
Championship

Committee Members

Erin Sizelove, Chair; Jim Clemmons, Vice Chair

David Brancamp, Robert Heath, Cheryl Kupan, Britta O’Leary, Jeffrey Roddin, Sandi Rousseau, Mark Rubacky, Edward Saltzman, Teri White

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

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 San Antonio, Texas at the Northside ISD Swim Center from April 24-27, 2025 with over 1,700 swimmers. The event was co-hosted by San Antonio Sports and the Northside Independent School District.

Summer Nationals will be held at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center August 6-10, 2025. Registration closed July 14, 2025, and there are currently 1109 entered in the meet.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Selected hosts for Spring Nationals 2026 (Greensboro), Summer Nationals 2026 (Sacramento), and Spring Nationals 2027 (Irvine).
2. Developed Spring 2025 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
3. Developed Summer 2025 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
4. Developed Spring and Summer 2025 order of events.
5. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Federal Way with host and national office.
6. Tested entries for Spring and Summer 2025.
7. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2025 USMS clubs.
8. Assigned meet liaisons for Spring 2026 (Erin Sizelove and Mark Rubacky) and Summer 2026 (Jim Clemmons and David Brancamp) Nationals.
9. Reviewed rules proposals from the Officials Committee related to Article 104 changes.

Action Items

1. Solicit bids for Summer Nationals 2027, Spring Nationals 2028 and Summer Nationals 2028.
2. Develop NQTs for 2026 Spring Nationals.
3. Develop NQTs for 2026 Summer Nationals.
4. Determine order of events for 2026 Spring Nationals.

5. Determine order of events for 2026 Summer Nationals.

Agenda

6. Brief Committee Introductions.
7. Review/discuss 2025 Spring Nationals (San Antonio).
8. Review/discuss 2025 Summer Nationals (Federal Way).
9. 2026 Spring National Preview (Greensboro).
10. 2026 Summer Nationals Preview (Sacramento).
11. Discuss bid deadline and selection process for Summer Nationals 2027, Spring Nationals 2028 and Summer Nationals 2028.
12. Anything missed, questions, comments.

Championship Committee Meeting

[Tuesday August 26, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

Coaches

Committee Members

Molly Hoover, Chair; Aaron Schneider, Vice Chair

Rob Duguay, Michael Hamm, Laurie Hug, Chris McPherson, Jacky Merianos, Gretchen Sanders, Trey Taylor, Blake Woodrow

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

Introduction

The Coaches Committee continues to support our membership with quality training and information for coaches throughout the country. All committee members are actively engaged in various areas to provide high level service and opportunities to USMS Coaches.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. USMS Relay - All sessions and presenters are confirmed, and presenters have started working on their presentations. Thank you to Aaron for working with the Relay Task Force to help set up another amazing offering for coaches.
2. Web Workouts: Everything has been running smoothly and we are headed into the final few months for current writers. We will be taking applications for 2026 writers (both short course and long course) in September/October. New writers will begin in January.
3. Awards: The Awards sub-committee received 8 Kerry O'Brien nominations and 4 Coach of the Year nominations for this year's coach's awards. The sub-committee has met and selected award recipients which will be presented at the annual meeting.
4. Education: Since August of 2024, 216 coaches have been Certified online at Level 1, 142 coaches have been certified at Level 2, and 128 coaches have been certified at Level 3. Bill Brenner and others have traveled the country to offer in-person certifications in 9 different locations, with 5 more scheduled before the end of the year. This continues to be an extremely valuable offering to better our coaches and communicate the current best practices to those on deck who are working directly with our membership every day.
5. Level 4 Applications: We have received one Level 4 application for 2025. The sub-committee has reviewed the application and requested follow up information as necessary.
6. LMSC Communication: Emails are being sent to Coaches Chairs with important information the Coaches Committee wishes to share. Blake is also heading up some communication initiatives among the committee that hope to be rolled out to larger coaching groups in the future.
7. Mentoring: Mentoring is still a priority for the committee and we are always seeking coaches who wish to be mentored so we can pair them up with experienced coaches.

