

USMS Convention — Greensboro, North Carolina. 2012

Committee Name: Championship	Session #: 2	Report #: 10
Committee Chair: Jeff Roddin	Vice Chair: Sandi Rousseau	
Minutes recorded by: Lisa Watson	Date/time of meeting: 9/15/12	8:45 AM

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

- 1.

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA TO RECOMMEND A 5 DAY FORMAT FOR 2014 SUMMER NATIONALS.**
2. **MSA TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR REFUND REQUESTS TO 1 WEEK AFTER THE FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE.**
3. **MSA THAT ALL OTHER REFUND REQUESTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIR.**
4. **MSA TO NOT SOLICIT NATIONAL BIDS FOR 2016 IN THE COMING YEAR.**

Number of committee members present: 16	Absent: 6	Number of other delegates present: 29
Committee members present: Jeff Roddin (Chair), Sandi Rousseau (Vice Chair), Lisa Watson, Robin Segnitz, Jane Moore (ex-officio), Jack Groselle, Debbie Cavanaugh, Mark Moore, Ed Saltzman, Tom Boak, Barry Fasbender, Jim Clemmons (appointed), Erin Shields, Tyler Blessing, Jeff Strahota, Chris Stevenson (ex-officio), Michael Moore, Michael Heather (ex-officio).		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM.

1. 2014 CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

Spring (SC)-Santa Clara. Meet director Jaime Benes addressed the committee. They are currently looking into hotels and making preliminary preparations. Dates for the meet are May 1-4. Barry asked if they had the pool certification on file for their second course. Jaime said they will get that taken care of.

Summer (LC)-Maryland. The Maryland representatives had to leave, so Jeff spoke about this meet. There are still questions as to the specific dates of the meet, and whether to make it a 4 or 5 day meet. It was noted that our largest attendance at a LC Nationals thus far was in Baltimore with 1380 swimmers entered-so it is anticipated that this will be a very large meet.

Michael Moore commented that Potomac Valley is a very large LMSC. Jeff noted that another option to handle the high numbers could be to do chase starts, which were also done in Baltimore. However, this would also require additional officials, timers, and another timing system. **MSA TO RECOMMEND A 5 DAY FORMAT FOR 2014 SUMMER NATIONALS.** Debbie asked if additional events would be added with the 5 day format. Jeff said no other events would be added. The meet dates would be August 13-17, pending approval by the Maryland meet hosts.

2. 2015 CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS-UPDATE

Since representatives from the 2015 winning bids were present, Jeff asked them to speak about their meet. They will give their official presentation at the 2013 Convention.

Spring (SC)- San Antonio. Susan Ingraham addressed the committee. The San Antonio organizing committee has already been very proactive in making plans for the meet. Dates are April 23-26. Their age group team will be in charge of concessions. With 2 LC pools as well as ample warm-up space, they will be able to run 3 courses for the distance events. They are proposing an alternative meet schedule format. Jeff commented that the meet schedule is dictated in the rule book, but that it can possibly be changed for this meet.

Summer (LC) Cleveland. Dan Cox informed the committee that the new SPIRE Institute is a huge complex which includes a fabulous natatorium. There is ample deck space. The pool is adjacent to the cafeteria. The Cleveland Sports Commission has been very involved in planning for this meet. Dan noted that since this area is in the 'heart of wine country', they would like to possibly offer a wine tour.

3. NATIONAL PROCEDURES/ACTIVITIES

A. Lane Marshals-

Jeff commented that since no timers were on deck for Omaha, the lane marshals did an excellent job of making sure each swimmer was in his/her correct lane. He asked the committee if we should add this to the Meet Director's Guide. Ed said it should be a recommendation, but not a requirement. Jack felt that adding lane marshals would put too many people behind the lane, which would particularly be a problem if it was a bulkhead. It was suggested that one of the timers in each lane should be designated with the responsibility of identifying the swimmer in that lane and heat.

