

Dispute Resolution Task Force Report

The mission of the Dispute Resolution Task Force is to examine dispute resolution at multiple levels of USMS and to make recommendations regarding (1) education and resources for dispute avoidance and (2) improving systems intended to handle grievances. The examination will include the grievance process under Part 4 of USMS Rules, including the National Board of Review and appeals to the USMS BOD; and dispute resolution at the club and LMSC levels. If necessary, the task force will recommend changes, including potential legislation, and best practices to the BOD.

The Dispute Resolution Task Force met twice at the end of 2012. Two meetings were planned in January, but were canceled due to task force member conflicts, including “emergency” Legislation meeting dealing with Open Water issues. As a result the task force has not made as much progress as anticipated. I fully expect to complete tasks prior to the summer meeting of the BOD.