

June 25, 2009 Governance Committee Call Notes

Committee members present: Patty Miller, Julie Heather, Nancy Ridout, Michael Moore, Don Mehl, Sean Fitzgerald

Order of VPs listed in the rules

Some had suggested listing VPs in accordance with an order of succession, building off of the rules change we are proposing to list the VP Local Operations after the VP Administration (formerly National Operations) as the next person who can fill in for the president. Patty expressed concern about this being seen as a hierarchy among VPs when none is intended to exist. The group decided to list the VPs in 505.1 starting with VP Administration, then VP Local Operations, then the remaining two in alphabetical order.

Permanent committees

Nancy had asked whether other committees of the board should be listed as permanent committees in the new proposed rule. The group discussed the previous board call and how the concept had been to give the board the ability to create or dissolve board committees but that a couple had to exist. The board consensus was that those should be Finance and Compensation & Benefits. To add other committees to the permanent committee list would take away the flexibility that the board needs to shift, create or dissolve board committees as needed.

Championships Committee

Patty received a question about the current championships rule and its description of the committee make-up (i.e. three with experience overseeing a national championship and two without). The Governance Committee decided that any change to this provision is not within the purview of our mission. If the committee would like to suggest a change to its description it may do so through the legislative process.

Open Water/Long Distance

After Mark Gill talked to Marcia Cleveland about the proposed rules change that would split OW/LD into OW and OW Rules, Patty had a conversation with Marcia and Ann Svenson. Marcia and Ann agreed that the committee needs to split because of the high workload, but suggested a different split. They suggested that one committee oversee national championships (postal and open water), as well as rules, legislation, and All-Star and All-American awards. This would be called the Long Distance Committee. Another committee would then be responsible for developing open water through clinics, the Grand Prix Series, and races. They would call that the Open Water Committee. They described the Long Distance Committee as administrative and the Open Water Committee as "hands on", although with a solid knowledge of the rules. Marcia and Ann said that this is how the committee has essentially been this year, with Ann handling the

administrative functions and Marcia working on clinics and the Grand Prix series with Mark Gill and others.

The Governance Committee expressed concern that the proposal from Marcia and Ann would keep numerous functions under one committee and would not address the issue that was attempting to be addressed: too much workload for one committee. Michael noted that there would always be administrative needs in both committees. Several in the group felt that this seemed like an odd split in the long term and that the proposal did not seem to solve the current problem of too much in one committee. The group decided that Patty would discuss the proposal with Rob Butcher and Mark Gill for their feedback and to determine whether this conflicts with plans for professional staff involvement in developing and marketing open water. Patty will report back to the group.

Changes necessitated by dissolution of Zone Committee

We discussed several ancillary rules changes that need to occur with the dissolution of the Zone Committee. In 601.1.5 we decided to propose that the new LMSC Development Committee should be responsible for considering boundary changes, since their local focus is conducive to that type of consideration. Julie suggested other changes to 601 provisions because of the dissolution of the Zone Committee, all of which were accepted by the group.

The reference to Zone Representatives in 503.3 needs to be changed to Zone Chair.

Miscellaneous

We will make some editing changes to 505.4.1 for clarity. We decided to delete “and qualified” from 506.2.2 because it appears to be something that would occur before election.

Sean said that Legislation would like to get our proposals as soon as possible to have something to work from, even if they are not final. Patty will send the draft to Meg Smath for editing and then send to Sean for Legislation to have something to start with.

Michael will contact Marketing to discuss their committee further, after having already spoken with Hugh Moore.

The group discussed how to communicate with the House of Delegates after the rules proposals are submitted to Legislation. We will make our committee notes available for review and comments and request time early in an HOD session to explain the process.

Anthony had asked whether we should change Appendix E. Julie noted that the EC is assigned responsibility for changing Appendix E. We could, however, use a version of it for demonstrative purposes at Convention. We will assign development of that demonstrative item to Anthony, who was not on this call.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, at 7:00 pm Eastern.