

USMS Standing Committee Reports

Championship

Committee Members

Erin Sizelove, Chair; Mark Rubacky, Vice Chair

David Brancamp, Jim Clemmons, Robert Heath, Cheryl Kupan, Megan O'Connell, Britta O'Leary, Jeffrey Roddin, Edward Saltzman, Dan Underbrink, Teri White

Ex-Officio: Carrie Stolar, Jay Eckert, Colton Martin, Onshalee Promchitmart

Introduction

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

Spring Nationals were held in Greensboro, North Carolina at the Greensboro Aquatic Center from April 30 through May 3, 2026 with over 2,000 swimmers.

Summer Nationals were held at the North Natomas Aquatic Complex in Sacramento, California, a new location for the National meet. With 1,410 swimmers registered, this is the largest Summer Nationals in USMS history. Events 200 and longer were capped during the registration process in order to ensure the meet is manageable for the athletes and volunteers. After entries closed, many athletes from the waitlist were moved to the event(s) as requested.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Selected host for Summer Nationals 2027 (Richmond).
2. Developed Spring 2026 NQT Standards file; made them available to local meet directors.
3. Developed Spring and Summer 2026 order of events.
4. Supported pre-meet liaison meeting in Sacramento with host and national office.
5. Tested entries for Spring and Summer 2026.
6. Established Local and Regional Club classifications for 2026 USMS clubs.
7. Assigned meet liaisons for Spring 2027 Nationals (Jim Clemmons and David Brancamp).

Action Items

1. ADevelop NQTs for 2027 Spring Nationals.
2. Determine order of events for 2027 Spring Nationals.
3. 2028 Nationals location is currently being evaluated, and we anticipate announcing locations by the end of 2026.
4. Develop an overarching policy document for the Championship Committee.

5. Review data for event caps and explore other ways to limit meet timelines.

Agenda

1. Brief Committee Introductions.
2. Review/discuss 2026 Spring Nationals (Greensboro).
3. Review/discuss 2026 Summer Nationals (Sacramento).
4. 2027 Spring National Preview (Irvine).
5. 2027 Summer Nationals Preview (Richmond).
6. Select subcommittee for developing an overarching policy document for the Championship Committee.
7. Anything missed, questions, comments.

Championship Committee Meeting

[Monday, August 24, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST| Zoom Registration Link](#)

Coaches

Committee Members

Molly Hoover, Chair; Aaron Schneider, Vice Chair

Karyn Austin, Marcia Benjamin, Angie Brennan, Robert Duguay, Doug Garcia, Michael Hamm, Laurie Hug, Barbara Ingold, Wynne Kirchner, Jacky Merianos, James Miller, Todd Samland, Gretchen Sanders

Ex-Officio: Kenny Brisbin, Vice President of Community Services

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. National Coaches Clinic - All sessions and presenters are confirmed, and presenters have started working on their presentations. Having Golden Goggles at the same time has given us some opportunity to involve some Olympic swimmers and coaches during the weekend, and we are very excited about that! Thank you to Aaron for helping to set up another amazing offering for coaches.
2. Web Workouts: Fourteen new coaches were hired to be workout writers for 2026. The National Office had them all up and running by January and it felt like a smooth transition. We are working with the National Office to track usage of the various areas and trying to collect more statistics on clicks and views.
3. Awards: The awards submission window has officially closed. The sub-committee is now reviewing nominations and selecting this year's Kerry O'Brien Award recipients and Coach of the Year, both of which will be presented at NCC.
4. Education and Level 4 certification: Congratulations to Bill Brenner on his retirement! Coach Education is currently on hold as the National Office evaluates how best to move forward with this offering.
5. LMSC Communication: Emails are being sent to Coaches Chairs with important information the Coaches Committee wishes to share. Our hope is that these Coaches Chairs are then sharing the info with the coaches throughout their LMSC.
6. 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.

