Committee Name:	Rules Committee	**Session #:**	Teleconference #1
Committee Chair:	Charles Cockrell	**Vice Chair:**	Kathy Casey
Minutes recorded by:	Mollie Grover	**Date/time of meeting:**	Sunday 1//22/17 8pm EST

Motions Passed:

1. Motion to accept interpretation of 102.5 as written and sent via email.

Number of committee members present: 14 Absent: 3 Number of other guests present: 1

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Charles Cockrell, Chris Colburn, Mollie Grover, Christina Fox, Chris Lysinger, Marilyn Fink, Laura Groselle, Steve Unruh, Claire Letendre, Kathy Casey, Rand Vailincourt, Jessica Seaton, Barb Protzman, Carolyn Boak, Matt Hooper, Karen Harris, Brian Albright (Officals Chair)

Committee Members Absent: Tracy Grilli, Ed Tsuzuki, Brian Hoyt

Minutes

The teleconference was called to order at 8:02 pm EST.

The following topics were covered during the teleconference:

1. Committee Introduction – Charles thanked both new and returning members for attending this first call.
2. Expectations and projects for 2017, including action plan that was sent out in December. Charles said that this year the committee would focus more on policies, rather than going through the rule book looking for changes. He also thanked everyone who helped with proofreading the 2017 rule book. Charles also mentioned that the next call will probably be in late March or early April.
3. There was discussion regarding proposing a legislation change to move the due date for rules changes to June 10th, rather than the current July 10th.
4. Committee Priorities and Projects
    b. Developing a table of cross-references for each article
        i. Incorrect cross-references would be taken care of via housekeeping.
        ii. Kathy pointed out that there are also cross-references in the Appendices and the Guide to Operations.
    c. Reviewing difference lists in Appendix B
    d. Rules Committee polices and document review
        i. 2017 Action Plan
        ii. Charles would like to model our disability guidelines after the USA-S guidelines.
        iii. Standard Officials briefing for nationals (could be used at any meet)
        iv. Update situations database, especially differences between governing bodies
5. Interpretation of 102.5 (Age groups at sanctioned meets)
    e. Charles gave background on why this article needs an up-to-date interpretation. USA Masters Games is looking for a sanction for their 2017 games. The minimum age to participate is 21. The San Diego-Imperial LMSC asked if the meets could have a sanction, due to the exclusion of 18-20 year olds.
    f. The meet director is currently under the impression that he was given permission to have a sanctioned meet with the modified age group. There is no available documentation of who gave him this permission, but it is known that neither the Rules or Legislation committees were contacted prior to 2016. This lead to a discussion regarding Senior Games and their exclusion of age groups under 50 and how many of those meets have been sanctioned in the past. The only meet that is consistently sanctioned is the Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah. This meet is in meters and therefore, for world records to count, it must be sanctioned. Recognized meets do not need to follow 102.5,

which is why most meets like Senior Games typically do not apply for sanctions.

g. Charles went into more detail about trying to figure out what the intent was with the wording found in 102.5. Until 1988, the wording had "may" in the rule. After 1988, the phrase "each age group" was added. The current rule was passed in 1998, which added the word "must" to the rule. The rationale in 1998 implies that the HOD wanted sanctioned events to include all age groups. This all leads to an interpretation that requires a sanction to include all age groups.

h. Charles opened the floor to discussion from the committee on the interpretation he sent via email. Matt brought up the exceptions listed in 202 (FINA World Masters and dual sanctioned meets). Charles brought up that this rule could be suspended for this year. Claire then brought up the college club task force discussion, and that sanctioning their meets would also be in violation of 102.5

i. Discussion was had regarding suspending the rule for USA Masters Games and Huntsman Games in 2017 and then drafting legislation in the future to take care of these situations.

j. Charles asked if the committee was ready to vote on accepting the interpretation as he wrote it and send out via email. MSA (Rand/Carolyn) to accept the interpretation. Charles mentioned that the memo with the interpretation would states that, if interested parties do no agree with the interpretation, there are avenues available to allow for a change in the framework of the rule as interpreted. Motion passed to accept interpretation as written.

k. Charles then asked for a sense of the committee in the case that the Huntsman Games asks for a suspension of the rule. Rand mentioned that this would set a precedent if we grant a suspension and Karen agreed. There was a majority who thought that a suspension would be appropriate.

5. Matt asked if there had been any discussion on the mismatch between the boundary description and the map of LMSCs in Appendix D. Changes for that part of the rule book are due by February 1st. Charles said that is an LMSC Development responsibility, not Rules.