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8. On Deck Coaching: As of this writing, several coaches have signed up to be On-Deck coaches at Summer Nationals but we are still in need of more. We're grateful for the increased visibility on the USMS Nationals page!
9. Publications: We continue to look for coaches who wish to contribute articles through the website or streamlines. Our committee is happy to help authors get started or put ideas into words.
10. Peer to Peer: Jacky organized a very successful Coaches Social at Spring Nationals and is doing the same for Summer Nationals next week.
11. Worlds: As of this writing, our Head Coach, Chad Durieux and our USMS Swimmers are headed to the Worlds Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore. Good Luck, Team USMS! Thanks to Jacky and Rob for working with USMS and Chad to make sure our swimmers are in great hands!
12. Liaisons: We continue to have Coaches Committee members work with the D&I, Long Distance, ALTS and LMSC Development committees to communicate information as it applies to coaches to our committee and the LMSC Coaches Chairs.

Action Items

1. Continue to develop a communication system that meets the needs of this committee and can be developed to facilitate communication among coaches throughout the country in the future.
2. Finalize award biographies for all previous Coaches award winners.

Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Committee's
 - Web Workouts (Gretch)
 - NCC/Relay (Aaron)
 - Awards (Aaron)
 - Education (Mike)
 - Level 4 Applications (Laurie)
 - LMSC Communication (Blake)
 - Mentoring (Rob)
 - On Deck Coaching (Chris)
 - Publications (Laurie)
 - Peer to Peer Calls (Jacky)
 - World's/Pan Am's (Jacky)

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4. Liaisons

- D&I (Kenny)
- ALTS (Mike)
- LMSC Development (Jacky)
- Long Distance (Gretch)

5. Old Business -

6. New Business –

Coaches Committee Meeting

[Tuesday August 12, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Diversity and Inclusion

Committee Members

Jeff Commings, Chair; Chris Campbell, Vice Chair

Members: Lucila Davies, Laura Dennison, Mary Jurey, Megan Shovlin, Vicki Shu, Sharon Snyder

Ex-Officio: Kenny Brisbin (VP Community Services)

National Staff Liaison: Daniel Paulling

Introduction

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee spent 2025 working on two initiatives that it had voted as priorities for the group in 2023. In addition, a USMS member asked the committee to file a grievance following an incident at national-level event, while an LMSC asked the committee for guidance regarding a proposal regarding seeding at a championship event. In addition, the committee remained a sounding board on the issue regarding transgender participation in USMS events. All of these situations diverted much of our attention away from the work we had planned to do in 2025, but we still managed to move the needle forward in helping the organization showcase its desire to make USMS a more inclusive and welcoming sports organization.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. The first course of action in the committee's new year was to reduce the number of meetings from monthly to every other month. This idea was raised by Chair Jeff Commings because some meetings ran about a half hour in length, providing few updates from the previous month's meeting. With many of the committee members working on other national or local committees as volunteers, Commings wanted to make sure everyone's time was not wasted. The suggestion also came with praise for the committee that it had worked well in the past few years in meeting its objectives. Though the chair was allowed to set the occurrence of committee meetings without a vote, the chair asked for a motion to change the meeting occurrences. The motion was seconded and approved by the committee. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee now meets on the even-numbered months each year, though the chair has the discretion to call for special meetings in odd-numbered months as needed.
2. In October 2024, committee member Tim Murphy presented a proposal to the committee that had been created by the South Central Zone. The proposal wanted to create a cutoff time for distance freestyle events at the LMSC's championship meet. This was not creating a qualifying time, but a maximum time in which a person would be stopped mid-race if they had not finished by that time. The proposal was created out of concern that some swimmers extended the timeline with in distance freestyle events to the point that the meet often ran past the timeline. This required the LMSC to pay extra in facility fees and affected the well-being of officials. The proposal wanted to allow officials to stop anyone who swims past a specific time in distance events, which has never been a rule or policy in any pool swimming meet. The concern by committee members was excluding many athletes from participating in the meet if they are not able to meet the cutoff time.

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The opposite thinking was that athletes must meet the qualifying times in the 1650-yard/1500-meter freestyle at nationals, though no one has ever been stopped in a race if they swim slower than that qualifying time. The committee offered many possibilities to allow slower swimmers to compete in distance events, from seeding the event from fastest to slowest, creating an entry cap on distance events, and moving these events to the end of the day's program. The national committee has no jurisdiction over the LMSC proposal, but the suggestions were offered to the LMSC before their vote in January. (The South Central Zone voted to approve the proposal for a cutoff time at their championship meets.)

