

Minutes for the 2000 USMS Convention

Committee Name: LONG DISTANCE
Day and Date of Meeting: THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 12

Committee Session: 3:30-4:50 PM

Attendance

Number of committee members present: 14 Number of committee members absent 3

Total number of delegates attending the meeting: 33

ACTION ITEMS

***MSC: A prerequisite for hosting the One Hour Postal swim would be a successful running of a previous postal national championship. (this will be added to the Long Distance Operating Guidelines LDOG, effective for 2003 bids and beyond.)

***MSC: Approve LD-1, LD-3, LD-5, LD-8, LD-9, LD-10, and LD-13.

Withdraw LD-7.

***MSC: Amend and approve LD-12
Insert the word "club" in the last phrase between place and winners to read:
Club Awards - Appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first, second, and third place club winners in each division.

***MSC: Amend and approve LD-2
In 302.4.3.D, eliminate the word "sex" and insert "gender team event" to read:
D. Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same gender team event and one mixed gender team event per meet.

***MSC: Amend and approve LD-3
Rewrite the rule proposal to read:
The starting signal shall be both audible and visible ~~to all contestants~~.

***MSC: Amend and approve LD-5
Rewrite the rule proposal to read:
Flotation ~~and~~ or propulsive devices are not permitted . . . devices.

***MSC: **LD-14** 303.2 P. 64 Long Distance Committee
303.2.3 - swimmers may receive the following assistance from the escort craft:
A. Food or drink may be passed from escort to swimmer as long as contact is not made between the two.
B. The escort may also assist the swimmer with navigation, including verbal and written communication.
303.2.4 - Swimmers shall not be assisted by escort craft as follows:
A. Swimmers shall not receive propulsive or towing aid from anyone in escort crafts.
B. Drafting (swimmer swimming directly behind the escort) will not be permitted when other open water is readily available.
C. Escort boats shall not obstruct other swimmers in the race.

Rationale: Rules for escorted swims needed more defining.

***MSC: **LD-15** 303.8.5 P. 66 Long Distance Committee
~~Receive propulsive aid from anyone in boats, on surfboards, etc.~~ Violate rules on escorted swims as described in articles 303.2.3 and 303.2.4 or receive similar assistance from any craft on the course.

Rationale: Same as LD-14

***MSC: to add to the LDOG that "we encourage awards through at least 6th place in national championship postal swims. (beginning in 2003)".

***MSC: to add to the LDOG that "Event hosts with successful experience may receive preference".

***MSC:	That the LD committee will provide a USMS Open Water Manual to all open water championship meet directors.
***MSC:	That "we encourage awards through at least 6th place in open water events. (beginning in 2003)"
***MSC:	To amend the Long Distance Contract that "all LD championship event hosts are required to provide results to participants by either electronic or hard copy."

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by chairman Sally Dillon at 3:31 PM. Introductions were made of committee members and they were asked to review the roster and indicate their room numbers.

The chairman reported:

- committee members were provided summaries of the 1999 and 2000 (to date) National Championship events. Three events in 1999 received unsatisfactory evaluations and one event in 2000 is delinquent at this time. Participation in the events continues to grow with a record 2965 swimmers participating in 1999. The 5/10 K postal has just concluded and the 3000/6000 yd postal finishes this month.
- evaluators were selected for the 2001 events and the hosts will receive their championship "packets" this weekend.
- Sally reported on the the letter that was sent to LMSC's in July and the survey of open water swims. Many were not returned so she is making efforts to reach those LMSC's. A number of surveys were distributed to the audience. Once more data is received, the committee will look at the results and plan a "strategy". Sally recommended that LMSC's develop guidelines for sanctioning open water swims and offered a number of sources for "models".
- A subcommittee of Marcia Cleveland, Randy Nutt, Shannon Sullivan, Jim Wheeler and Jill Wright will work with Dan Gray on an article about safety in open water swimming for SWIM Magazine.

