

International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA)

Kenny Brisbin

The International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Association (IGLA) is a global organization dedicated to promoting inclusion, diversity, and community through aquatic sports for LGBTQIA+ athletes and allies. Many USMS clubs are active members of IGLA, and the championships serve as an important competitive and social event for our community.

The 2025 IGLA Championships were held in Washington, DC from May 31 to June 5, 2025, at the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center. The event drew approximately 400 participants from around the world, with strong representation from USMS LGBTQIA+ teams. The atmosphere was both competitive and celebratory, providing opportunities for swimmers to connect, share experiences, and showcase their talents. At the time of this report, official meet results have not yet been posted.

Looking ahead, the 2027 IGLA Championships are scheduled to take place in Montreal, Canada, from July 30 to August 5, 2027. This event will mark another opportunity for IGLA swimmers to participate in an international meet that embraces inclusion, camaraderie, and high-level competition.



National Board of Review (NBR)

W. Scott Fuller

USMS National Board of Review Chair

National Board of Review Activities, September 2023 to August 2024

I became NBR Chair effective 03/01/2025, and both the USMS and I are exceedingly fortunate to have the prior Chair, Juliet Cox, continue to serve USMS and the NBR in her capacity as the Vice-Chair.

The pool of hearing panelists, approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) is as follows:

Erin Sullivan (Breadbasket)

Robin Tracy (Breadbasket)

Alana Aubin (Colonies)

Greg Weber (Southeast)

Erika Braun (Southeast)

Molly Hoover (Great Lakes)

Elyce Dilworth (Great Lakes)

Denise Brown (Great Lakes) New

Susan Ehringer (Great Lakes) New

Jim Clemmons (Northwest)

Karen Chuang Harris (Oceana)

Kerry O'Brien (Oceana)

Tom Boak (South Central)

Gretch Sanders (South Central) New

Mary Hull (Southwest)

Arlette Godges (Southwest)

Members Tracy, Dilworth, Aubin, Harris, Godges, Boak, Sullivan, and Weber have served on hearing panels in the past. Throughout the year, it is common for members to express interest in serving as a panelist. After the Annual Meeting, if appropriate, the NBR will work with the USMS President to assemble a slate of panelists to present for consideration by the new BOD.

Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

Grievance Activity

Following the annual meeting in 2024, the NBR received and resolved three grievance petitions prior to the end of the year. One grievance involved a dispute among LMSC leaders. That grievance concluded with an order that barred the respondent from future registration as a member in that LMSC but not from future USMS membership in another LMSC. A second grievance petition alleged that the USMS CEO had mishandled some attendees' concerns over an incident at a volunteer meeting. The NBR dismissed that grievance because the NBR has no authority to discipline USMS employees. The third grievance petition alleged erroneous refusal to sanction an event. The NBR dismissed that grievance, because USMS Rule 403.3.5 does not give the NBR authority to overrule sanctioning decisions.

Year to date in 2025, the NBR has received 5 grievance petitions. The NBR received two grievance petitions that involved USMS policies. One grievant complained of the absence of a policy that applied to the dispute that the grievant alleged existed, and the other grievant complained about the existence of an interim eligibility policy that the grievant alleged adversely impacted the grievant. Resolution of either policy dispute required the NBR to act beyond its authority, so both grievances were dismissed. Both grievances were subsequently appealed to the BOD. The NBR also received a grievance petition involving a matter that was investigated, and subsequently dismissed without a decision on the merits, because the alleged dispute involved a matter of governance that was beyond the jurisdiction of the NBR. Another grievance petition was submitted to the NBR was determined to be connected with a prior matter on which the NBR had ruled against the grievant. The NBR refused to exercise jurisdiction over the grievant's newly asserted grievance. The NBR has also received a grievance petition that involves a boundary issue, and that grievance is active, and it is proceeding to a hearing.

Other Activity

The NBR has responded to questions from LMSC leaders about addressing and resolving conflicts within their LMSCs. Vice-Chair Juliet Cox has also communicated with several USMS members about conflicts, or potential grievances, or more generally, the NBR's role. The NBR Chair has communicated with Legal Counsel regarding several possible rule changes that may warrant further discussion.



World Aquatics Masters (AQUA)

Nadine Day

Term Summary Report

As I approach the end of my first term as Masters Chairperson with World Aquatics, I would like to highlight key developments, improvements, and ongoing challenges that have shaped our progress in the Masters community.

1. Competition Operational Guidelines and Registration Reforms

We undertook a comprehensive update of the **Competition Operational Guidelines** to strengthen the integrity and efficiency of Masters Championships. A major focus has been on registration procedures to ensure athletes are current members in good standing.

- Federations are now required to upload active club lists into the **GMS system**, allowing the system to flag unrecognized clubs during registration.
- All athlete profiles must be approved by their Federation, verifying name, club, accurate **date of birth** (in day/month/year format), and membership status.
- In the U.S., unattached swimmers are not recognized. Instead, USMS uses “UC” club codes corresponding to each LMSC (e.g., UC32). Therefore swimmers belong to a club.

We continue to address recurring issues, including incorrect profile photos (which must resemble passport-style photos) and improperly formatted dates of birth.

2. GMS Integration for Results, Rankings & Records

The **Top Ten** and **World Records** platforms are now fully integrated into the **GMS system**, which verifies membership and eligibility.

- **World Record submissions** must be made within **30 days** of the event (reduced from 60 days). This enables near real-time processing and quicker issuance of certificates.
- For **Top Ten rankings**, enhancements were made to ensure accurate birthdate formatting.
- Meet results can now be uploaded directly into GMS, provided all participants are properly registered. This builds a verified results database supporting World Championships.

3. Meet Sanctioning and Eligibility

To ensure the legitimacy of times and records:

- A Masters meet must be **formally sanctioned** by a World Aquatics Member Federation. In the U.S., this must be done through **USAS via USMS**.
- Events must be organized on behalf of a **member club or recognized organization**.
- Only swimmers registered with a **World Aquatics-affiliated club** may compete.

Please refer to the full [Competition Regulations](#) for eligibility and compliance guidelines.

Note: Results from USA Swimming events are **not eligible** for Masters World Records or Top Ten submissions.

4. Expansion into Open Water

In an exciting development, **two Masters Open Water events** were successfully included in the **World Aquatics Open Water Cup Series**. Host cities had the option to add a Masters division, expanding participation opportunities. This initiative will continue in **2026**.

These initiatives represent meaningful progress in standardizing procedures, ensuring athlete eligibility, and creating new competitive opportunities. Feedback from surveys conducted after each championship has been instrumental in guiding these improvements, and I remain committed to continued growth and refinement.

We are currently at the World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore.

The next World Aquatics Masters Championships will take place in Budapest. The tentative dates are June 26 to July 18, 2027. With the current plan that masters will take over Margaret Island and run concurrently with the Elite competition.