3. The committee continued to focus on its initiative to create USMS clubs in facilities that only have a USA Swimming club. We expanded that objective to include facilities that have no swimming program of any kind. Though the committee was derailed from this work at the end of 2024 (see #3 below), we were able to continue this work in February 2025. That meeting was attended by CEO Dawson Hughes and President Ed Coates, who helped the committee understand that its goal is not to fight every individual battle, but rather stay aligned with the USMS Mission, Vision, and Values.
4. In December 2024, a committee member asked the committee to consider drafting a grievance against Dawson Hughes regarding a situation that took place at the in-person Relay event in Houston in October 2024. At Relay, a USMS member handed out promotional items that were deemed racially offensive to many. Another USMS member had sent an email to Hughes expressing her anger that the items were allowed to be distributed. Hughes had responded in a timely manner to this member and added that he is open to more conversation. That invitation was not accepted, but rather this member asked a D&I Committee member to suggest a grievance. After much conversation with the committee member (who had previously been upset with Hughes over other situations) and the USMS member who wrote the letter to Hughes, the committee moved to draft the grievance and submit it to the National Board of Review. The committee voted to approve the motion, and the grievance was officially submitted to the NBR in mid-December.

In mid-January, the NBR replied to the grievance, noting that a standing committee of USMS was not able to file a grievance. The NBR stated that the matter should be directed toward the board of directors, who had jurisdiction over the actions of the CEO. At a subsequent board meeting, the board noted that Hughes acted to resolve the matter timely and professionally. In the February 2025 meeting, committee members were told of this decision by the board, and no one objected to the board's decision. The only downside of the grievance and its actions was that the committee member who asked for the grievance to be drafted decided to leave USMS. She also decided that the club that she ran would not renew as a USMS club. The committee did state that it was unfortunate that this club, which had been promoted heavily as one of the leading clubs promoting diversity in USMS, decided to remove its voice from the conversation of making USMS more diverse and inclusive.

5. The work of identifying facilities that could support a USMS club intensified after the February meeting. In the April meeting, all those in attendance spoke of the barriers to introducing USMS clubs in facilities in their areas. Some mentioned that many of the pools ripe for adult swim programs have not reopened fully since the pandemic, or management is not fully open to the idea of a full-fledged Masters team in their pool.

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Some areas have the facilities but lack the education about the benefits that a USMS club would bring, particularly those that already have a youth swim program. Bill Brenner, the vice president of club development, was given the list of facilities offered up in the meeting with the hopes that he would add them to his growing list of areas that are in need of a USMS club.

6. The ongoing work of establishing a Diversity and Inclusion Committee in all 51 LMSCs continues. As of August 2025, 14 LMSCs had such a committee (the number was originally 15 but the committee in one LMSC was lost when its chair was unable to continue in that role). It continues to be a sticking point for some LMSCs that feel there is no need to have such a committee, either because diversity and inclusion is “not an issue” in their LMSC or they cannot see the value of the committee. The national committee chair continues to reach out to LMSC chairs to step up the efforts to add more LMSCs to the list to help promote this essential value of USMS at the local level.
7. The entirety of the June 2025 meeting was spent discussing the recent situation involving the participation of certain athletes at the 2025 spring nationals in San Antonio, Texas. Several USMS members filed eligibility review requests for three athletes who attended those nationals, alleging that those athletes were not eligible to compete in the female category. CEO Dawson Hughes attended the meeting to offer the latest update to the committee (and to several USMS members in attendance as guests). This was the first official meeting in which the public was able to hear from Hughes regarding the “transgender competition policy” and the next steps after the Texas Attorney General opened an investigation into the matter. The D&I Committee had been heavily involved in the creation of the transgender policy that had been in place since December 2024 (the interim policy that went into effect July 1, 2025 had not yet been announced), but the urgency of looking into making changes to the policy meant the committee would not be as involved. The committee chair is a member of the board of directors, which ultimately was responsible for the competition eligibility policy, so the D&I committee would remain in the loop regarding any updates. Committee members expressed a hope that inclusivity would remain a focus for the board in their continued work on the policy and all actions regarding it, and also requested more background on the eligibility review process.
8. The committee met on July 30, 2025, as part of its obligation to hold a meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting. The chair provided a “year in review” that included a rundown of the major topics discussed at the previous meetings for the guests in attendance. As expected, the bulk of the conversation involved the interim competition eligibility policy that been in effect for about a month. Dawson Hughes attended the meeting to provide the latest updates and answer questions from the committee. At the end of the meeting, the guests in attendance were allowed to ask questions. All of the questions asked revolved around the interim competition policy and the problems it seems to create for transgender athletes.

