

Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

World Aquatics Masters (AQUA)

Nadine Day

I was appointed as Chair of the World Aquatics Masters Technical Committee on July 4, 2022. Since my appointment, there has been many changes with the International Aquatic Federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The name change from Federation Internationale de Natacion (FINA) to World Aquatics (AQUA) in December of 2023. A New Constitution was written and By Laws updated. A Competition Regulations Manual was made.

Within the Masters Committee, we formed 5 subcommittees to address each of the five disciplines Swimming, Open Water, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic Swimming. The AQUA masters committee has made 29 rules proposals and 14 housekeeping changes on April 25, 2023 and they are pending until Bureau approves them.

The Masters committee is also working on a Masters World Tour and a Masters Platform. We will be working a strategic plan and update the vision statement specific to Masters.

After two postponements, the World Aquatics Masters Championships-Kyushu 2023 were held August 2-11, 2024. The event took place in three cities (Fukuoka, Kumamoto and Kagoshima) on the island of Kyushu.

There were over 7,000 competitors and over 80 countries participating in the event. There were 33 World Records broken tying the most world records broken in a single masters championships in Riccione in 2012. In addition, there are 132 championships meet records broken, which was one of the highest number of championship records broken in masters world championships history.

Swimming took place at two different sites in the city of Fukuoka and they were forty five minutes apart. One was at Marine Messe Hall A, which the same pool that the Elite World Championships took place in and Nishi Civic Pool was the other pool across town. USMS had 208 competitors. Traci Granger broke the world record in the 65-69 women's 50 fly. On the men's side: Dan Stephenson broke the championship record in the 200 back, 100/200 free and the 200 IM. USMS had Teri White as a lead official at the Nishi Civic Pool.

In addition, Teri White served as the clerk of course recorder for the open water event. John Fox also assisted as an official for the event. The open water event took place at Seaside Momochi Beach Park, which was the same site as the Elite open water. The US had 14 women and 14 men participating in the 3K OW event. The women won 2 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze. The men won 1 gold.

Congratulations to all the USA Masters competitors who participated in the World Aquatics Masters Championships-Kyushu 2023.

Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

Next World Championships-Doha February 23 to March 3rd, 2024 Pan Am Masters
Championships-Trinidad and Tobago-July 16 to July 29, 2024 Pending dates: World Masters
Championships-Singapore 2025, Pan Am Masters Championships Buenos Aires, Argentina-2026



Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA)

Kenny Brisbin

The IGLA Championships were held in London, England, from June 26th - June 30th, 2023. This event included Artistic Swimming, Diving, Open Water, and pool competition. All disciplines ran smoothly, with many USMS Masters teams participating in these Championships.

Gay Games 11 is being held November 3rd through 11th in Hong Kong and Guadalajara, with swimming offered in both locations.

The 2024 IGLA Championships will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the 2025 IGLA will be in Washinton, DC.



Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

National Board of Review (NBR)

Juliet Cox

USMS National Board of Review Chair

National Board of Review Activities, September 2022 to August 2023

I became National Board of Review Chair in mid-November 2020 and have continued to serve during 2021, 2022, and 2023. I would like to continue to serve during 2024 as well, in part to accomplish the legislative project described below. Then I would like to give this role to a successor.

NBR Hearing Panelists

The pool of NBR hearing panelists currently is complete. The available panelists are:

Alana Aubin (Colonies Zone)
Tom Boak (South Central Zone)
Erika Braun (Southeast Zone)
Jim Clemmons (Northwest Zone)
Nathan Dean (Southeast Zone)
Elyce Dilworth (Great Lakes Zone)
Karen Chuang Harris (Oceana Zone)
Molly Hoover (Great Lakes Zone)
Mary Hull (Southwest Zone)
Cokie Lepinski (Southwest Zone)
Kerry O'Brien (Oceana Zone)
Sandi Rousseau (Northwest Zone)
Jeff Strahota (Colonies Zone)
Erin Sullivan (Breadbasket Zone)
Diana Triana (South Central Zone)
Robin Tracy (Breadbasket Zone)
Greg Weber (Southeast Zone)

A few of these people have been in the hearing panelist pool, as well as in other active volunteer roles with USMS, for a very long time. We also have recruited several new panel members, but most of them have not yet had an opportunity to serve on a hearing panel.

Grievance Activity

The NBR has addressed and resolved three grievances since September 2022. The USMS National Office maintains records from each of these grievances.

One grievance was an administrative grievance filed by USMS CEO Dawson Hughes against a USMS member who had been suspended from participation in another swimming NGB because of allegations of criminal sexual misconduct. The swimmer

Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

agreed to accept parallel suspension from USMS. After resolution of the other NGB's investigation and disciplinary process, and any related criminal prosecution, the swimmer may seek to lift the suspension if those other processes resolve in the swimmer's favor. If those other processes resolve against the swimmer, the USMS CEO may seek the swimmer's permanent expulsion from USMS.

Two grievances were appeals from LMSC grievance decisions.

The grievant in one matter alleged intentional, unwelcome, sexually motivated touching by a teammate during workouts. She also alleged that after she left that team, the former teammate harassed her at LMSC-sanctioned meets. Because the LMSC investigation and grievance process had not produced a clear record for an NBR panel to review, I investigated the matter by contacting several potential witnesses and obtaining statements from them. I appointed a hearing panel, and the panel conducted a videoconference hearing in December 2022. The panel concluded that although the grievant was credible, and her perception did not seem unreasonable, the available evidence did not show that the teammate had touched the grievant other than accidentally, or had harassed the grievant at meets. For these reasons, the panel declined to make any order restricting the teammate's participation in USMS activities. The grievant did not appeal to the Board of Directors.