7. On Deck Coaching: The On Deck Coaching slots for Spring Nationals in Greensboro were full. This was fantastic and a great help to all the swimmers spread out through 20 lanes during warm ups. The slots for Summer Nationals had a good turn out but still had spots open as of the start of the meet.
8. Publications: A couple members of our committee are working with the National Office on some workout articles. 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.
9. Peer to Peer: We have been able to add a coaches social to both national meets this year as we did last year. This has been a great way for coaches to get together away from the meet. We also hosted a webinar led by Marcia Cleveland of Illinois regarding Open Water Training/Coaching. This had a great turnout, and we hope to do more of these in the near future.
10. Worlds: Our focus is turning to providing coaches to Worlds, which will next be held in 2027 in Budapest. We are working with the National Office to possibly staff two coaches for this meet due to its size and spread-out venues.

Action Items

1. Work with the National Office as needed to develop Coach Education offerings moving forward. Many of our members are happy to take on leadership roles in this.
2. Continue to find ways to connect coaches. Last year, we started a workout exchange through Discord that became a great way for coaches to share what they are doing. Seeing the success of the webinar has created excitement on future plans for more of those. In-person socials are rare but a fantastic opportunity to touch base and we plan to keep providing these in the future as well.

Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Sub-committees
 - a. Web Workouts (Gretch)
 - b. NCC/Relay (Aaron)
 - c. Awards (Laurie)
 - d. Education (Mike)
 - e. Level 4 Applications (James/Laurie)
 - f. LMSC Communication (Marcia)
 - g. Mentoring (Todd)
 - h. On Deck Coaching (Robert)
 - i. Publications (doug)
 - j. Peer to Peer Calls (Jacky)
 - k. World's/Pan Am's (Jacky)
4. Liaisons
 - a. D&I (Kenny)

- b. ALTS (Mike)
 - c. LMSC Development (Aaron)
 - d. Long Distance (Gretch)
5. Other Business -

Coaches Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 11, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

Diversity and Inclusion

Committee Members

Mary Jurey, Chair; Chris Campbell, Vice Chair

Jeff Commings, Laura Dennison, Doug Garcia, Sydney Olson, Sharon Snyder, Megan Zerpa

Ex-Officio: Kenny Brisbin, Daniel Pauling

Introduction

The D and I Committee pushed re-set in 2026 with a focus mostly on outreach and how to be more inclusive and diverse in encouraging membership and participation. The committee got off to a late start because Ed Coates and Dawson Hughes wanted to address the committee and set the tone for 2026, and that did not happen until early April. We have had 4 monthly meetings since then with the general purview of enhancing the membership experience, promoting and normalizing best practices, and being a resource to clubs and LMSCs.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Discussion about refining a list of Best Practices for onboarding new swimmers and bringing into Masters Swimming. Have surveyed multiple coaches for input and ideas. Received a thorough template that we are working on adapting for USMS overall use.
2. Developing a D and I newsletter which we would like to go out to LMSC Chairs, D and I Chairs, and Coaches with concepts, ideas, and best practice tips, etc. Content under development.
3. Developing bridge programs or how best to move swimmers from ALTS and Grown Up Swimming to Masters Swimming. Much discussion on legality issues surrounding trial memberships. Also acknowledging that there is a wide gap between ALTS and being a masters swimmer and how to bridge that gap.
4. Imaging issues – much discussion on how to portray Masters Swimming in a more approachable way that is not intimidating for a new or not strong swimmer. Much consensus that the community building and friendships developed within USMS are maybe the most important but that that does not come across in general marketing and social media portrayal of Masters Swimming. How to appeal to your general, average, every day swimmer who is just looking to stay healthy and make friends?

Action Items

1. Complete a set of Best Practices
2. Develop and send out the first D and I newsletter.
3. Propose developing a system for programs that are good for beginners, or certain levels of accessibility.
4. Propose social media content, or diverse stories for USMS marketing and posts

Agenda

1. Approve previous minutes
2. Update on where we are at with Best Practices
3. Update on Newsletter development
4. Input from any D and I Chairs as to what tools or needs they might have
5. Follow up on the idea of marking programs as accessible

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

[Wednesday, August 12, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

History and Archives

Committee Members

C.J. Rushman (Ohio), Chair;

Maryanne Barkley (Ozark), Kysa Crusco (New England) Sharon Snyder (Metropolitan), Crystie McGrail (VPLO - Colorado) Stacey Eicks (Gulf), Tim Sinnenberg (Adirondack) & Hugh Moore (Potomac Valley).