The July 30 meeting was also an opportunity to get an update on the peer-to-peer webinar that the committee had been discussing for about a year. This webinar would be for all of the LMSC D&I chairs as a place to meet and discuss the work they had been doing and understand more about their roles. Vicki Shu is leading the subcommittee to shape the agenda for this roundtable,

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which is expected to take place in late October or early November. The chair will be reaching out to the D&I chairs when a date has been set.

Also at this meeting, the chair mentioned that he would be stepping down as chair at the end of 2025. He suggested that all interested candidates to fill the position reach out to him or USMS President Ed Coates and to indicate their interest in the committee survey sent to members after the annual meeting. The chair hoped to remain on the committee for at least one year to help the new chair with the transition and noted that his decision to step down was made a year ago, long before any of the major incidents with USMS took place.

Action Items

1. The D&I Committee voted to approve the change of meeting occurrences from monthly to every other month in October 2024.
2. The D&I Committee voted to approve a motion to file a grievance in December 2024 with the National Board of Review against CEO Dawson Hughes.
3. The committee approved minutes for meetings taking place in October 2024, December 2024, February 2025, and April 2025. The minutes for the June 2025 meeting were under review by the USMS legal counsel and could not be approved as of August 2025.

Agenda

1. Welcome and approve June 2025 meeting minutes
2. Year in Review:
 - a. 2025 initiatives
 - b. Relay incident and D&I Committee grievance
3. Competition eligibility policy
4. Update: LMSC D&I webinar
5. D&I Committee in 2026
6. Open forum for guests
7. Adjournment

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

[Wednesday July 30, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

History and Archives

Committee Members

Chris Colburn, Chair

Maryanne Barkley, Chris Campbell, Ahren Lehnert

Ex-Officio: Daniel Paulling, Crystie McGrail

Introduction

The committee had a short functional year, with three primary objectives from the Board: to wind down the not-yet-completed committee projects; to create and submit to the Board a job description for a to-be-appointed volunteer role of USMS Historian; and to submit to the Board a list of candidates for the proposed role.

On the first item, the committee received archived results from three open water events held in the 1980s and are working with the National Office to ensure that these results are archived appropriately. At our June 30 meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the job description for the role of USMS Historian. During the month of July, committee members submitted potential candidates for the role, and the committee plans to discuss those candidates at their August 4th meeting for submission to the Board in advance of their meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

While we know change is challenging, the committee is aware that the vast work of many volunteers on this committee over the last few decades is now substantially complete. The committee is confident that the staff, in conjunction with the newly appointed volunteer role of USMS Historian, will continue the important work of adding to and preserving the ongoing history and archives of the organization.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. The chair met with staff and former contractors to review the process used to assign USMS IDs to swimmers in the Top Ten Relay results who previously had no USMS ID. This project is now substantially complete. Any ongoing work will be performed by staff and/or individual contributors.
2. The committee met on June 30 to discuss the job description that has been generated for the volunteer role of USMS Historian. The job description has been approved and submitted to the Board of Directors.
3. At the meeting in conjunction with the USMS annual meeting, the committee will discuss potential candidates for the role of USMS Historian. Following that meeting, the committee will submit a list of potential candidates to the Board in advance of the Board meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

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Action Items

1. Ratify the vote approving the minutes of the June 30 committee meeting.
2. Submit a list of potential candidates for the role of USMS Historian to the Board of Directors in advance of the September 12 Board meeting.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.
2. Ratify the vote approving the minutes of the June 30 committee meeting.
3. Discuss potential candidates to submit to the Board for the role of USMS Historian.
4. As this is the final scheduled meeting of the committee, approve the minutes of the running meeting as recorded.
5. Adjourn.

History and Archives Committee Meeting

[Monday August 4, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Legislation

Committee Members

Stephanie Gauzens, Chair; Kristof Kertesz, Vice Chair

Chris Campbell, Rob Copeland, Omar de Armas, Ahren Lehnert, Crystie McGrail, Jane Moore, Teddy Palmer, Maddie Sibia, Meg Smath, Carrie Stolar

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 2025 Annual Meeting.
2. Passed two emergency amendments in accordance with 601.5.2

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 2026 USMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates
2. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2026 USMS Rules and Regulations

Agenda

The Legislative Agenda will be published in the Annual Meeting HOD schedule.

