

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #:	Teleconference #4
Committee Chair:	Charles Cockrell	Vice Chairs:	Mollie Grover/Claire Letendre
Minutes recorded by:	Christina Fox	Date/time of meeting:	Tuesday 7/23/19 8pm EDT

Motions Passed:

Number of committee members present: 13	Absent: 1	Number of other guests present: 0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Charles Cockrell, Mollie Grover, Claire Letendre, , Kathy Casey, Julie Dussliere, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Judy Gillies, Karen Harris, Barb Protzman, Jessica Seaton, Rand Vaillancourt, Jason Weis		
Ex Officio and EC present: Steve Hall, Teri White, Peter Guadagni		
Committee Members absent: Carolyn Boak		
Ex Officio and EC absent: Bill Brenner, Richard Garza, Clark Hammond		

Minutes

The teleconference was called to order at 8:00 pm EST.

The following topics were covered during the teleconference:

1. Charles opened the meeting by entertaining a motion to accept the minutes from 09 July conference call. MS (Rand/Claire) to accept minutes from 09 July conference call; no discussion; motion passed.
2. Process for convention
 - a. Charles reviewed the process for convention and noted that, if there are any other changes from the committee or comments from delegates that may cause us to reconsider any proposals, we can move to reconsider at convention.
 - b. Charles indicated that the 2019 Proposed Amendments documents has been updated and will be finalized on Sunday for and requested that any other comments/omissions be sent prior to then.
3. Policy Reviews
 - a. Committee has been asked to review the Rule committee policies and update as necessary; the policies are located at https://www.usms.org/admin/policies/content/committee_policies.
 - b. There are currently five Rule committee policies (Transgender, Swimwear Exemption, Championship Liaison, Decision Making and Disability); Charles proposed reviewing and updating Swimwear Exemption, Championship Liaison and Decision Making only at this time as Disability policy was updated recently and Transgender is an evolving issue with new information which could be discussed at convention.
 - c. Proposed updates for discussion are at <https://www.dropbox.com/home/Rules%20Committee/2019%20Convention>
 - d. Swimwear Exemption Policy
 - i. Charles noted that there are only an average 1 or 2 requests per year. The proposed updates and additions are intended to parallel the language of the Disability policy with the key points being permanent medical condition, no competitive advantage and participation. The policy covers gathering information to generate a complete package to allow for a determination.
 - ii. There was some discussion and update of language for item #3.
 - iii. Marilyn asked how the decision is communicated to the officials and/or local personnel. Charles indicated that the determination is provided to the swimmer and it is the swimmers responsibility to communicate the decision to the meet referee.
 - iv. Karen asked if there is any USMS policy for handling personal information. Charles indicated that he was not aware of any policy. There was discussion on how this has been handled previously from Charles, Kathy and others.
 - v. Teri asked if there is any allowance/leeway for on the spot determination in cases where swimmers did not know there was a process to be followed. Charles indicated that, as the process takes time to allow for a

thorough determination, there is generally no immediate determination. There was discussion regarding swimming under exhibition, Charles indicated there is no exhibition in USMS. However, an interpretation states that, in the interest of participation at the discretion of meet director/referee, use of equipment that would normally result in disqualification could be allowed but times would be removed from results. This interpretation allows for some flexibility.

- vi. Kathy and Charles noted that only USMS exemption will be accepted (item #11). FINA and USA Swimming exemptions are not acceptable.
 - vii. Charles proposed leaving formal approval for the updated policy until convention to allow for any additional comments/updates.
- e. Decision Making Policy
- i. The proposed updates are to codify the process of authorizing the chair of the committee to make decisions and the general cycle of committee work that has been followed in recent years.
 - ii. Charles had a question regarding the reference to using History and Archives Committee for input on establishing USMS rules. In practice, this information is obtained from the website and annual meeting reports and asked if this should be changed to the National Office. Kathy disagreed and Charles proposed additional updates to add the archives source (annual meeting reports and prior-year rule books).
 - iii. There was discussion and proposed updates (Kathy, Marilyn, Charles) to the general cycle section on late submissions and post-convention – committee appointments.
- f. Championship Liaison Policy
- i. The proposed updates are to codify the current process which includes proactive review of the briefing document and reviewing/obtaining feedback after the meet. Teri noted that this has been working well - the briefing documents are provided on the Officials website and have provided clarification and education for the officials. Kathy noted that the feedback is important as officials provide good input for future rule clarifications/updates.
 - ii. There was discussion on the Rules Committee Liaison role which in the past was intended to provide real time assistance and whether this was still needed. Charles proposed to leave this in as an option to provide flexibility. Kathy agreed.
 - iii. Kathy noted that, if possible, the representative to the Protest Committee should be different than the Rules Committee Liaison. Charles agreed and indicated that this is the usual practice.
4. Liaison for Long Course Nationals
- a. Karen, Jessica, Julie, Mollie and Steve will be attending Long Course Nationals. Charles will work with these committee members to appoint a Protest Committee representative and Rules Committee Liaison.
5. Update on Volunteer Task Force
- a. The Volunteer Task Force (VTF) has provided recommendations on committee organization and possible restructuring and streamlining. No legislation is proposed this year but will be discussed at convention with potential for legislation in 2020.
 - b. One recommendation is to combine open water, long distance and pool rules under one committee. Charles noted that this idea has merit but would need to be a blended committee to ensure appropriate knowledge base. He also offered the idea to the VTF of potentially combining part 1 and part 2 sections that cover to pool meets as a restructuring/streamlining option.
 - c. Discussion: There was a question (Karen) and discussion on the intent of the proposed change. Charles and Peter indicated that the task force charter was to look at restructuring of volunteer roles which led to review of committee structure etc. and review of volunteer roles versus paid staff roles since paid staff brought on.
 - d. Karen noted that combining committees would require different skill sets and so would probably only work with sub committees. Charles, Peter and Claire clarified that the proposal is not to combine the committees but just the rules function under one committee. There would still be an Open Water and Long Distance to cover organization and running of events etc.
 - e. Marilyn asked if there is a report available on VTF recommendations. Peter and Barb indicated that there are presentations available and Charles will check if these can be shared.