

VP for Programs BOD Report for July, 2013 Meeting

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:

- The key positions for the USMS Summer National in Mission Viejo are as follows:
 - Meet Referee – Omar de Armas Sr.
 - Administrative Referee – Herb Schwab
 - Head Starter – Pat Baker
 - Head Chief Judge – Ed Saltzman
 - Evaluator – Dan McAllen

Additional officials are being recruited from the local area as well as part-time swimmer-officials.

- USMS BOD has requested that the comprehensive official's website set up by Ed and the Officials Committee as a repository for all official's documents and forms be moved to the USMS web site. Committee members have expressed concern that there is no easy, user friendly mechanism for making necessary documents and forms readily available to committee members, officials, and other meet personnel because the documents are not easily accessible.
- There was a motion made that at National Championship SC or LC Meets, one of the assigned positions for the Meet Referee; Admin. Referee; Head Starter, or Lead Chief Judge, be considered from active certified officials from the Official's Committee. That way that person would be actively involved in the decisions and workings of that meet. If those positions are not chosen from the active official members of the USMS National Official's Committee, a liaison "official" from the committee who is familiar with the wet side of the deck and the inner workings of a National Meet, should be selected by the USMS Official's Chair, in concurrence with the official's vice-chair, to attend that National Championship Meet. That person, because they will not be reimbursed by the host team, shall be reimbursed up to \$2,000 for their air fare and hotel. This would be considerably less if that liaison lives closer to the hosted meet or the host arranges for OCL's hotel or a LMSC subsidizes the OCL'S trip. This money shall come from the official's committee budget or from separate funding if voted upon at the next HOD in 2013. That Liaison may, if on the approved listing, also fill in the position for doing evaluations. This would save in the host having to fund to bring in outside help to perform this duty for the meet. The motion was tabled for the Chair to look into options for either moving this motion forward or redefining the responsibilities of the Officials Committee Liaison to the National Championship.

OPEN WATER COMMITTEE:

- The sub-committees (Safety, Officials, Rules & Legislation, OWGTO, Development, Awards) are very active within the OW Committee and at each meeting give status reports on their activities.
- Insurance Fee Rebate Fund (Grant Program) updates are given at each meeting and the Committee members are encouraged to promote the program within their own LMSC's.

- The USMS Open Water Guide to Operations (revised as of June 12th) was submitted to the BOD for review and comment.
- 54 OW events sanctioned to date

LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE:

- The status of the Grant Relief Program was discussed at each meeting and committee members were encouraged to continue promoting the program.
- It was reported that the 10 mile OW NC event in Minnesota will not be hosted this year because of sanction fee costs associated with other events held in conjunction with the 10 mile.
- The Committee discussed changing the timing of the 2014 & 2015 bid winner process to await convention actions. After discussion, the committee decided the process will continue on schedule for this year. The Chair will send out the draft letter and bid forms to the working group for review and editing.
- The Chair suggested a NC event surcharge increase and gave an example of financial consequences if the surcharged was increased from \$1 to \$3 for the postal events and \$3 to \$6 for the NC championships. The consensus of the Committee is that there is no benefit to event hosts if the surcharge is increased
- Working groups (Rules/Legislation, PARA, Club Assistant, Safety, Manuals, NC Selection) of the LD Committee continue to be very active and report at each meeting
- The liaisons for each NC LD event continue to monitor and report on the status at each meeting.
- Emergency legislation for OW sanction insurance is only for 2013. Regarding 2014 insurance the USMS board is waiting until their July meeting for more discussion. Hopefully there will be an answer to what the insurance company will require for 2014 between the July board meeting and HOD.
- 2015 bids have gone out and are due back by 7/20. Bids need to be received 45 days before Convention. Awarding the Championships need to be completed by one year before the first 2015 USMS OW NC event.