Legislation Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Thursday September 4, 2025 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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LMSC Development

Committee Members

Douglas Sayles, Chair, Tom Moore, Vice Chair

Members: Lina Bot, Linda Chapman, Nicole Christensen, Denise Escher, Arlette Godges, Karen Harris, Ann Marshfield, Jacky Merianos, Jill Wright

Ex-Officio: Bethany Burchill, Jessica Reilly, Crystie McGrail

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee works to strengthen LMSC governance and operations by providing support, resources, guidance, and mentoring opportunities to LMSC boards and officers. These activities include identifying and assisting LMSCs not meeting minimum standards, helping plan and staff the annual Volunteer Relay national meeting, consulting with other committees and, when warranted, providing 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:** Led by Tom Moore, this subcommittee coordinates with USMS staff and content experts nationwide to plan the annual “[Volunteer Relay](#)” summit where LMSC and national leaders exchange best practices and examples of successful initiatives related to the event theme. The subcommittee helped plan the “Community Development” themed [Relay 2024](#) in Houston and has been planning the “Coach Support & Club Development” themed [Relay 2025](#) to take place October 24-26 in Kansas City. It has analyzed the Relay 2024 attendee survey results and created a Relay 2025 [overview document](#) and Peer-to-Peer Social Hour [presentation](#), developed [session topics](#), recruited presenters, and is now coordinating development of Relay 2025 presentations and social activities. The subcommittee has also proposed an “Event Development” theme for Relay 2026 and is considering future themes and session topics.
- **LMSC Standards Rollout:** In 2023, this subcommittee, led by Linda Chapman, finalized and received USMS board approval of the updated [LMSC Standards](#), which define LMSC governance best practices. In 2024, it developed a structured rollout plan. During 2025, it has implemented this plan and primed LMSC boards by creating a [calendar road map](#) and Peer-to-Peer Social Hour [presentation](#) and by circulating these resources and updates via the LMSC Standards [webpage](#), LMSC Officers & Administration [Community Forums](#), and [STREAMLINES FOR VOLUNTEERS](#) e-newsletter. On May 1, the LMSC Standards compliance survey was fielded to all LMSC board chairs, treasurers, and sanction chairs via email. The subcommittee has followed up with non-respondents, compiled and reviewed the survey results and, in conjunction with zone chairs, is communicating with LMSC leaders to constructively address and achieve compliance with missed standards by the Sept. 30 resolution deadline. A results report will be submitted to the USMS board.

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- **Volunteer Communication:** Led by Tom Moore in 2024 and Jacky Merianos in 2025, this subcommittee has focused on reducing email volume and promoting volunteer engagement through other [USMS volunteer communications channels](#), including quarterly [Peer-to-Peer Zoom Social Hours](#) and moderated, volunteer-role-based [Community Forums](#) and WhatsApp messaging groups. It coordinates closely with USMS staff and other LMSC DC subcommittees and also prepares a monthly list of upcoming USMS events and deadlines, which it circulates through zone chairs and the LMSC Chairs & Vice Chairs [Community Forum](#). At Relay 2025, this subcommittee will lead a “Volunteer Communications” breakfast group discussion on Sunday, October 26.
- **Volunteer Role Descriptions:** The LMSC DC determined in 2021 that template [volunteer role descriptions](#) should be reviewed on a biennial basis. In 2023, this subcommittee updated the zone chair, national committee chair, committee vice chair, committee member, and LMSC sanction chair role descriptions. During 2025, the committee has not yet recommended any role description updates but may yet do so.
- **Volunteer On-Demand Training:** In early 2025, this subcommittee was subsumed into other subcommittees. In 2024, it coordinated with other subcommittees and the national office to update sanctions guide-to-operations documents and restructure the navigation of the Sanction Application Process [webpage](#), which may require further updates pending the national office’s forthcoming sanctions system upgrades later this year.
- **Other Activities:** The LMSC DC chair and vice chair periodically field questions from LMSC and zone leaders about governance-related issues. These interactions typically involve discussing best practices, making introductions, and/or directing volunteers to relevant resources — e.g., USMS Rule Book, webpages, guidance documents, staff, or other knowledgeable volunteers.