Ex-Officio: Daniel Pauling (Florida)

Introduction

The mission of the History and Archives Committee (HAC) is to advance, promote, sustain and expand the recognition, appreciation, presentation, preservation and study of United States Masters Swimming history; to stimulate and to facilitate research and other scholarly activities on this subject; to enhance our resources for this endeavor; and to incorporate the study and appreciation of swimming history of adults.

The History Committee works on oral histories, physical preservation, and developing digital archives. They also work on policies related to records management and the collection of materials. The history and archives committee are a group responsible for collecting, preserving, and providing access to historical materials for a specific organization, community, or field. Its core function is to manage an archive, which can include documents, records, and other primary sources like letters, photos, and minutes, ensuring they are kept for future research and historical documentation

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

The committee continues to perform detailed work on the tasks of collecting and preserving the history of the USMS organization and its membership. Many of their recent projects include reviewing, factchecking, and submitting biographical and other historical information for publication on the USMS web site.

Past Projects Completed

In Memoriam - this is no longer a project of the committee.

Relay Top 10 - this project is completed. At this point, there isn't sufficient accurate data to keep this open as an ongoing project. Should more information be brought forward, it can be sent to the Records and Tabulations committee for review and verification.

All-American Relay Achievement Project - this project is completed. A request was made to adjust the database to show this; no further action is needed.

National Record Chronology - this is no longer a project of the committee. Should more information become available, it should be brought to the records and tabulations committee for review and verification

USMS Rule Book Project - this project is completed. Missing rule books are in the capable hands of the national office, and they will manage the next steps

Physical/ Digital Archives & Records Repository - this project is completed. Any relevant materials should be sent to the national office for archiving and safekeeping until ISHOF has been reorganized.

Action Items

Updating/ Supporting Olympian List -

1. This year, the committee will be tasked with reviewing the need to support this list and whether it promotes the values and mission of USMS. They will provide a detailed rationale for keeping this as an ongoing project.
2. The committee will set rigorous standards for who should be included on the Olympian list, with clear criteria that show that the names listed have achievements compared to USMS or swimming as a whole.
3. This year, the committee will be tasked with creating a submission form for the public to fill out to request an addition to the Olympians list. The submission form should outline all relevant criteria to show how adding this person highlights an achievement of a USMS member.

USMS Website History Page - (writing style/narrative/stories/Professional Staff)

1. This is the main priority of the committee this year
2. Each member will be assigned for 5 years during which to write a narrative history of the organization that includes: Key roles and biographies of those who filled the roles during that time period
 - Interviews and Stories from individuals who round out the atmosphere and activities of the organization during that period
 - Any related cultural or world issues that affected the organization during that time period
3. One person will be tasked with creating a narrative of the adult swimming landscape and the opportunities for USMS.
4. The committee will work together to complete and craft these Eras of USMS into a format that is easily and enjoyably digestible for all interested in learning about the history of USMS.

USMS Historian

5. The committee will continue to explore potential individuals to fill the role of USMS Historian.
 - Physical storage of documents/materials

Agenda

1. Continue to refine the list of individuals and reach out with questions to create a living biography of United States Masters Swimming, Inc.

History and Archives Committee Meeting

[Thursday, August 13th, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST| Zoom Registration Link](#)

Legislation

Committee Members

Kristóf Kertész, Chair; Maddie Sibilia, Vice Chair

Chris Campbell, Rob Copeland, Ahren Lehnert, Alison Moore, Teddy Palmer, Meg Smath