Subcommittee reports:

- All American - Marcia Cleveland is the tabulator for All American this year and she passed around the list of AA's from the first 4 events.
- LD Calendar and bids - Lynn Hazlewood reported that the calendar and bid soliciting took place in January. The committee discussed including a "check off" on the bid application for the items a swimmer receives for their entry fee. It was also decided to include the bid forms in the spring mailing with the calendar and not do a mailing in January. It seems that most bid forms become misplaced by the early summer when people are ready to fill them out. It was MSC to add to the LD Operating Guidelines (LDOG) that "A prerequisite for hosting the One Hour Postal Swim would be a successful running of a previous postal national championship". This would be effective for 2003 bids and beyond.
- Awards - Robert Zeitner reported that all events are either completed or on track with regard to award orders and that we have a supply on hand to take us through 2001.
- Records - Sally reported that records have been reported for the One Hour Postal and cable swim. The remaining postal swims will have their records reported so that all can be submitted to the USMS Rules in time for publication.
- All Stars - Sally reported that Marcia Benjamin continues to tabulate the All Stars for the committee and she passed around the tabulations for the 1999 team. NIKE was thanked for their sponsorship.

Wet suits in National Championships:

Sally read aloud a letter sent to the committee by George Thayer and Dave Radcliff requesting that a wet suit division be allowed in national championships so swimmers with low body fat or health issues can still participate. A number of people in the audience and the committee discussed the suggestion. It was pointed out that changes would have to be made in the All American and All Star tabulations. The change would also have to be reflected in non-championship events which would need to include wet suits. It was MSC to "Table the discussion for now and discuss it in the coming year".

Proposals to amend the Long Distance Rules:

As is the custom, the LD committee voted by mail on the 13 initial proposals found in the convention packet. Unanimous approval was the outcome for LD-1, LD-4, LD-5, LD-6, LD-8, LD-9, LD-10, and LD-13. LD-5 was “pulled” by an audience member but the others were MSA by “acclimation”.

LD-7 was withdrawn.

LD-11 was tabled and a subcommittee will change the wording to include optional “international” division.

The following items were amended:

LD-12 insert the word “club” in the last phrase between place and winners to read:
Club Awards - Appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first, second, and third place club winners in each division.

LD-2 in 302.4.3.D, eliminate the word “sex” and insert “gender team event” to read:
D. Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same gender team event and one mixed gender team event per meet.

LD-3 rewrite the rule proposal to read:
The starting signal shall be both audible and visible ~~to all contestants~~.

LD-5 rewrite the rule proposal to read:
Flotation ~~and~~ or propulsive devices are not permitted . . . devices.

The meeting recessed at 5 PM and will resume Friday morning at 9:00 AM

Day and Date of Meeting: THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 12 Committee Session: 9:00-11:50 AM

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 AM.

Proposals to amend the Long Distance Rules, continued:

The following items were amended, continued:

LD-5 rewrite the rule proposal to read:
Flotation ~~and~~ or propulsive devices are not permitted . . . devices.

Proposals submitted by the committee after the Convention booklet was published were discussed. These proposals were written to further define rules for escorted swims.

- LD-14** 303.2 P. 64 Long Distance Committee
- 303.2.3 - swimmers may receive the following assistance from the escort craft:
- A. Food and/or drink may be passed from escort to swimmer as long as contact is not made between the two.
 - B. The escort may also assist the swimmer with navigation, including verbal and written communication.
- 303.2.4 - Swimmers shall not be assisted by escort craft as follows:
- A. Swimmers shall not receive propulsive or towing aid from anyone in escort crafts.
 - B. Drafting (swimmer swimming directly behind the escort) will not be permitted when other open water is readily available.
 - C. Escort boats shall not obstruct other swimmers in the race.

Rationale: Rules for escorted swims needed more defining.

It was MSC to amend LD-14 303.2.3 A and eliminate and/ so it says “Food or drink . . . “
It was MSC to approve LD-14 as amended in committee.

- LD-15** 303.8.5 P. 66 Long Distance Committee
- Receive propulsive aid from anyone in boats, on surfboards, etc. Violate rules on escorted swims as described in articles 303.2.3 and 303.2.4 or receive similar assistance from any craft on the course.

Rationale: Same as LD-14

It was MSC to approve LD-15 as written.

The chairman pointed out that the Rules committee was considering a proposal that would remove the reference to areas and rotation for bids. The committee agreed that long distance prefers to keep the rotation. It was suggested that the area information on page 38 be moved to Appendix D and that the area chart be changed to indicate that it is for long distance swims. Sally will confirm with Meg Smath that this could be a housekeeping move.

The proposed budget submitted to finance was discussed and approved by the committee.