Agenda

1. Chair’s Welcome
2. VPLO Update
3. National Office Update
4. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Volunteer Relay Planning
 - b. LMSC Standards Rollout
 - c. Volunteer Communications
 - d. Volunteer Role Descriptions
5. Coaches Committee Liaison Report (if any)
6. New Business (if any)

LMSC Development Committee Meeting

[Tuesday August 19, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Long Distance

Committee Members

Catherine Rust, Chair; Dave Brancamp, Vice Chair

Christie Ciraulo, Jim Davidson, Bob Kolonowski, Tim Murphy, John Fox, Nicki Phillips, Stephen Rouch, Vesna Shelnutt, Marnie Whitley

Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, Colton Martin, David Miner, Onshalee Promchitmart, Robin Smith

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 Virtual National Championship events.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Updated Long Distance Operating Guidelines
2. Updated Virtual Championship Guidelines
3. Updated OWNC Liaison Guidelines
4. Updated LDC Operating Guidelines
5. Prepared the Part 3 rules proposals for the HOD
6. Preparing presentation for 2025 Relay
7. Subcommittee formed to review annual awards.
8. Five OWNC events were held this year. Thank you to the hosts for these events.

Action Items

1. LD-1 301.2 Deletes the requirement for LDC's creation of Open Water and Virtual guides to operations. These are documentation processes.
2. LD-2 303.1.1 Clarifies that open water event safety plans must be approved by the USMS Open Water Coordinator.
3. LD-3 303.4 Adds the requirement for an events swimwear requirement to appear in the event information.
4. LD-4 303.5.1 Deletes the recommendation for seeding for an open water event by 1500 LCM/1650 SCY times and leaves manner of seeding to the discretion of the host.
5. LD-5 306.6.3 States that the adjusted times (0.99 added to times to the nearest second and 0.09 to times to the nearest tenth) are official times.
6. LD-6 306.10.2 Identifies the different paths for resolving questions on results. One for non-championship event and one for USMS national championships.

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7. LD-7 307.2.2 Gives the LDC latitude to identify the open water events for a particular year. Specifies at least 3 open water events will be held each year.
8. LD-8 307.3 Deleted. USMS has seen a decline in hosts for open water national championships marking adherence to bid rotation impossible. Therefore, site selection should be viewed as a process by the LDC and removed as a rule.
9. LD-9 307.5.1C Deletes the requirement for the performance bond since the performance bond is no longer required for an OW event.
10. LD-10 307.5.2 Deleted since a financial statement for OW event hosts is no longer required.
11. LD-11 307.7.8A Clarifies times allowed for the event director and LDC Chair to respond to protests. Adds restrictions on which judgements made during a race may be protested only to the referee. 307.7.8B Changes the authority for resolving protests in virtual events to the LDC Chair and gives required response time.
12. LD12 307.8.1 Removes the requirement for the order of presentation of individual results (women than men) as a rule. 307.8.2 Removes the requirement for the order of presentation of relay results (women than men then mixed) as a rule. 307.8.1C Removes the requirement for the swimmers name in results to appear as on the USMS membership card.
13. LD-13 307.9.3 Deletes requirements for divisions in club scoring for virtual events. Creations of divisions are the discretion of the National Office.
14. LD-14 307.10.4 Deleted as the presentation of awards by the LDC should not be subject of a rule. The LDC can develop procedures for making awards.
15. LD-15 307.11.3 Eliminates requirement for OW hosts to provide All-American lists. This will be handled by the LDC.
16. LD-16 307.12.2 Clarifies the national championship swims required to qualify for All-Star status.
17. LD-17 308.1.4B States that the adjusted times for (0.99 added to times to nearest second and 0.09 to times to the nearest tenth) are official times. 308.1.4C New. States that to establish a new record, the official time must be less than the current record.
18. LD-18 308.1.5D Adds the documentation required for applying for a USMS record in a cable event.
19. LD-19 308.1.6D3 Eliminates the requirement to notify a virtual national championship event host of an attempt to use a split time to set a USMS individual record. 308.1.6E3 Eliminates the requirement to notify a virtual national championship event host of an attempt to use a split time to set a USMS individual record.
20. LDHK-1 Changes numbers to standard form. Changes event names to USMS approved names.
21. LDHK-2 Corrects with to within.

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Agenda for LDC forum

1. Introduction of committee members
2. Introduction of the 21 rule proposals, ask for discussion.

Long Distance Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Sunday August 24, 2025 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

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Officials

Committee Members

Omar de Armas, Chair; John King, Vice Chair

Virgil Chancy, Emily Cook, Rob Duguay, Judy Gillies, Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Edward Stranc, Teri White, Cindi Wood

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 544 currently active USMS certified officials, including 304 Starters and 152 Referees. This reflects increases of 113 active officials, 21 Starters, and 17 Referees over last year. As we continue to grow our numbers, we are fortunate some areas of the country with no or few USMS officials to be able to continue relying 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 also approved a supplemental quiz to be used in conjunction with the USA Swimming AO test.

