

## **FINA Representative**

Nancy Ridout

There have been no meetings of the FINA Masters Committee since the World Championships in Perth, 2008. An Extraordinary Congress is scheduled for the FINA meetings to be held in conjunction with the World Championships in Rome in July. Only the committee commission (chair, honorary secretary, and Bureau liaison) was invited to be present at this Congress; the entire committee was not included. USMS decided that due to the cost, people already there in other capacities would be the delegates from our federation. Rules proposals will be considered for approval or disapproval from those submitted on time from swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming, and open water. The hot issue of swim suits has not been a topic of discussion within the committee and as of this report (June), the rules regarding approved suits do not affect Masters meets or records.

The FINA Masters Development Subcommittee was authorized in 2008 to develop and distribute a follow-up survey to one conducted in 2002. I was appointed chair of this subcommittee and we developed a survey that would try to identify those federations that conduct Masters programs, those that don't and why, get a sense of the awareness of Masters information on the FINA website and in FINA Aquatics World Magazine, and determine if federations would like help from the FINA Masters Committee in starting or improving their Masters programs. The FINA office sent the survey electronically to every federation. Forty-eight federations responded and gave thorough and thoughtful feedback that will help us develop appropriate strategies to expand the Masters program throughout the FINA federations. This information will be used by the committee to plan for the future development of the Masters swimming program in those federations that have none now.

A new FINA Masters Committee will be constituted for the term beginning in 2010 at the Bureau meetings in Rome. I hope to be able to continue my involvement and contributions and thank you for this opportunity and your support.

## **Insurance Coordinator**

Jim Wheeler

### Introduction:

As Insurance Coordinator I have spent the year in close contact with Sandi Blumit, Senior Vice President of Risk Management Services, Inc. Most of my activity includes helping clubs and individuals with questions regarding certificates of insurance. Occasionally, I use my aquatic safety consultant background to help identify or mitigate potential safety issues. Annually I review reported claims and injury reports to maintain an idea of the types of accidents and incidents that are involving our members and seek ways to minimize future risks and lower USMS' potential exposure to loss. I also help with an annual workshop on insurance and risk management at the annual convention.

### Discussions and projects since the last convention:

I continue to investigate how we could increase the role of risk management and safety in participating during the review process of safety plans for USMS championship meets and open water events.

### Action items:

Investigate how we could increase the role of risk management and safety in participating during the review process of safety plans for USMS championship meets and open water events.

## **Rule Book Coordinator**

Susan Ehringer

### Introduction:

I would like to thank Cheryl Gettelfinger; Walt Reid; Tracy Grilli; Kathy Casey and the Rules Committee; and Marcia Cleveland and the Open Water Long Distance Committee; and Sean Fitzgerald and the Legislation Committee who did a great job in helping to edit and publish the 2009 Rule Book.

### Discussions and projects since the last convention:

- Published 2009 Rule Book and Mini Rule Book
- Assistance from Recognition and Awards in establishing criteria for future Rule Book dedications
- Worked with Legislation, Rule Book, and Open Water and Long Distance Committees to edit 2009 Rule Book and to correct errors after printing
- Accept or seek printing company bids for the 2010 printing of the Rule Book and Mini Rule Book

### Action items:

- Edit and publish the 2010 Rule Book and Mini Rule Book
- Work with Legislation, Rule Book, and Open Water and Long Distance to edit 2010 Rule Book
- Estimate the number of Rule Books and Mini Rule Books for printing
- Work with Cheryl Gettelfinger in receiving all advertisements by October 1, 2009
- Receive final edits of Rule Book by October 4, 2009
- Send first draft of Rule Book to applicable committees and chairs on October 18, 2009
- Receive records by November 1, 2009
- Send second draft of Rule Book to applicable committees and chairs on November 15, 2009
- Complete edits of Rule Book by November 22, 2009
- Send all files to selected printing company November 22, 2009

## **Rule Book Coordinator Agenda**

1. Announce at the 2009 Convention the 2010 Rule Book cover winner
2. Announce at the 2009 Convention the 2010 Rule Book Dedication
3. Present the printing company's winning bid for the 2010 printing of the Rule Book and Mini Rule Book (if ample number of bids received at time of 2009 Convention)