ISSUES INVOLVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Postal events: Standardization of data entry and result processing was discussed and a committee will work to develop recommendations for format, provide templates, and investigate licensing. (suggested members were Mel Goldstein, Hugh Moore, Lynn Hazlewood and Dan Wegner)
It was MSC to add to the LDOG that "we encourage awards through at least 6th place in national championship postal swims. (beginning in 2003)".
Posting of records in the media prior to the completion of an event (postal was the example) was discussed. It was determined that while the committee "frowned on the practice", we had no control over it.
- b. Open water events: Discussion of the need for a more active liaison/evaluator for our open water swims led to the suggestion that a list of items will be developed and the evaluators will make contact a month or more in advance of an event to assure that the details for a successful swim are being taken care of.
It was MSC to add to the LDOG that "Event hosts with successful experience may receive preference".
It was MSC that the LD committee will provide a USMS Open Water Manual to all open water championship meet directors.
Regarding safety at open water swims, it was agreed that a form will be developed to further help a host with safety requirements at the site and that directions to the nearest hospital shall be available (in writing) at event sites.
It was MSC that "we encourage awards through at least 6th place in open water events. (beginning in 2003)"
- c. Cable events: It was discussed that we have a shortage of cable events and would like to encourage more. Information about cable swims will be sent to the LMSC's to enlighten them about hosting such an event and point out the positive aspects. An article will be submitted to SWIM Magazine about cable swims. The possibility of allowing a 1 mile split during a cable swim was discussed but not supported.
- d. Miscellaneous: It was MSC to amend the Long Distance Contract that "all LD championship event hosts are required to provide results to participants by either electronic or hard copy." A space on the entry blank will ask for e-mail address and a box will be available to check to receive results electronically.
Sportsmanship in open water swims was discussed and a subcommittee, headed by Jim Wheeler will discuss the issue via e-mail this year and report back with some recommendations for handling sportsmanship issues which will be made available to event hosts.

2002 LONG DISTANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID SELECTION

The committee reviewed the priorities spelled out in our operating guidelines before reviewing the bids. A number of bidders were present to speak about their bids. Voting took place and the following events have been selected as National Championships for 2002:

ONE HOUR POSTAL	Florida Maverick Masters	other postal bidders were: River City Sharks and	
5/10 KM POSTAL	Sawtooth Masters	Ohio Masters (withdrew their bid)	
3000/6000 YD POSTAL	Dynamo Masters		
ONE MILE OPEN WATER	Emerald Aquatics	Dorena Reservoir, Cottage Grove, OR	August 18
TWO MILE CABLE SWIM	Virginia Masters	Chris Greene Lake, Charlottesville, VA	July 13
1-3 MILE OPEN WATER	O*H*I*O Masters	Lake Erie, Cleveland, OH	July 27
3-6 MILE OPEN WATER	LaJolla Cove SC	Pacific Ocean, LaJolla, CA	August 4
6+ MILE OPEN WATER	Clemson Aq. Tm.	Hartwell Lake, Clemson, SC	June 8

other open water bidders were: Tulatin Hills Barracudas, Sawtooth Masters, Rogue Valley Masters. All bids were greatly appreciated!

NEW BUSINESS:

Open Water Clinic Manual - committee members Randy Nutt and Marcia Cleveland conducted a successful open water clinic this year and have written a manual. A number of people volunteered to help fine tune the document and it will be available on the LD web site when complete. Dan Gray reminded everyone that the coaches committee has \$500 available for 4 different clinics in 2001 and applications can be made to him. Sally will reinforce to Mel Goldstein that this might be a great place to "spend" some sponsorship money. When the survey is complete, we can come up with some good suggestions where open water swimming could use a "jump start".

Misuse of the term "USMS National Championship" - Sally brought to the committee's attention that the swims in Avalon, CA this summer used "USMS National Championship" wording on their t-shirts when the event was not a championship event. A letter will be written to the director and Sally will discuss the situation with our legal advisor.

Our involvement with USS open water was discussed. Rob Copeland shared that they have designated the 10K as the official Olympic distance. It's important that we have an active liaison to the USS committee and Sally will appoint one. Randy Nutt also pointed out that the Hall Of Fame has a file cabinet for open water swimming history that we should make use of.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

- *** **Solicit more data from the LMSC's for the open water survey and evaluate and plan a "strategy".**
- *** **Discuss a national championship division for swimmers wearing wet suits.**
- *** **Communicate about sportsmanship issues.**
- *** **Business as usual (bids, calendar, championships, awards . . .)**