2. National Championship Meets:

- a. 2025 College Club Swimming National Championship, 3/28-30. Mesa, AZ. Teri White was Meet Referee. Mike Abegg, Virgil Chancy and Ed Stranc from the Committee attended. Great response from local officiating community. Onshalee reported that next year the meet is in Greensboro with regional champs in Mission Viejo, Ohio State, Liberty, and Florida State.
- b. 2025 Spring Nationals 4/24-27 San Antonio, TX, Brenda Haflich was Meet Referee. Judy, Cindi, Rob reported that there were just minor glitches, wind was a problem with flags, large number of younger swimmers was notable, also there was some CCS carryover – Rhode Island's CCS team came since they didn't qualify for nationals.

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- c. 2025 Summer Nationals 8/6-10 Federal Way, WA: Mike Murphy was Meet Referee; Judy Gillis will serve as the Officials Committee Liaison.
 - d. 2025 World Masters, 8/7-14 Singapore Teri White will represent USMS officials.
3. Reimbursement Policy:
- a. 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.
4. Rules:
- a. Four (4) rules changes were submitted to the Rules Committee this year.
 - i. 103.3.1/103.3.2: update language on who can approve exception to official’s qualification to specify LMSC Chair in lieu of LMSC Officials Chair. – Approved to send to Rules
 - ii. 103.2.1, 103.3.1, 108.1.1: add requirement for referee to be approved prior to sanction being issued. – Approved to send to Rules since it couldn’t be determined who else might need to review it.
 - iii. 104.5.10B(1): update selection process of Meet Referee for National Championships to equal current actual process. – Approved to send to Championship for concurrence.
 - iv. 104.5.10B(2),(3),(4): Delete and replace with language referencing existing committee policy document. Approved to send to Rules and Championship.
 - b. 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
5. USMS Excellence in Officiating Award:
- a. Award for 2025 to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Two (2) Officials’ will be awarded this year.

Action Items

- 1. Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
- 2. Testing: transition Testmoz to someone else?
- 3. Officials Award: send out general call
- 4. Prepare/formalize Policy Handbook
- 5. Policy for Championship meet staffing

USMS Standing Committee Reports

6. Officials' certification for Championship meet reimbursement
7. Championship Meet Referee/Liaison roles
8. Referee requirement of being a USMS Member – eliminate?
9. Plan for Session Tracking which currently we just rely on LMSC Officials Chairs (whose processes vary).
10. Update Referee Self-Training Guide to be a supplemental guide now that USA Swimming training has launched.
11. Monitor Administrative Official training and modify as needed.

Agenda for Annual Committee Meeting

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Old Business
 - a. Officials Certification program status
 - b. Administrative Official certification rollout
 - c. Championship meet reports for 2025
 - i. Spring (SCY) Championships – San Antonio
 - ii. Summer (LCM) Championships – Federal Way
 - d. USMS Officials Award
 - e. USMS Officials website
4. New Business
 - a. Annual Meeting (September 12-14, Kansas City)
 - b. Relay (October 24-26, Kansas City)
5. Future Agenda items
 - a. Policy Handbook
 - b. Update Training/Certification materials
 - c. 2026 Nationals (Greensboro, NC and Sacramento, CA)

Officials Committee Meeting

[Thursday August 28, 2025 8:30pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Beth Nymeyer, Chair, Nancy Kryka, Vice Chair,

Richard Burns, Hill Carrow, Michael Moore, Nancy Ridout, Caitlin Gagnon, Sara Dunn, Ann Marshfield, Tara Mack, Jessie Fang, Shannon Linsey, Amy Wagner

Ex-Officio: Crystie McGrail, Daniel Paulling

Introduction

The goal of our committee is to recognize outstanding service by local and national level volunteers of USMS. The committee is responsible for five 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 will be announced Fall 2025. The remaining awards will be announced at the USMS Annual Meeting in Kansas city in September.. 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. Formed selection committees for 2025 awards (RJA, DDSA, June Krauser, COTY, Fitness).
4. Continued to collect stories of past award winners.
5. The committee met approximately every six weeks to discuss and move forward with all 2025 projects.
6. Moved the date of the RJA Award submission deadline from April to July 1st to align with other awards.
7. Worked on improving award forms and updating opening and closing times for nominations