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

Introduction

The Legislation Committee met to review proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations and provide recommendations for consideration by the House of Delegates. The committee's work focused on ensuring proposed legislation was clear, consistent with existing governance structures, responsive to organizational needs, and appropriately balanced transparency, flexibility, and risk management. The committee reviewed six legislative proposals, including revisions developed through follow-up discussions with proposing committees and organizational leadership.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Membership Policy and Eligibility (L1): Reviewed and amended proposed changes to USMS membership provisions, restoring eligibility language while supporting the movement of detailed membership categories and requirements from the rulebook to Board policy to provide greater organizational flexibility.
2. Zone Realignment (L2): Recommended adoption of the proposal moving the Southern LMSC from the Southeast Zone to the South Central Zone to improve geographic alignment, member access to zone events, and opportunities for regional event promotion.
3. Records and Tabulation Committee Responsibilities (L3): Conducted an extended review of proposed changes to the Records and Tabulation Committee's responsibilities. The committee initially raised concerns regarding potential overlap with other committees and ambiguity surrounding sanctioning authority. Following consultation and revised language, the committee approved a version clarifying that the Records and Tabulation Committee supports sanctioning processes without assuming enforcement authority or LMSC sanctioning responsibilities.
4. Legislative Proposal Reporting (L4): Reviewed and amended procedures for reporting legislative proposals recommended for rejection. The committee supported continued transparency by requiring rejected proposals to be reported to the House of Delegates while specifying that such proposals would be presented without debate, vote, or action.
5. Officer Titles and Rulebook Consistency (L5): Recommended adoption of updated officer position titles to improve clarity and consistency throughout USMS governance documents, with associated editorial and housekeeping changes to be incorporated into the rulebook.
6. Authority to Decline High-Risk Amendments (L6): Reviewed language addressing amendments that could create credible and material organizational risks. After

considering legal guidance and discussing discretionary versus mandatory authority, the committee amended the proposal to provide that the chair “shall decline” consideration of amendments meeting the established risk standard.

Action Items

1. Finalize and submit the committee’s recommended legislative proposals and accompanying rationales for consideration by the House of Delegates.
2. Incorporate approved revisions and editorial housekeeping changes into the legislative package and associated governance documents.

Agenda

1. Chair’s Welcome
2. L-1 to L-6
 - L-1 Membership of Individuals
 - L-2 Zone Names and Boundaries
 - L-3 R&T Committee Modification
 - L-4 Adoption of Proposed Amendments
 - L-5 Officer Positions
 - L-6 Submission of Proposed Amendments

Legislation Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:00pm - 9:30pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

LMSC Development

Committee Members

Tom Moore, Chair

Bonnie Adams, Linda Bailey, Linda Chapman, Nicole Christensen, Arlette Godges, Ian King, Ann Marshfield, Alex McAnally, Thomas Murphy, Teddy Palmer, Luis (“Lu”) Salazar, Douglas Sayles, Barbara Sloan, Camille Tan, Jill Wright, Aaron Schneider (Coaches Committee rep)

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

Introduction

The LMSC Development Committee is tasked with strengthening LMSC governance and operations by providing educational opportunities and mentoring for LMSC boards and officers. Our two priority projects for 2026 are Relay 2026 Planning and Outreach to LMSC Leaders. Communication is one of our ongoing projects and effective two-way communication with LMSC volunteers remains a challenge. This year, USMS put in place an in-house Google Drive for shared file storage and a Slack implementation for volunteer and staff communication; as these tools are rolled out and adopted, we are very optimistic that this will significantly improve two-way communication.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. **Relay 2026 Planning:** This team is led by Doug Sayles and Ian King. The theme for 2026 is “Event Development” and the team includes committee members, volunteers from outside the committee, and staff members. [Relay 2026 Goals & Structure Overview - OK TO SHARE.pdf](#). The team coordinated with subject matter experts as well as the team planning the National Coaches Clinic to plan the schedule and curriculum for Relay. [Session Schedule and Descriptions - OK TO SHARE.pdf](#). The team also recruited volunteers from around the country to prepare and present material relevant to the theme.
2. **Outreach to LMSC Leaders:** This team is led by Tom Moore and includes committee members as well as Colonies Zone Chair Jeremy Gross. The Outreach project is intended to promote two-way communication with LMSC leaders by using the zone chairs as communication point persons. This year, we focused on coordinating with the zone chairs and building out a Slack channel for each zone to be a mechanism for open communication. Going forward, the intention is to provide a monthly prompt to zone chairs to promote discussion and will include items such as quantifying the impact of the Relay in person meeting by assessing what next step action items have been completed by attendees. We also provide a monthly prompt to remind volunteers that the committee collects published information to help keep track of deadlines and for reference if you can’t find an email you remember seeing [LMSC Dev Info - Current Month Info to Share](#).
3. **Volunteer Communication:** Ann Marshfield leads the volunteer communication team, with additional leadership from Barb Sloan focused on planning for volunteer development and mentoring. The overall team is focused on webinars, topic-specific discussion threads (which is in the process of moving from Forums to Slack) and peer-to-peer interactions for volunteers. This year, the volunteer communication team

hosted a series of role-specific webinars organized around supporting the Volunteer Role Definition process. For the remainder of this year, the team will be working on defining a volunteer development and mentoring program, and planning webinars for 2027, so that they can start earlier in the calendar year to support newer volunteers in LMSCs around the country.

