

Committee Name:	Board of Directors	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Patty Miller	Date/time of meeting:	4/18/2016 8:30pm EDT
Minutes recorded by:	Chris Colburn		

Actions Taken:

1. Approved: to ratify the vote approving the meeting minutes of the Winter Board Meeting as amended
2. Approved: the minutes of the March 21, 2016 Board Conference Call as amended
3. Approved: to propose MSW 1.1 as worded to change the minimum age for swimming competition to 20 from 25, with the exception of the FINA Masters World Championships
4. Approved: to propose MSW 1.2, proposing the 80-99 relay age group to align with the newly proposed 20-24 age group
5. Failed: to propose MSW 6 to specify bulkhead pool measurement requirements for World Record applications
6. Failed: MSW 5.3 (World Records) and Appendix 1 (Top Ten) provides language to specify that records and top ten can be established in an event sanctioned by a member club of the member federation

Number of committee members present: 23	Absent: 6	Number of other delegates present: 1
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Patty Miller - President; Ed Tsuzuki - VP of Administration; Chris McGiffin - VP of Programs; Frank (Skip) Thompson -VP of Community Services; Chris Colburn – Secretary; Ralph Davis – Treasurer; Maria Elias-Williams - Legal Counsel; At-Large Directors: Bruce Hopson (Breadbasket); Dave Diehl (Colonies); Sean Fitzgerald (Dixie); Dan Cox (Great Lakes); Sarah Welch (Northwest); Leianne Crittenden (Oceana); Jill Gellatly (South Central); and Laura Winslow (Southwest); Dawson Hughes – CEO; Dave Coddington (USA Swimming Liaison to USMS); Past Presidents: Nadine Day, Rob Copeland, Jim Miller, Nancy Ridout and Ted Haartz.		
Not present: Chris Stevenson - VP of Local Operations; Past Presidents: Jeff Moxie, Tom Boak, Mike Laux and Dan Gruender. Mel Goldstein is recused from the Board due to his contractor position with USMS.		
Guests: Charles Cockrell – Chair, Rules Committee.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:31pm EDT.

1. Agenda review and conflict of interest declarations (Patty): Patty welcomed everyone to the call. There were no conflicts.
2. Patty welcomed Dawson Hughes to the call. Dawson has been on the job three weeks and is hitting the ground running on issues that have come up. Dawson added that he is emailing and calling Board members to schedule time to connect in the near future.
3. Approval of meeting minutes (Chris Colburn):
 - a. **MSA to ratify the vote approving the meeting minutes of the Winter Board Meeting as amended.**
 - b. Chris provided an overview of the latest version of the minutes of the March 21 conference call, as he received some last-minute feedback that prompted changes this afternoon. **MSA to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2016 Board Conference Call as amended.**
4. Action/Discussion Items:
 - a. FINA Rules Proposals: Charlie Cockrell joined the call to assist the Board with the rules proposals that will be presented at the May 14 USAS meeting in Chicago to be presented at the FINA Congress in 2017. Patty provided the rules proposals and the strategic impact of those changes.
 - i. **MS to propose MSW 1.1 as worded to change the minimum age for swimming competition to 20 from 25, with the exception of the FINA Masters World Championships.** Discussion included the changes that were made by FINA to the Synchro rules, as well as the fact that this has been rejected by FINA in the past. Charlie provided the discussion and recommendation of the Rules committee. Rob Copeland asked a question about the age group distinction for relay age groups. Discussion continued on the logistics of requesting the change. **MSA.**
 - ii. **MSA to propose MSW 1.2, proposing the 80-99 relay age group to align with the newly proposed 20-24 age group.**
 - iii. **MS to propose MSW 6 to specify bulkhead pool measurement requirements for World Record applications.** Charlie provided further background on the rationale for this proposal. Discussion followed on the rationale and necessity for this rule. Concerns included that the proposed rule aligns more with USMS rules than with FINA rules. **Motion failed.**

- iv. **MSW 5.3 (World Records) and Appendix 1 (Top Ten) provides language to specify that records and top ten can be established in an event sanctioned by a member club of the member federation.** Charlie provided further background on the proposal. Discussion centered on the necessity for the change. **MSF for both MSW 5.3 and Appendix 1.** Patty thanked Charlie and the Rules Committee for their attention to these proposals.

Secretary's Note: Proposals discussed above and accepted by the Board are attached in Appendix 1 below.

