

United States Masters Swimming Executive Committee Conference Call

November 1, 2005

FINAL

Action Items:

1. MSA to rescind the following motion from the October 4, 2005, meeting: “to include a communications opt-out checkoff box on registration forms for 2006.”
 2. MSA to extend the national publication editor’s contract for one year, at the compensation amount approved by the House of Delegates.
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President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 8:38 p.m. EST. Present were Meg Smath, Michael Heather, Julie Heather, Mark Gill, Tom Boak, Patty Miller and Tracy Grilli. Leo Letendre joined the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Jim Miller joined the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Congratulations were offered to Mark on finishing his doctoral degree!

Registration. Many registrars have not yet received the 2006 registration cards. Tracy is checking with the printer on their status.

At our October 4 meeting it was MSA “to include a communications opt-out checkoff box on registration forms for 2006.” After the meeting it became evident that there was not enough time to implement the checkoff box this year. The registrars were notified that we had decided not to go forward with the checkoff box, but the word did not get out to the rest of the membership. Consequently, many were confused when the minutes to the October 4 meeting were released. **MSA to rescind the October 4 motion.** Leo will have wording on checkoff boxes ready for the 2007 forms. In the meantime, we need to explain to our members why we would like to maintain a national email database and what we will and will not do with the information, as well as make clear that the database will not leave USMS’s control.

FINA Rules Proposals. No one has given Jim any Masters rules proposals yet for the next FINA meeting. The Rules Committee made three proposals at the convention (recognizing the 18-24 age group, limiting the breaststroke kick on butterfly starts and turns to one, and recognizing records for relays longer than 200 meters), and Leo will get them to Jim, along with rationales, as soon as possible. Leo agreed to check with the Long Distance Chair to see if they have any changes also. Our FINA Representative, Nancy Ridout, will be attending a FINA Masters meeting in Stanford later this week.

World Aquatic Masters Organization. The memorandum from FINA regarding the formation of the World Aquatic Masters Organization was discussed. We affirmed that as a member of FINA, we must follow their rules and regulations. Any statements regarding WAMO will have to go through the proper channels.

Olympic Update. A 10K open-water event has been added to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The IOC is now looking at events to cut for London and beyond, but we do not know what they may be at this time.

High-Altitude Training Camp. Nancy Ridout forwarded an email to the Board of Directors last week notifying us that the Olympic Training Center has decided it can no longer support our Masters High-Altitude Training Camp. Rob is working with our USA Swimming Liaison, John Walker, to try to get the camp reinstated. If this is not possible, we will pursue another camp in another venue.

National Publication Editor. At the 2005 convention, the Finance Committee recommended in its report, which was approved by the House of Delegates, “that in anticipation of the expiration of the national publication [editor’s] contract, the position be changed to a salaried position, and advertised and opened up to a search subject to PMG.” Because the editor’s duties have expanded with the new publication arrangement, Finance questioned whether the editor’s status should be changed from contractor to salaried employee, with an appropriate increase in pay; the Professional Management Guidelines do not make clear if this necessitates an open search. Because we will be undergoing a search for an executive director, this could be bad timing to also conduct a search for the national publication editor. Moreover, according to Legal Counsel, the editor’s role is still within the range of the definition of an independent contractor relationship. **MSA to extend the national publication editor’s contract for one year, at the compensation amount approved by the House of Delegates.** Rob will contact Bill, and Patty will draw up a contract.

Nevada Ultimate Sports Entertainment. Mark reported on a proposal he had received from Nevada Ultimate Sports Entertainment, which would be a resort in Las Vegas with sports venues to attract patrons. They are looking for various NGBs to affiliate with them; USA Swimming and USA Water Polo, among others, are already listed on their website as affiliates. USA Swimming is helping them draw up plans for swimming facilities. As an example of the types of links appearing on their website, the USA Swimming logo, mission statement and core objectives are shown. Mark has already spoken to National Sponsor Liaison Mel Goldstein, who has no objection to our affiliating with this venture. Mark will work with Mel and the Marketing Committee to make this happen. Julie asked that we notify the Southern Pacific LMSC, as a courtesy, because Las Vegas is in their jurisdiction. Mark will notify SPMA Chair Wayne McCauley, and also keep Julie informed.