4. **LMSC Standards** (survey in odd years): Linda Chapman continues to lead the LMSC Standards program. The 2025 Standards Survey was the first time several standards were included in the survey. This year was focused on reviewing feedback and making suggestions to update the standards as well as planning the communication and timing for the 2027 standards survey.
5. **Volunteer Role Definition** (updates in even years): Lucila Davies led the role definition team this year. This year, the team organized a set of webinars around groups of roles, and solicited feedback from volunteers in breakout groups.
6. **LMSC Volunteer Support:** LMSC Development provides assistance when needed as well as mentoring support to LMSC volunteers. The committee also provides a monthly information update to help volunteers stay on top of information from various email announcements: [LMSC Dev Info - Current Month Info to Share](#)..
7. **Zone Chair Support:** Zone chairs do not report through the LMSC Development Committee, but the two groups work closely together. Arlette Godges and Southeast Zone Chair Britta O'Leary led an effort to hold a series of webinars for the eight zone chairs to coordinate best practices as well as to provide feedback on the zone chair volunteer role description. Zone chairs are the point persons for communication with LMSC leadership, and each zone now has a Slack channel to help facilitate that communication.
8. **National Committee Volunteer Support:** LMSC Development is available to help other committees schedule and host webinars, and also to help share information from national committees to LMSC leaders via the zone chairs as needed.

Agenda

Welcome

Vice President of Local Operations Update

Relay 2026 Planning

Outreach to LMSC Leaders

Volunteer Communication

LMSC Standards (survey in odd years)

Volunteer Role Definition (updates in even years)

Open Discussion

LMSC Development Committee Meeting

[Tuesday, August 18, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

Long Distance

Committee Members

Catherine Rust, Chair; Dave Brancamp, Vice Chair

Christie Ciraulo, James Davison, John Fox, Bob Kolonkowski, Nicki Phillips, Phyllis Quinn, Stephen Rouch, Vesna Shelnut, David Spitzler, Amy Wagner, Marnie Whitley

Ex-Officio: Carrie Stolar, Jay Eckert, Colton Martin, David Miner, Onshalee Promchitmart

Introduction

The Long Distance Committee is responsible for the oversight of the rules and administration of the open water and long distance swimming for U.S. Masters Swimming. Initiates, receives, reviews and recommends proposed rule amendments for consideration. Ensures that Part 3 of the U.S. Masters Swimming rules promote fair and equitable competition. Solicits, reviews and selects sites for the Open Water National Championships. The committee works in an advisory capacity with open water event hosts. Ensures the USMS Open Water Championships and Long Distance pool events are conducted per Part 3 of the U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book. Coordinates with the USMS National Office on the Virtual National Championships. Maintains records and selects the Long Distance All-American and Long Distance All-Star teams.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Updated Long Distance Committee Operating Guidelines
2. Updated Long Distance Administration page on U.S. Masters Swimming website.
3. Prepared Part 3 rules proposals for the HOD
4. Presentation on Open Water Clinics at Relay 2025
5. Reviewed nominees and selected recipients for the 2026 Open Water Service Award and the 2026 Long Distance National Championship Award
6. Three OWNC held in 2026. One event cancelled due to water level
7. Selected and approved 6 OWNC for 2027
8. Clarified procedures for checking Virtual National Championships entries
9. Established Long Distance Administration page on USMS website

Action Items

1. LD-1 302.2.2A Clarifies requirements for water temperature and thermal plans
2. LD-2 303.12.1 Removes protest procedures from rule book provides a reference
3. LD-3 303.12.2 WITHDRAWN
4. LD-4 305.7A Removes protest procedures from the rule book provides reference
5. LD-5 305.7B WITHDRAWN
6. LD-6 307.3 Removes language for bidder requirement
7. LD-7 307.6.8ABC Removes protest procedures from rule book provides reference
8. LD-8 307.6.8 B C WITHDRAWN
9. LD-3, LD-5 and LD-8 Withdrawn by LDC vote