- b. Recent North Carolina Legislation and Spring Nationals: The Board has been asked, in conjunction with the National Office and the Diversity Task Force, to put out a communication to those who are coming to Spring Nationals. Rob Copeland added that North Carolina also has two Open Water Championships this year. Discussion included how we could address the issue by affirming USMS' commitment to diversity, and not trying to take a political stance on legislation that has been passed. There was a question about our definition of transgendered athletes, which is aligned with FINA's definition. Board members provided their own sentiments about the issues, and hoped that USMS' consideration of North Carolina sites for future events (such as Convention) would be affected. The Meet Director for the Short Course Nationals has indicated that both gender-assigned and unisex locker facilities will be utilized at the meet. Discussion further supported the communication that USMS plans to release.
 - c. Strategic Planning Process: Patty outlined Dawson's role in the strategic planning process. Patty is still working on identifying the members of the Strategic Planning Task Force, but Dawson will be driving the process in conjunction with that Task Force.
 - d. Open Water Temperature Proposal and Open Water Practices: Patty brought up a question related to holding Open Water events or practices in cold water that doesn't meet the FINA temperature standards. She commented that the rules and guidelines apply to competitions but can apply to events outside competitions for insurance purposes. The group concluded that the temperature standards should not extend to practices, and that USMS will not make any coverage recommendations to its insurer regarding this issue. Discussion extended to questions and answers related to the two approaches. The Open Water Committee concluded that their role is to educate athletes on what's advisable for swimmer safety, but that we wouldn't prohibit practices held in cold water. Other discussion extended to opportunities and limitations of the position taken by the Board. Legislation to apply the FINA temperature standards to USMS competitions will be covered in the House of Delegates this coming Fall.
5. Task Force Updates:
 - a. Futures Task Force (Dan): The task force is working on data demographics of clubs that have many young members. The group will be meeting on April 24th to develop a survey. Rob Copeland asked about the College Club engagement in the task force, and added that they would be a good resource for the task force.
 - b. Diversity Task Force (Sarah): The task force is working on communication and education. There are 4 members looking at what works. Others are looking at highlighting some things that are happening in various communities to engage groups to swim and share their experiences with swimming. They are looking for another member as Dave Coddington is unable to continue due to his Olympic Trials commitments.
 - c. Governance Committee (Leianne): The topics for the Board Meeting involved the Board/Staff Partnership and Getting Results. The committee accepted the recommendation to make Elections a Standing committee. Next meeting, Leianne will update the Board on the current priorities for Governance.
 6. Patty thanked everyone for their participation on the call, and looks forward to seeing those who will be in Greensboro.
 7. Next meeting will be May 16, 2016 at 8:30pm EDT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Colburn, Secretary

Secretary's Note: See Appendix 1 attached.

APPENDIX 1

FINA MASTERS TECHNICAL CONGRESS 2017

Approved Proposals Submitted from United State Masters Swimming to the USA Federation for Submission to FINA

MASTERS SWIMMING RULES		
RULE NO.		PROPOSAL
Technical Swimming Rules		
MSW 1	Age Groups	
MSW 1.1	Board: MSA to recommend as worded	Individual Events: <u>20-24</u> (except at FINA Masters World Championship meets), 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94 ... (five year age groups as high as is necessary).
MSW 1.2	Board: MSA to recommend as worded	Relays: To be conducted on the total age of team members in whole years. Age groups of relay events are as follows: <u>80-99</u> (except at FINA Masters World Championship meets), 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319, 320-359, and ... (forty year increments as high as is necessary).

Rationale: This change is intended to expand the promotion of physical activity and healthier lifestyles to adults of all ages, including young adults, in keeping with the concept of Swimming for Life. Inclusion of the young adult age group can provide continuity and transition from youth swimming to Masters. The exception for FINA Masters World Championship meets is to address any concerns about the size of such competitions.

Additional sections of the FINA Handbook that would need to be changed for consistency:

Page 374, part VIII, preamble to the Masters Technical Rules.

The masters programme shall promote fitness, friendship, understanding and competition through Swimming, Diving, Synchronized Swimming, Water Polo and Open Water Swimming among competitors with a minimum age of 25 years. (Note: exception in MWP 1.3, ~~and~~ MSS 1.6, MSW 1.1, and MSW 1.2).

Page 378, Instructions for World Record Applications.

2.1 Individual Events – for Men and Women

Age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, 100-104, ...

2.2 Relay Events – For Men, Women, and Mixed (2 men and 2 women)

Relay age groups are calculated from the total age of team members (in whole years): 100-119 years, 80-99 years, 120 to 159 years, 160 to 199 years, 200 to 239 years, 240 to 279 years, 280 to 319 years, 320 to 359 years, 360 to 399 years,