Committees. Rob distributed a spreadsheet with committee chairs and proposed committee members, and asked the vice presidents to verify the lists, make necessary changes and get back to him as soon as possible. The vice presidents also need to coordinate with the committee chairs to get them to name their vice chairs. Julie requested that she be an ex-officio member of the Registration Committee. Rob also reminded everyone to re-register for 2006, and to remind the committee chairs and members as well. Vice presidents should report back to Rob by November 6.

Working Calendar. Meg went over the working calendar, distributed to all members of the Executive Committee the previous week. Many of the upcoming deadlines have already been met, and most of the approaching deadlines have to do with publishing the rule book. Meg reported that the rule book is on schedule. Jim Matysek had pointed out to Meg and Tracy that when we publish documents on our website that contain complete

email addresses, spammers are harvesting these addresses. To thwart the spammers, in documents that will be posted online, we will replace the @ symbol with “AT” and any periods contained in the address with “DOT.” In addition, the directory portion of Appendix E of the rule book will be omitted from the online version.

Conference Calling. Julie had previously emailed information about the Costco plan to the Executive Committee. Moreson has the advantage of allowing billing to separate accounts, which Costco doesn’t offer, but Costco has a memo area in which the appropriate account number could be entered. Costco calls can be made on demand or by reservation. They can be set up to start with or without the moderator. The big advantage with Costco is that we could save almost 10 cents per minute per line, which for 2005 would be a savings of approximately \$2000. There is no contract with Costco. Meg will check with Sally Dillon to see if we have a contract with Moreson. Julie will check with Costco to find out about setting up an account for USMS, and pass the information on to Tom. To maintain control over conference calling, a member of the Executive Committee will participate in each call, and only a member of the Executive Committee will be able to set up a call. The vice presidents will be held accountable for their committees’ use of conference calling.

Midyear Meeting. Tom needs everyone’s flight schedule so he can coordinate transportation. Rather than set up a precise agenda, we will simply have a list of general topics to discuss; Jim said this open structure worked well for the previous Executive Committee. Our most important topic will be planning for the 2006 convention. Rob will check with Dale Neuberger to see if he can join us for part of the meeting. Another important topic will be setting our goals.

Possible Changes to USAS Schedule. Rob had earlier forwarded an email from Dale Neuberger about possible changes to the convention schedule. Based on the feedback he received, Rob told Dale that we would have no objection to changing the timing of the welcome reception, but would like to keep the banquet on Saturday night.

Organization Chart. Meg and Rob have been discussing whether to include the organization chart in the 2006 rule book. The consensus was that since we may have to shuffle responsibility for the committees around, we should not include the chart in the rule book. Instead, we will publish it in the LMSC Handbook and USMS Directory; the Handbook will be published on the web, so the chart could be easily updated there. We decided to continue to list the committees alphabetically, rather than breaking them down by division, and the rule book will contain a notice pointing readers to the website for the organization chart. We will list the entire Board of Directors at the beginning of Appendix E, where previously we had listed only the Executive Committee.

Goals and Objectives. Rob will be calling the vice presidents soon to talk about setting goals and objectives for their divisions. We should all also be thinking about priorities and goals for the coming year for all of USMS. Things we are already aware of:

- Hire an Executive Director
- Hold a successful World Championships

- Work toward holding National Championships in the best pools
- Have the Championship Committee work toward active involvement in managing National Championships
- Implement online registration and automatic renewals

Between now and our next conference call, Rob will gather thoughts from each vice president. He would like everyone to let him know their preferred telephone contact (cell, office or home phone) and also when is not a good time to call.

Marketing at World Championships. Mark noted that USMS is a sponsor of the World Championships, and asked how we can capitalize on the opportunity. One suggestion from the Editorial Committee has been to print an overrun of *USMS Swimmer* and try to sell subscriptions at the meet; but we would have to budget for the overrun. We need to find out if we can sell things at our booth. Vice presidents should ask their committees what they can do as part of this effort, which Mark will coordinate. There will be a sports medicine lecture series, which Laura Kessler is coordinating. Rob suggested we also get in touch with Dale Neuberger to see if USAS wants to be part of our booth.

Next Conference Call. December 6, 2005, 8:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

Meg Smath
Secretary