Agenda for LDC Forum

1. Introduction of committee members
2. Introduction of the 8 rule proposals, ask for discussion

Long Distance Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Monday, August 10, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST| Zoom Registration Link](#)

Officials

Committee Members

Omar de Armas, Chair; Teri White, Vice Chair

Virgil Chancy, Brendan Clark-Griffin, Emily Cook, Daniel Cox, Rob Duguay, JoAnn Faucett, John Fox, John King, Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Edward Stranc, Cindi Wood,

Ex-Officio: Carrie, Stolar, Onshalee Promchitmart

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. AOfficials Certification Program:

- a) Status:
Since it was established in 2016, we have 625 currently active USMS certified officials, including 359 Starters, 24 Administrative Officials and 185 Referees. Administrative Officials certification is new this year.
- b) As we continue to grow our numbers, we are fortunate that some areas of the country with no or few USMS officials can continue relying on our partners at USA Swimming, YMCA, NCAA, and high school to conduct meets in those locations.

2. National Championship Meets:

- a) 2026 College Club Championships – Greensboro, NC; April 10 to 12; Meet Referee, Rob Stevens. Teri White was head starter.
 - i) 32 officials plus meet referee.
 - ii) Level of swimming comparable to USA Sectional level.
- b) 2026 Spring Nationals – Greensboro, NC, April 30 to May 3; Meet Referee, Lisa Olack. Tracey Meece was the Administrative Referee, Teri White was head starter, and Jacki Allender was the Team Lead Chief Judge.
 - i) 38 officials plus team leads registered to work the meet.
- c) 2026 Summer Nationals – Sacramento, CA, August 5 to 9; Meet Referee, Leo Lin, Alina Perez de Armas Administrative Referee, Teri White head starter.
 - i) Omar: Committee members attending include VIRGIL, Brendan, Alina, Omar, Teri, Daniel, and Thomas.
 - ii) 1400 swimmers in the 5-day meet.

3. Rules

- a) Enforcement of the use of backstroke ledges continues to be a point of discussion. With the current styles available the general rule of thumb is to work with the host prior to the meet to ensure they are set to the prescribed depth, and officials monitor for obvious deviations from the rule.
- b) The Chair participated as ex-officio on the Rules Committee in a number of discussions regarding adjustments to technical rules to ensure they are not only fair to competitors but clear in their enforcement.
 - i) The rules committee adopted World Aquatics and USA Swimming rule changes regarding submerging at the finish of Freestyle and Butterfly, use of elastic tape and lap counting and use of a bell for 400M Freestyle events and informed the Officials Committee for immediate implementation.

4. USMS Excellence in Officiating Award:

- a) Award for 2026 to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

5. Action Items

- a) Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
- b) Testing: continue to search for a different testing platform.
- c) Officials Award: send out general call
- d) Continue working on Policy Handbook to assist Officials standardize procedures.

6. Agenda for Annual Meeting (September 3, 2026)

- a) Call to order
- b) Approval of Minutes

Old Business

Officials Certification program status

- a) Issued 625 credential cards
- b) Program includes 359 starters, 24 administrative officials, and 185 referees
- c) New sanction process requires meet referee to be on USMS list, not just USA Swimming or other organizations

2026 National Championships

- a) 2026 College Club Championships – Greensboro, NC; April 10 to 12; Meet Referee, Rob Stevens. Teri White was head starter.
 - i) 32 officials plus meet referee.
 - ii) Level of swimming comparable to USA Sectional level.
- b) 2026 Spring Nationals – Greensboro, NC, April 30 to May 3; Meet Referee, Lisa Olack. Tracey Meece was the Administrative Referee, Teri White was head starter, and Jacki Allender was the Team Lead Chief Judge.
 - i) 38 officials plus team leads registered to work the meet.

- c) 2026 Summer Nationals – Sacramento, CA, August 5 to 9; Meet Referee, Leo Lin, Alina Perez de Armas Administrative Referee, Teri White head starter, Mark Ryan Team Lead.
 - i) Committee members attending as officials included Virgil, Rob, Alina, Omar, Teri.
 - ii) 1400 swimmers in the 5-day meet.

