Certification program status
  - Administrative Official certification rollout
  - Championship meet reports for 2024
    - Spring (SCY) Championships - Indianapolis
    - Summer (LCM) Championships – Mission Viejo
  - USMS Officials Award
  - USMS Officials website
4. New Business
  - Annual Meeting (September, Houston)
  - Relay (October, Houston)
5. Future Agenda items
  - Policy Handbook
  - Update Training/Certification materials
  - 2025 Nationals (San Antonio and Seattle)

### **Officials Committee Meeting**

**[Wednesday September 11, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Recognition and Awards

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### Committee Members

Beth Nymeyer, Chair, Nancy Kryka, Vice Chair, Richard Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, and Nancy Ridout, Caitlin Gagnon, Sara Dunn, Ann Marshfield, Sonny Nguyen, Tara Mack, Maria Teresa Frias, Jessie Fang  
Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling

EC: Crystie McGrail

### 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, USMS Fitness Award and Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. Nominations come from members across USMS. The recipient of the Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award was announced in the spring of 2024 and will be announced going forward after July 1st. The other awards will be announced at the USMS Annual Meeting in the fall. 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. Revised committee policies to reflect current practices.
3. Adopted the Fitness Award under our purview.
4. Submitted a candidate for the MISHOF Pioneer category.
5. Formed selection committees for 2024 awards (RJA, DDSA, June Krauser, COTY, Fitness).
6. Continued to collect stories of past award winners.
7. The committee met approximately every six weeks to discuss and move forward with all 2023 projects.
8. Moved the date of the RJA Award submission deadline from April to July 1st to align with other awards.

### Action Items

1. Catalog awards and streamline branding: ongoing
2. RJA Presentation: Make it flexible for award winner.
3. Look at value add for ALL USMS awards. How do they add value to USMS members and fit with our overall mission?
4. Collect all of our digital documentation in one place

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## **Agenda**

1. Introductions of Committee Members
2. Subcommittee reports
3. Award Presentations 2024
4. 2024 Projects and Committee Goals

### **Recognition and Awards Committee Meeting**

**[Sunday August 11, 2024 7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Records and Tabulation

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### Committee Members

MJ Caswell, Chair

Cheryl Gettelfinger, Chris Ottati, Walt Reid, Jeanne Seidler, Mary Sweat, Gerald Treiman, Denise Wetzel

Ex-Officio: Onshalee Promchitmart, Mary Beth Windrath

### 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. In addition to a chair, the committee includes 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 pool measurement process is within the domain of the committee. 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. The RT committee completed a new Pool Measurement form. We broke the form into an initial pool measurement and then a second form for bulkhead confirmations. We got the new form into the USMS rule book and it's our hope that the new form will be more straight forward to use.
4. We had a spirited discussion regarding CCS meets combined with USMS meets. We identified potential issues and informed the national office of the potential issues.
5. We discussed what the responsibilities of the LMSC TTRs are and committed to working with the LMSC development committee if the role description needs to be updated.
6. RT policy documentation and the RT changes document were revised and significantly updated.
7. We recommended the LMSC TTRs uncheck the box that says the pool is okay if pool measurements, bulkhead confirmation measurement or meet observer reports have not

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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been submitted. This allows swimmers to visually notice that their swims are currently not accepted for Top 10 and records.

8. We had extensive discussion regarding the Meet Observer report and how we can support the LMSC TTRs receiving the Meet Observer reports in a timely manner and having the report provide useful information to ensure that the meet is run in such a manner that USMS should recognize it.
9. We developed a plan to support the inclusion of the SCY nationals meet in the 23-24 Top 10 lists despite the lack of software support. We worked with the national office to implement this plan.
10. We are working with Linda Chapman of LMSC development to assist in reviewing meet announcements to make sure they have all the necessary information. LMSC development has created a document to make it easier for sanctions chairs to be certain they have all the necessary information.
11. We proposed a Rule amendment that would bring the relay split disqualification rule in alignment with the individual event split rule, requiring that the distance the relay is supposed to swim should be achieved for a leadoff split to count.
12. We had a spirited discussion regarding non-conforming relays and how to make sure that they do not get incorrectly changed into a conforming event. Multiple solutions were suggested and we all agreed that software tools support would be the best solution.
13. We proposed a rule change that the bulkhead confirmation report be used for competition lanes. We had a meet with a bulkhead conformation measurement was short for a lane that was used as a warm up/ cooldown lane and there was no way to know if the competition lane was short as well.
14. We proposed a rule change for record application requirements, bringing the rule in compliance with current operating procedures. We would like to allow a picture of the ET console to replace a paper copy.

### Action Items

1. Update GTO and FAQs in response to swimmer feedback.
2. Find or create a group workspace to assist in keeping copies of meet announcements when the meet does not use Club Assistant.
3. Work on new Meet Results Processing software specifications.

### Agenda

1. Committee members appreciation.
2. Approve minutes from our last meeting.
3. Overview of what RT has accomplished this past year, including
  - Update of historical changes document.
  - Update of RT policy document.
  - Update of Pool Measurement forms.
  - Provided guidance to the national office and LMSC development committee regarding what information LMSC TTRs need from sanctions.
  - Provided guidance to the national office regarding how to implement Top 10 reports when the date of SCY nationals is outside the normal schedule.
  - Created a new policy regarding meet observer reports at recognized meets.
4. Review rules that may impact TTRs and records.

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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5. Important reminders for TTRs.
6. Laser measuring tools and common errors. How to analyze what is being reported and what guidance can we give to get better results.

### **Records and Tabulations Committee Meeting**

**[Thursday August 8, 2024 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**

# USMS Standing Committee Reports

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## Rules

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### Committee Members

Mollie Grover, Chair; Christina Fox, Vice Chair

David Benjamin, Kathrine Casey, Judy Gillies, Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Barbara Protzman, Jason Weis, Patrick Weiss, Kris Wingenroth, Ben Wyckoff

Ex-Officio: Mike Abegg, Julie Dussliere, Stephanie Gauzens, Onshalee Promchitmart

### Introduction

The Rules Committee is responsible for ensuring 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 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 spring organizational call and met twice in August to consider proposed amendments and prepare the pre-meeting delegate packet for the 2024 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 met in May to adjudicate a protest regarding an LMSC championship meet.
3. The Rules Committee met in July and August to update the Policy on Transgender Swimmer Inclusion for submission to the Board of Directors for their approval. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> update since the adoption of the original version of the policy in 2005.

### 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 2025 UMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates.
3. Update any language changes in USA Swimming proposals U-1 through U-4 after the USA Swimming House of Delegates meets later in September.
4. Discuss and vote on disposition of the USA Swimming proposals and housekeeping (HK) proposals (after the adjournment of the USMS Virtual Annual Meeting).
5. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2025 USMS Rules and Regulations.

## USMS Standing Committee Reports

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### **Agenda**

1. Approval of August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.
2. Review of fall schedule to deal with USA Swimming and HK proposals.

### **Rules Committee Open Forum and Meeting**

**[Thursday September 5, 2024 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)**