Action Items

1. Catalog awards and streamline branding: ongoing
2. Finish historical award bios
3. Look at the 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
5. Streamline award application forms into appropriate digital platform

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Agenda

1. Introductions of Committee Members
2. Subcommittee reports
3. Award Presentations 2025
4. 2025 Projects and Committee Goals

Recognition and Awards Committee Meeting

[Sunday August 17, 2025 7:00pm - 8:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

MJ Caswell, Chair

Barbara Church, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Catherine Giarrusso, Walt Reid, Jeanne Seidler, Jerry Treiman, Ed Tsuzuki

Ex-Officio: Bethany Burchill, Jessica Reilly, Julie Dussliere

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 and determining the related policies. In addition to a chair, the committee includes the National Top Ten Coordinator, who collects, verifies and compiles Top 10 submissions from the LMSCs, and also works with the national office 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 part of 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, calculate the All-Americans and All Stars, along with maintaining the USMS List of Measured Pools. Mary Beth resigned her position and the RT committee chair has been working with the National Top Ten Coordinator and the national office to approve records and continue with the processing and the posting of Top 10 list for each course. The Committee chair uploaded the list of Top 10 swims and updated the All-Stars on the USMS website.
2. The committee was asked to advise on two different situations. One was the unusual situation where two different sets of bulkhead measurements were done for a meet, and which to use. The other involved an unusual set of measurements and whether to accept them.
3. We have had extensive discussions regarding pool and bulkhead measurements and have submitted a new Bulkhead measurement confirmation form. We implore those doing bulkhead measurements to verify each measurement, and not simply record the measurement.
4. We have 2 subcommittees meeting to work on either documentation updates or recommendations for future meet processing software.
5. We have updated the policies and procedures to reflect current practice and to formally codify how points are used to decide pool All-Americans.

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6. We have updated the Top 10 Common Questions to make certain that position aliases are used in our documentation.
7. We debated and recommended a rule change for 105.1.7, to stop requiring a bulkhead measurement confirmation for top 10, while maintaining that standard for USMS records.
8. We reviewed the current practice for record progressions related to multiple records at a similar time and need to update and include in our policy document.
9. Top 10 web documentation review and revision is ongoing and is being actively worked on.
10. The recommendations for future software development are ongoing and we are attempting to anticipate future business needs and have more of the programming logic be user defined. (Example – having swim seasons defined by users, rather than being hard coded in the program). We would also like to have more error and exception checking handled by user tools rather than relying on Top Ten Recorders to spot anomalies. The current meet results processing relies on a great deal of user intervention to produce accurate meet results data, top 10 lists, Pool All Americans and Pool All Stars.

Action Items

1. Finish meet processing software specifications.
2. Get the Top 10 tutorials and other documentation up to date.
3. Work with the LMSC Development Committee to review the Top 10 recorders position.

Agenda

1. Appreciation for RT committee members.
2. Review Meet Processing software recommendations.
3. Request input on documentation that is needed for Top 10 recorders or swimmers that doesn't exist or is out of date.
4. Discuss how the committee can further support Top 10 recorders.
5. Discuss reviewing meet information, to assist TTRs.
6. Answer questions that anyone might have.

Records and Tabulations Committee Meeting

[Sunday September 7, 2025 8:00pm - 9:00pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Rules

Committee Members

Mollie Grover, Chair; Christina Fox, Vice Chair

David Benjamin, Kathrine Casey, John King, Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Jason Weis, Patrick Weiss, Kris Wingenroth, Ben Wyckoff, Rome Yount

Ex-Officio: Omar de Armas, 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 July to consider proposed amendments and prepare the pre-meeting delegate packet for the 2025 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. Members of the Rules Committee served as members of Eligibility Determination Panels throughout the year.
3. The committee met in separate joint sessions with the Board of Directors and Legislation Committee to facilitate work related to the policy titled “Interim USMS Policy on Participation in the Men’s and Women’s Competition Category and Eligibility for Official Recognition Programs”.

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 2026 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 Hybrid Annual Meeting).
5. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2026 USMS Rules and Regulations.

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Agenda

1. Approval of July 10th and July 22nd meeting minutes.
2. Review of fall schedule to deal with USA Swimming and HK proposals.
- 3.

Rules Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Tuesday September 2, 2025 8:00pm - 9:30pm EDT | Zoom Registration Link](#)