Sub-Committee Reports

- a) Officials at National/international meets policies and procedures
 - i) Policy handbook
 - ii) Mentoring process for new officials
- b) USMS Officials Testing
 - i) Session Tracking
 - ii) USMS Officials Award
 - iii) USMS Officials website

New Business

- a) Virtual Annual Meeting (September 18-19)
Relay (September 25-27, Denver, CO)
- b) Future Agenda items
 - i) Policy Handbook
 - ii) Update Training/Certification materials
- c) 2027 Nationals (Irvine, CA April 29 to May 2 and Richmond, VA August 4-8)

Officials Committee Meeting

[Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Tara Mack, Chair; Caitlin Gagnon, Vice Chair

Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Emily Cook, Sara Dunn, Hayley Martin, Jane Moore, Michael Moore, Beth Nymeyer, Nancy Ridout, Crystie McGrail (VPLO), Ann Marshfield, Dan Underbrink

Ex-Officio: Daniel Pauling

Introduction

“The Recognition and Awards Committee shall promote recognition of service to USMS. The committee shall review and approve proposals for all official USMS service awards and ensure that a history of all service awards is maintained. The committee shall be involved in determining method of recognition and recipient selection when appropriate. The committee shall consist of the committee chair, at least two Ransom J. Arthur Award recipients, and sufficient members to execute the committee function. The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.”

This Committee oversees the following USMS Awards:

Captain Ransom J Arthur, MD (RJA)- The Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award is U.S. Masters Swimming’s most prestigious award. It is presented annually to the person who is recognized to have done the most to further the objectives of Masters Swimming programs over an extended period of time.

Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA)- is given to those volunteers whose service stands out in its scope and its impact on the program and the USMS members who have benefited from their efforts on the local, regional, and national level. Individuals are selected based on their contributions that align with the USMS goals and objectives.

Club of the Year (COTY)- Successful USMS clubs develop programs that draw people in, support their swimmers, and set standards for other clubs to follow. Initiated in 2006, this annual award recognizes the efforts of the great clubs that embody these attributes.

Fitness Award (FIT)- Fitness Award nominee is someone who by their example both passively and actively encourages others to seek fitness through swimming as a lifestyle (competition is not required). The individual provides encouragement through social interaction in and out of the water to keep people involved in a fitness lifestyle within their swimming community.

June Krauser Communications Award (JKCA)- The June Krauser Communications Award is presented annually to a USMS-registered individual or group, whose work in communications has contributed to the growth, improvement, or success of U.S. Masters Swimming locally, regionally, or nationally.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

Reviewing, updating, testing and implementing new nominations format, ultimately selecting JotForm for this year's nominations. This included updating questions and language required and optional on nomination forms. The committee tested the nominations and were able to troubleshoot before going live on May 1, 2026 with support from the national office, specifically Jessica and Meredith.

Launched and completed Social media campaign- promotion of Nominations to all USMS members, May 1st through July 1, 2026.

Launched and completed Email campaign soliciting nominations across LMSC's nationwide.

Collected and organized all completed nominations by the July 1, 2026 deadline. Sent nominations to subcommittees for review, discussion, consideration, and voting.

Subcommittees reviewed nominations and selected recipient(s) according to R&A Policies. Subcommittees completed recipient(s) process by July 26th, 2026.

Discussed process and will review successes and challenges for the 2027 nomination process. (ongoing)

Action Items

- Awards Bios- subcommittees are working on the bios for the 2026 Awards Recipients to be posted on the USMS Awards page(s).
- Collecting information on successes and items to update on JotForm nominations. Looking at possible alternatives to JotForm as needed.
- Reviewing and updating R&A Policies
- Reviewing Awards Nomination Promotion process.
- Creating 2026 Recognition video for Friday night of Annual Meeting August meeting
- Previous awards Bios (ongoing)

Agenda

1. "Roll Call"
2. Actions to be Taken:
 - a. Call to order & Welcome
 - b. VPLO Report, Crystie
 - c. Minutes (previously approved and posted)
 - d. Overview of Awards subcommittee chairs share details.
 - e. NOTE: We are not discussing recipients, just dynamics of the subcommittees
 - f. Other committee members share their experiences. Discuss how to get

