

Long Distance Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Sunday, April 10th, 2011. 6:00 PM Eastern/3:00 Pacific

Attendance:

Present: Heather Hagadorn (chair), Lynn Hazlewood (OW-Ex-O), Bob Bruce, Karen Reeder, Ann Svenson, Susan Kirk, Jill Wright, Jennie Quill, Dave Diehl

Absent: Don Livoni (vice chair), Dick Sidner, Ali Hall, Greta Van Meeteren, Bekah Olsen, Neil Brophy, Bruce Hopson, Robert Zeitner,

Agenda:

- 1. MSA February meeting minutes: approved for posting to the website.**
- 2. Legislation and Rule Changes:** Bob Bruce reviewed rules and legislation topics, other than housekeeping.
 - a. Jill will work on clarifying language about the number of officials required during postal swims.
 - b. Bob Bruce will work on developing a protest process for open water which parallels 102.16.
 - c. Bob requested that the committee review all suggested revisions he sent and provide feedback to him via email as soon as possible.
- 3. National championships events**
 - a. 3000/6000 Postal (2010): Awaiting financial report
 - b. 1 Hour Postal: All results in, waiting for award shipment and division designations.
 - c. 5K/10K Postal: Contracts are signed; entry forms are ready for posting.
 - d. OW National Championships: All entry forms are posted and ready except for the 2.4 Mile in Wisconsin.
 - e. Bid process for 2013 will be announced and distributed soon.
 - f. 3000/6000 Postal (2011): Heather to send contract
- 4. Outcome of OW Safety Conference:** Lynn is working on developing an education plan for open water race directors. Karen thought that USMS should consider a staff position dedicated to open water.
- 5. Safety conference Call:** The call was an opportunity for the Open Water National Championship event directors to discuss their safety plans and receive feedback. Alise Flanjack, 10K Fort Myers and Dick Sidner 25K, Indiana, were unable to make the call, however; their safety plans are well underway and being shared within the subcommittee. All of the other event directors discussed their safety plans with the subcommittee on the call including the following topics:

a. Emailing the safety plan (or a outline version) to all participants about one week prior to the event

b. Emphasizing the following during the pre-race safety briefing to the athletes:

1) If the athlete is uncomfortable with the distance, conditions, or their ability to participate in the event.....please withdraw prior to the start of the race and inform the appropriate event official at the check-in area.

2) If an athlete abandons the race at any time during the swim, they are responsible and required to report that to the appropriate event official at the designated area.

3) All athletes should think about and develop their own personal emergency action plan should they encounter or experience an emergency or difficult situation during or after the swim. Cristian Vergara from the 5K indicated that he may be developing some guidelines here for the swimmers regarding specific situations. He will share with the group what he develops.

c. Event directors/safety coordinators should have in place a search/rescue plan in the event that a swimmer goes under.

d. It is good to use air horns for signaling swimmers to "Clear the Course" because swimmers don't usually hear whistles. Also a visual signal should also be considered in case any swimmers are hearing-impaired.

6. Postal Event Liaisons: Assistant liaisons are needed to understand the postal meet process. Greta will work Jill on the 5K/10K. Heather still needs additional liaisons for the 3000/6000 Postal.

7. Policy for Medical Waivers: Bob Bruce volunteered to develop a policy.

8. Review of 2010 Postal Results: Susan will be working to modify the Postal National Championship event entry forms to include a section that addresses Unsporting Conduct as noted in 402.4.3 and 402.4.4. Heather drafted a letter to a postal participant winner whose times were considerably fast based upon previous performance. The letter suspends the results and offers this participant the remainder of 2011 to provide further proof of his postal results or pool 1650/1500 results which reflect the reported postal speed.

9. Next Call: May 15th, 8:00 PM Eastern/5:00 PM Pacific