

Official Interpretation of the Legislation Committee Regarding the Phrase “From Each Zone” in 506.2.1

The Legislation Committee interprets the phrase “from each zone” in article 506.2.1 as pertaining to a candidate’s LMSC registration at the time of election. There is no requirement to be a resident of that zone.

Once elected the board member’s LMSC registration is no longer pertinent for the duration of that term.

Should the board member change LMSC registration prior to the next election, the incumbent candidate must be nominated by the current zone of registration to run for a second consecutive term.

Additional context:

Charles Cockrell researched the historical basis for the current structure and found that we adopted the provisions for election of at-large directors elected from each zone at the 2004 annual meeting. The term “at large” was inserted in 2005 to clarify that while directors are elected from each zone, they represent the entire membership of USMS. There is no additional rationale or details from the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting to clarify these terms any further. Rob Copeland, who previously chaired the Legislation Committee and the task force on restructuring during this time period, provided notes from the task force. However, we did not find anything specifically addressed this phrasing.

However, a review of other provisions in the Code of Regulations provides some context for this interpretation:

Article 201 says the following regarding individual and club membership:

- Individuals may register unattached or may affiliate with a club that is already registered for the same year in which the swimmer is registering.
- Member clubs are organizations or groups of permanent character currently registered with an LMSC of USMS....
- Clubs are members of LMSCs, except for CCS clubs, which are only members of the national organization.

In addition, consider:

- Article 502 (LMSC) says that each LMSC shall consist of individual members and club members registered through that LMSC.
- Article 503 covers Zones with names and boundary descriptions of the Zones in Appendix D.

Therefore, our structure appears to support the notion that an individual's zone affiliation is based on that person's USMS registration which is tied to an LMSC. The zone affiliation is determined by which zone covers the LMSC of registration.

Furthermore, we observed that there is one place where we do mention a residency requirement in addition to registration:

Article 503.3.2 says that Zone Chairs shall be residents and members of an LMSC in their respective zones.

Since we considered the requirement for residency in another instance, this supports the notion that the lack of mention in article 506.2.1 is intentional and that geographic residency does not apply to at-large directors.