

Summary of Governance Call with Vice Presidents May 18, 2009

The following is a summary of a May 18, 2009 conference call with the USMS Vice Presidents to discuss possible governance changes related to vice presidents and the committees they coordinate. Present on the call were Julie Heather, Mark Gill, Mike Heather, Leo Letendre, and Patty Miller.

The VPs were asked if the concept of VPs coordinating committees is working. Julie opined that the VP coordination role has helped the committees function better. The group agreed generally and Leo added that it would be nice to keep enough flexibility in the VP assignments to allow the EC or President to shift assignments as work loads and activity levels in particular committees dictates.

The group discussed in particular the planned change to OW/LD and the creation of an OW/LD Rules Committee. Mark asked if this is seen as a long-term solution or if OW/LD Rules would eventually be rolled into Rules. He also saw some potential role confusion between OW/LD and OW/LD Rules when it comes to input on OW/LD championships. The group agreed that we can see how busy the OW/LD Rules Committee becomes before making any longer term decisions about whether to roll it into Rules.

The group discussed in more detail specific committee assignments for VPs. Recognizing that several committees that are currently assigned to the VP Member Services are slated for discontinuance and that the VP National Operations currently has a heavy load of committees, Julie recommended that the current National Operations VP role be split into a “dry” VP and a “wet” VP, with the former being responsible for rules/legislative committees and the latter being responsible for program operations.

The group came up with the following recommendations, with the VP names being subject to change if the Governance Committee has better ideas for names:

VP Legislation (formerly VP National Operations)

Rules

Legislation

OW/LD Rules

Rule Book Coordinator

VP Program Operations or National Programs (formerly parts of VP National Operations and VP Member Services)

Championships

Coaches

Officials

OW/LD

[Convention Coordinator – to become a staff responsibility in the future]

[Insurance Coordinator – to become staff responsibility in the future]

VP Local Operations

LMSC Development

Records & Tabulation

Registration

History & Archives – could also be in Community Services

VP Community Services

Fitness Education

Sports Medicine & Science

Recognition & Awards

History & Archives – could also be in Local Operations

Mike characterized the Community Services committees as not offering a great deal of crossover synergy between them, but that do support the mission of USMS. The group felt that the Local Operations committees have similar missions to each other.

The group still wanted to be able to build in some flexibility for VP assignments as workloads shift and certain committees become more active based on circumstances.

We discussed the size of the Board and the recommendation by some breakout groups at mid-year that we could have fewer VPs. In light of the discussion of committee assignments and the workload that those assignments entail, the VPs thought it would be hard to reduce the number of VPs and still cover the committee oversight/coordination function.