## **UANA (Union Amateur De Natacion De Las Americas) Representative**

Jim Miller, MD

2009 has been a very eventful year for UANA and for your representatives. Currently, USAS has two Masters representatives to the Masters Technical Committee. I serve on the Committee and Mel Goldstein chairs the committee. Last year I reported to you that Mexico was going to hold the third Masters Pan American Championships in Veracruz, Mexico. The event was anticipated to be held in late October, 2009. Since that time the Mexican Federation has held elections, with a complete turnover of officers. The new Mexican President for all aquatic sports is Mr. Kiril Todorov. I was fortunate enough to work with him during a FINA Doping Control assignment in Chiapas, Mexico – just 2 weeks after he took office. He has been very helpful, assigning new event directors and meeting the requirements for the Masters Pan American Championships. It is now confirmed that this exciting event will be held Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2009.

Mel has worked hard to support the organizers to help this event run smoothly. Hopefully, some of you will have a chance to join in the fun and participate in this international championship that is so close to home.

One of Mel's goals has been to make the Masters Technical Committee one that meets the needs of masters throughout the Americas. His appointment of David Morrell to the committee gives the experienced background of an athlete and organizer who ran the LalyCar Games. Not only David but the entire technical committee has participated actively in exchanges that have resulted in a relatively quick preparation of the 2009 Veracruz event program as well as successfully obtaining bids from three South American countries for the 2011 Masters Pan American Championships. These bids will soon be considered and announced, giving all athletes in our hemisphere considerable advance notice and thus the opportunity to plan their time and training to include this international championship.

Both Mel and I attended the USAS International Relations meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, held on the same weekend as the Clovis Short Course Nationals. The long range plans for our FINA link, UANA, were discussed. The meetings included representatives from Canada, several South American and Central American Countries. Among the distinguished representatives was Dr. Julio Maglione, current FINA Treasurer, who is running for the FINA Presidency. This election will be held during World Championships in Rome, so by the time that you get this, his successful bid will be history. Having the President of FINA from the Americas places us in the position of helping to elevate the status of all of the Americas and Caribbean Nations in the eyes of the International leadership.

### **USMS Liaison to International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics**

Jessica Seaton

In response to an appeal lodged by the DC Aquatics Club Meet Director and IGLA in December 2008 the FINA Legal Commission concluded that the World Records established at the IGLA Championships June 19-22, 2008 should be recognized by FINA. IGLA would like to thank Nancy Ridout for her efforts in presenting and promoting the recommendations of the USMS House of Delegates that FINA recognize this championship meet.

In July 2009 the IGLA Championships are being conducted in conjunction with Outgames in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In July 2010 there will be no IGLA Championships due to the quadrennial Gay Games, which are being held in Cologne, Germany. Unfortunately they are being held during the same week as swimming at the FINA Masters World Championships. Host cities for the Gay Games are decided 5 years in advance of the event. We are using our experience with IGLA and USMS to advise Germany in dealing with FINA.

### **USMS Liaison to USA Swimming**

Ted Haartz

After the 2008 annual aquatics convention in Atlanta, GA the board of directors of USA Swimming next met in New York City in November in conjunction with the USA Swimming Foundation's annual Golden Goggles Awards banquet. This was followed in late January and late April with board meetings at headquarters in Colorado Springs.



The highlight of the April meeting was the renaming of the USA Swimming Headquarters building in honor of Carolyn Dirks of Los Angeles, CA for her gift of \$5,000,000.00 to the USA Swimming Foundation.

USA Swimming terminated its LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) with Wasserman Media Associates when USA Track & Field and Wasserman failed to establish a LLP cutting the anticipated membership numbers below the economy of scale that had been anticipated for this venture.

As earlier announced Mutual of Omaha will be the sponsor for the M of O Duel in the Pool to be held in Manchester, England in December of this year with the USA Swimming team competing against a European team with swimmers from Great Britain, France and Russia. M of O has also awarded the 2012 USA Swimming Olympic Trials.

The next USA Swimming board of directors meetings will be held on September 15th, 16<sup>th</sup>, if needed, and 20th at the annual convention in Chicago.