- involved or how to express interest in this or any other committee.
- g. Questions or comments from guests
- h. Thank you all for joining and thank you to the committee members all your hard work on these awards and the entire process this year!
- i. Adjourn

Recognition and Awards Committee Meeting
[Sunday August 16th, 2026 7:30pm-8:30pm EST| Zoom Registration Link](#)

Records and Tabulation

Committee Members

Chris McGiffin, Chair; MJ Caswell, Vice Chair

Cheryl Gettelfinger, Robert Mitchell, Alina Perez de Armas, Tim Sinnenberg, Jerry Treiman, Ed Tsuzuki

Ex-Officio: Julie Dussliere, Bethany Burchill, Mollie Grover, Walt Reid, Jessica Reilly

Introduction

The Records and Tabulation Committee serves our members by ensuring that pool meet results are accurate and that rules, policies and standards are followed. The committee works closely with the National Top Ten Coordinator to review and verify the submitted LMSC Top Ten data and help finalize Individual and Relay USMS Top Ten for each course (SCM, SCY, LCM). The committee also supports the USMS National Recorder with the World Aquatic Masters Top Ten submissions and ongoing National and World record applications. Annually, the committee works with the National Top Ten Coordinator to compile the USMS All-American and All-Star rosters.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Established internal mentoring for first year committee members and external mentoring for first year LMSC TTRs.
2. Established a Rules, Policies, Guidelines work group that conducted a review of current R&T-related Rule Book articles and submitted proposed amendments to Rules, Legislation and Executive Committee. Several of the amendments were based on a review of the updated [USMS Guidelines for Rules, Policies and Guidelines](#).
3. A Documents work group was established and has completed recommended revisions to R&T-related documents found online in current USMS web pages. Some of the existing forms are planned to be migrated to electronic versions.
4. Top Ten Recorder Best Practices work group was established to examine the journey of pool meet results, compile input about the current process and develop webinar content for the Top Ten Recorder community.
5. An Event Results Processing work group was formed to partner with the National Office about planned software changes to TTR tools and databases. This work group maintains a list of current committee meet result processing system improvement priorities and stands ready to collaborate with the National Office on planned enhancements.
6. Walt Reid, current World Aquatics Masters Recorder, shared updates regarding meet eligibility requirements for World Aquatics Masters Records and Top10.
7. Work with Bethany Burchill, in her USMS National Recorder role, to set up a record application review process.

Action Items

1. Complete the remaining Documents work group reviews and updates.

2. Finalize content, schedule and deliver the TTR Best Practices webinar.
3. Attend upcoming Annual Meeting Legislation and Rules committee forums to speak to our proposed amendments.

Agenda

1. Check-in and introductions
2. Review any open action items
3. Committee focus area updates
 - Rules, Policies, Guidelines
4. Documents
5. Top Ten Recorder Best Practices
6. Meet Results Processing System enhancements
7. Audience Q&A

Records and Tabulations Committee Meeting

[Sunday, September 13, 2026 6:30pm-7:30pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)

Rules

Committee Members

Mollie Grover, Chair; Christina Fox, Vice Chair

Kathrine Casey, Marianne Hassan, John King, Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Eric Schmitt, Gerald Vandam, Jason Weis, Patrick Weiss, Kris Wingenroth, Rome Yount

Ex-Officio: Omar de Armas, Julie Dussliere, Kristof Kertesz, 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 late winter organizational call and then met three times in July and once in August to consider proposed amendments and prepare the pre-meeting delegate packet for the 2026 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 committee voted to approve the adoption of finish rules for freestyle, butterfly, and backstroke that were initiated by World Aquatics (AQUA).
3. The committee separately voted to approve the adoption of the remainder of the AQUA rule changes issued in 2026.

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 2027 UMS Rules and Regulations following actions by the House of Delegates.
3. Discuss and vote on disposition of the housekeeping (HK) proposals (after the adjournment of the USMS Virtual Annual Meeting).
4. Support the editorial process for publication of the 2027 USMS Rules and Regulations.

Agenda

1. Approval of July 21st and August meeting minutes.
2. Review of fall schedule to deal with HK proposals.

Rules Committee Open Forum and Meeting

[Thursday, September 10th, 2026 8:00pm-9:30pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)