

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2022 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Legislation Committee	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Charles Cockrell	Vice Chair:	Stephanie Gauzens
Minutes recorded by:	Douglas Sayles	Date/Time:	February 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA** (Stephanie, Rob) a motion authorizing the chair to interpret and render opinions regarding jurisdictional rules on behalf of the committee between committee meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Number of committee members present: 12	# Absent: 0	# Guests: 0
Committee members present: Charles Cockrell, Rob Copeland, Diana Dolan LaMar, Jeffrey Enge, Stephanie Gauzens, Kirsten Hoffman, Kristof Kertesz, Teddy Palmer, Steve Peterson, Douglas Sayles, Meg Smath, Patrick Weiss.		
Ex Officio present: Maria Elias (Legal Counsel), Mollie Grover (Rules Committee Chair). Absent: Dawson Hughes (CEO), Jessica Reilly (Sr. Director, Marketing Technology & Volunteer Services)		
EC present: Chris Colburn (VP Administration)		

Minutes:

1. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. EST.

- a. Welcome and roll call. A quorum is present.
- b. Charlie thanked the committee members for their volunteerism.

2. Committee organization, meetings, and communications:

- a. Charlie reviewed the committee's purpose and jurisdiction per Rules 507.1.6 and 601.1.1.
- b. Charlie identified the committee's leadership team: Charlie (Chair), Stephanie (Vice Chair), Doug (Secretary), Mollie (Rules Committee Chair), Chris (VP of Administration).
- c. Meg agreed to help proof and format amendments for the USMS annual meeting.
- d. Charlie discussed organizational and scheduling issues and sought committee members' feedback:
 - i. The next meeting is tentatively Monday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. EDT.
[NOTE: Due to a conflict, Charlie has rescheduled the next meeting to Tuesday, March 29.]
 - ii. Subsequent meetings planned for late April, two in June, and two in July, or as needed.
 - iii. Mollie and Charlie will communicate to avoid scheduling conflicts between Rules and Legislation.
 - iv. Decision to use email for committee communications between meetings.
 - v. Decision to use Google Docs for online document sharing, editing, and comments.

3. Motion to authorize the chair:

- a. Charlie reviewed the committee's modus operandi of annually authorizing the chair to interpret jurisdictional rules and render opinions on behalf of the committee as needed between committee meetings, subject to reporting back and referring disputed or complex questions of interpretation to the full committee.
 - i. Diana voiced reservations about Charlie rendering substantive opinions without the committee's input.

- ii. Charlie discussed the balance between responding to rules inquiries promptly and keeping the full committee informed.
- iii. Stephanie suggested Charlie email the committee when issuing substantive interpretations.
- iv. **MSA** (Stephanie, Rob) a motion authorizing the chair to interpret and render opinions regarding jurisdictional rules on behalf of the committee between committee meetings. Passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of proposed agenda topics this year:

- a. Charlie discussed potentially collaborating with Rules, Long Distance, and LMSC Development to review amendment processes under Parts 5 & 6 and identify changes we might recommend to the HOD.
 - i. Do we need to modify how we receive, review, or present things to the HOD?
 - 1. Example: Amend “Recommendation to Not Approve” to “Recommendation to Reject”?
 - ii. Should we review the amendment submission deadlines?
 - iii. Do we need more flexibility to handle submissions after the deadline prior to the annual meeting?
 - iv. Do we need more flexibility to adopt, suspend, or change rules between annual meetings?
 - v. Do we need more flexibility to adopt housekeeping changes (formatting, consistency, clarity)?
 - vi. Should we change anything about how HOD sessions are conducted at the annual meeting?
- b. Charlie: 504.2.8 grants the HOD rulemaking authority, but we might be able to change how we explain and interpret rules throughout the year without taking up undue HOD time during the annual meeting.
- c. Mollie: Anything that makes it easier for delegates to understand proposed rules amendments and the HOD’s voting process is a good thing.
- d. Volunteer working group: Rob, Meg, Charlie, Stephanie, Doug. Others interested should contact Charlie.
 - i. Create a list of potential rules amendments and efficiencies for discussion at the March meeting.
 - ii. Possibly develop amendment language for consideration at the April meeting.
 - iii. Goals: clarity, agility, flexibility.
- e. Chris: USMS President Peter Guadagni is interested in finding ways to simplify USMS’s processes and best use of time at the annual meeting.
- f. Stephanie: The Elections Committee is proposing amendments for 506.1 and 506.2 to the BOD. Whether those proposals will be submitted to the Legislation Committee depends on the BOD’s response.

2. New business and suggested agenda topics:

- a. Doug: The national office automatically renews, or converts, Year Plus members’ registrations during the first week of December. The email those members receive affords them one week to change their club affiliation, after which they are subject to the 60-day club transfer waiting period if applicable. This conversion schedule can create club affiliation and registration problems for Year Plus members who want to enter fall meets. It also treats them differently than standard members, who can renew any time after November 1st and instantaneously change their club affiliation at the time of registration (201.3.5).
 - i. Does this situation warrant our attention or is it strictly an operational issue outside our purview?
- b. Charlie summarized the 2021 HOD debate about the USMS annual meeting format and said that we may need to consider amending Article 504.2 and/or 504.3 to codify any changes to future annual meetings.
 - i. Chris: The BOD’s current expectation is that in mid to late September 2022 there will be a hybrid in-person annual meeting with a virtual component for those not willing or able to travel.
- c. Charlie asked committee members to think about and email him any agenda items sooner rather than later, so we are not burdened with a slew of last-minute to-dos at the amendment submission deadline.

3. Adjournment:

- a. **MSA** (Stephanie/Rob) motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.
- b. The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. EST.