B. Coaches Hospitality

Currently, a club is allowed hospitality for its coaches depending on the number of club swimmers that are at the meet. The coach must have ASCA certification. Scott Bay, Coaches Chair, reported that in Omaha, they went by ASCA membership. There was a question as to whether the ASCA requirement should specify Masters certification. Scott said they would like it to be this way, but it should not be mandated at this time. Jeff asked for comments from other meet directors. Don Gilchrist, Greensboro co-meet director, said he approves using the current ratio. Debbie commented that it has been a challenge for the meet hosts to get the correct numbers for hospitality. Jeff said there is a procedure to enable the host to estimate the maximum numbers possible. Mark Moore, Mission Viejo meet director, said that as hosts, it would be good if the club coaches could be asked to sign up prior to the meet. Erin Shields, Mesa meet director, said that they can use the National electronic newsletters as a tool for asking the coaches to notify the host.

C. Officials

Jeff wants the committee to review the minimum coverage requirement in the meet contract. Ed Saltzman, Officials Chair, said that he will have the Officials Committee look this over. Ed also notified the committee that the stipend policy for reimbursing officials has now been increased to \$2000 per Nationals. The distribution is determined by the meet referee, and its intent is to attract stroke and turn judges. Sandi recommended that the entire stipend should be used for each Nationals.

D. Nationals Refund Policy

The National Office has suggested that we consider changing the deadline for refund requests to 4 weeks prior to the meet, which would be 1 week after the entry deadline. **MSA TO CHANGE THE DEADLINE FOR REFUND REQUESTS TO 1 WEEK AFTER THE ENTRY DEADLINE.** The committee discussed what to do about severe extenuating circumstances that might prompt a refund request after that deadline. **MSA FOR ANY OTHER REFUND REQUESTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIR.**

E. Nationals Point of Contact-Meet director vs USMS

Currently the meet director is listed as the point of contact in the meet information for any questions about the meet. Jeff asked the committee if this should be changed to have the USMS National Office as the point of contact instead. He noted that an advantage to this was that it would be the same contact info for all Nationals; however, it would likely require additional time from the National Office to deal with all the questions. Erin said that from a customer standpoint, she felt that the point of contact should be the meet director. Mark and Ed agreed. Jane commented that the high volume of questions would require a lot of additional manpower from the National Office. The committee decided that the meet director should remain as the point of contact.

F. Check-In Deadlines

The relay deadline issue was handled in the first Championship meeting. For deck-seeded events, the check-in deadline is currently 7 AM on the day of the event. Jeff wondered if it should be a staggered deadline instead, allowing the deadline to be closer to the time of the event and thus hopefully more accurate. Jeff Strahota commented that he felt that the check-in deadline actually opens up too early, so people may be more likely to change their minds. Sandi asked about perhaps only changing the deadline for the last day, when scratches would be more likely. Jack asked if there was a way for someone who checked in to officially scratch online. Barry reported that the average percentage of no shows for events at Nationals is 15-20%. Chris Stevenson commented that scratches not only impact the timeline, but also the quality of the heats. The committee will continue further discussion on this topic after the Convention on the Discussion Forum.

G. Other

Sandi commented that she did follow up on the previous discussion regarding service animals. She checked with the Paralympic organizers, who responded that they actually had never had any animals on deck because their swimmers were able to have service people to assist them. There was also follow-up discussion on the issue of using the Dolphin watches at Indianapolis, as Mel Goldstein has requested. Kathy Casey, Rules Chair, was consulted and she determined that these are considered to be semi-automatic because the watch is not started manually. The current rules require 1 manual watch, so the rules would need to be suspended for this to occur. Debbie commented that Mel wants to use these watches because they are one of the meet sponsors. Chris noted that the Dolphin watches would meet the rule requirement if they can be started and stopped manually.

4. GOALS/TASKS FOR 2013

Jeff suggested that one goal should be to get more Championship Committee members to serve as Championship Liaisons. He will be assigning liaisons for 2014 soon. He intends to have 2 liaisons for each National meet, with 1 experienced liaison and 1 novice. 2015 Nationals liaisons should be identified by next year's convention.

The committee discussed whether or not to solicit bids for 2016 in the coming year, since 2015 bids have already been awarded. Ed recommended that we instead use this year to review our current documentation and, if needed, make any necessary improvements. **MSA TO NOT SOLICIT BIDS FOR 2016 IN THE COMING YEAR.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.