The grievant in the other matter alleged that his former team had expelled him wrongfully, and thereafter had refused to allow him to participate in the team's workouts. He did not allege that the wrongful expulsion had constituted unsporting discrimination violating USMS Rules 402.4.2 and 402.4.6. The LMSC that considered this grievance created a clear, comprehensive record for NBR review, including recordings of its two videoconference hearings. I appointed a hearing panel, which reviewed the entire documentary and video record and heard videoconference argument from the grievant and a team representative in February 2023. The panel affirmed the LMSC's decision in favor of the team. The grievant appealed to the Board of Directors, but later withdrew his appeal.

Other Activity

I have responded to questions from several LMSC leaders about addressing and resolving conflicts or formal grievances within their LMSCs. I also have corresponded with several USMS members about conflicts or potential grievances, and more generally about the NBR's role.

I have served on a task force considering revisions to Part 4 of the USMS Rules, to change how USMS addresses member disputes and potential member disciplinary actions. We have developed several recommendations that likely will require legislation to implement. Our intention is to draft that legislation, accompanied by corresponding changes to the NBR Procedures as well as documents to explain these proposed changes to the USMS membership, for presentation to the HOD at the USMS 2024 Annual Meeting.

Liaison and Special Appointments Reports

National Senior Games

William Tingley

The National Senior Games are held in odd years, with the qualifying meets held in even years at each state's local Senior Games. The 22 sports of this year's National Senior Games were contested in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Swimming returned to the 2005 Senior Games site, Trees Natatorium on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, July 14-17, 2023.

The National Senior Games has been recognized by the host LMSC for the last 13 games, and this year the games were recognized by the Allegheny Mountain LMSC.

Allegheny Mountain Top 10 Chair Bill White worked tirelessly to make sure all of the USMS swimmers' times were properly entered into the USMS database. Of the 699 swimmers entered in this year's National Senior Games, 65%, or 456 were USMS registered members. This was up 14% over last year in Fort Lauderdale.

In the past 23 years, a number of potential Top 10 swims have been achieved at National Senior Games and this year was no different. Despite scheduling difficulties, all of the times of the 457 USMS registered swimmers have been submitted to the USMS database and Top Ten for 2023-24.

Online results can be found at: <https://nsga.com/results-2023/>

USMS deck officials Mike Whaley, Jan Whitlock, Daniel Cox, Mark Marshfield, Emily Larson, and lead USA Swimming's Allegheny Mountain Officials chair, Donna Beyerl: 10 USA Swimming officials and six NCAA officials officiated the swims of this USMS Recognized meet.

Qualifying for the 2025 National Senior Games will start at the state Senior Games around the country in January of 2024. For more information about the 2024 state Senior Games, contact the local coordinators listed at <https://nsga.com/state-games-information/>. Swimmers should directly contact the State Games office(s) in any location(s) where an athlete plans to participate in any of the State Games in 2024.

The 2025 National Senior Games will be held in Des Moines, Iowa in July of 2025. The location for swimming is tentatively planned for the [Prairie Meadows Pool](#) at the Wellmark YMCA. This pool was home to the 2019 and 2020 TYR Pro Swim Series and this year, 2023, the Wellmark YMCA was a recipient of a USA Swimming Foundation grant that was used to enroll 47 low-income adults into the Adult Learn-to-Swim program of USMS.



Pan Am Aquatics

Mel Goldstein

I would like to thank US Master's Swimming for giving me the opportunity to represent them on the PanAm Aquatics Masters Committee for the past 16 years, and 12 years as the Chairman of this committee. Much was accomplished during this time, bringing more awareness to Master's Swimming in the Americas.

Master's Swimming has grown from its meager beginning with 250 swimmers in the Dominican Republic in 2009, with only two disciplines competing to over 2100 athletes competing in all five disciplines in the recent PanAm Aquatics Master's Championships in Medellin, Colombia.

The PAQ Master's Committee during this past 4 years was able to accomplish a great deal. There were two Coaches/Swimmers clinics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Asuncion, Paraguay,. The attendance at these clinics was outstanding with over 100 Coach and Swimmers in attendance. The committee was able to update the PAQ Master's Bid Contract, and the Host Contract, and after three attempts because of Covid, host one of the largest PAQ Masters Championships in Medellin, Colombia.

The future is bright for Masters Swimming with a Coaches/Swimmers Clinic in Lima, Peru in November and two scheduled PAQ Masters Championships for Trinidad/Tobago in 2024, and Buenos Aires in 2024.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve.



International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF)

Walt Reid

International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF)

I will be attending the 2023 International Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Sept 29-30, 2023, in Fort Lauderdale. Currently ISHOF has no CEO and is being run by the Board of Directors. The museum is closed at this time with all artifacts in storage. However, with the competition of the new 27 meter High Dive Fort Lauderdale did host the World Aquatics High Diving World Cup on May 26-27. This new High Dive platform is part of the recent 47 million in venue renovations and is the only tower of its kind in the western hemisphere.

Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame (MISHOF)

The 2023 Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame Induction is currently on hold. A candidate list for all the categories was prepared, voted on by the selection committee but the inductee list has not been published. In the past the induction ceremony was held in conjunction with the USAS convention. Then in 2022 with no convention and no travel from foreign recipients it was held as part of the main ISHOF induction ceremony. But now that we have recovered from the covid travel restriction we are looking for a venue for the MISHOF Induction. Some thought is begin considered to only have this induction every 2 years and hold it in conjunction with the World Aquatic Masters World Championships.

Throughout the year I have been working with the ISHOF Web Master to improve the Masters inductees information. This will be an ongoing activity.

