

USMS CONVENTION – Orlando, FL 2004

Committee Name: **OFFICIALS**

Session # (if more than one meeting): N/A

Cmte. report #: 25

Minutes recorded by: Charlie Cockrell Date/time of this meeting: September 17, 2004

ACTION ITEMS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

1. MSA to request funding not to exceed \$500 to fund attendance to continue representation of USMS at the "Our Kids" meeting, which provides a forum to discuss rules differences between swimming NGBs (USA-Swimming, NCAA, YMCA, FINA, NISCA).

ACTION ITEMS

1. Create a page summarizing differences between USMS and FINA masters rules for officials.
2. MSA to add a page in the USMS Rule Book summarizing rules differences between USMS and High School federations.
3. MSA to develop a suggested pre-meet briefing for National Championships and other USMS sanctioned meets to cover material for officials, with emphasis on USMS rules differences and items specific to officiating protocols at USMS meets.
4. Request USMS Insurance Committee to clarify insurance coverage for individuals officiating at USMS meets, especially those from affiliate organizations (USA-S, NCAA, YMCA, High Schools).
5. Create an officials web page on the USMS web site to provide resource material for officials at USMS meets.

Committee Chair: David Diehl

Vice Chair: Charlie Cockrell

Number of committee members present: 13

Absent: 6

Number of other delegates at this meeting: 15

Committee members present: David Diehl, Charlie Cockrell, Erin Sullivan, Judy Gillies, Eric Nordlund, Edward Saltzman, Steve Schofield, Mark Moore, Jan Kavadas, Frank Tillotson, Leo Letendre, Bob Bruce (Ex.Officio), Sally Dillon (Ex. Officio)

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.
2. Self-Introductions by Committee Members.
3. Briefly discussed the effectiveness of the USA-S/USMS agreement for officiating (certification of officials) at the USMS SC and LC National Championships. Working to fine tune this program and continue the working relationship between USA-S and USMS officials.
4. Briefly reviewed the responsibilities of the **USMS Officials Committee liaison** to the SC and LC National Championships. We will **continue to assign a liaison to the National Championship meets** and look at the responsibilities to determine if they should be enhanced to make them more effective. The liaisons should be in contact with the meet manager prior to the meet to:
 - Work with the host organization prior to the meet to determine that there will be a sufficient number of officials available and assist in finding resources to locate qualified officials.
 - Provide appropriate pre-meet briefing material to emphasize USMS rules differences and officiating protocols specific to USMS meets and National Championship meets. (See action item above. Charlie Cockrell will develop a draft.)
 - Be available during the meet to brief officials and answer rule difference questions. (The committee also affirmed our philosophy that the pre-meet briefings are one avenue to educate officials from affiliate organizations on USMS rules.)
5. Discussed officiating requirements for the **FINA World Championships**. The committee suggests that a **liaison from the Officials Committee may be needed to work with the International Committee and Local Organizing Committee (LOC)**. Responsibilities may be similar to the liaison function for USMS National Championships.
6. Discussed the USMS Officials Certification Program and discussed how it is being utilized with a few of the LMSC's.
7. Discussed the results of the first **"Our Kids" program and voted to have Leo Letendre attend next year's session**. Also voted to request an additional \$500 be added to the Officials Committee budget for this purpose.

8. Discussed insurance requirements for USMS officials. Impression is that USA-Swimming officials, who are not USMS members, are covered by insurance when officiating at USMS meets. Status of NCAA, YMCA and high school officials is unclear. Action item to request the USMS Insurance Committee to clarify the requirement.
9. Jan Kavadas and Leo Letendre will develop a **summary of USMS/High School rules differences** for inclusion in the rule book.
10. Discussion on proposed changes to the USMS rules of competition.
 - The committee discussed, but makes no recommendations, on any rules changes dealing with National Championship seeding or non-NQT event limitations.
 - The committee has concerns regarding the implementation of the proposed rule change submitted by the Championship committee regarding a maximum time limitation at USMS Nationals. Implementation guidance to officials will need to be provided if the rule change is adopted.
 - The committee recommends adoption of R2 in favor of R1. (Clarification of the rule regarding the use of breaststroke kick in butterfly.)
 - The committee recommends against adoption of R11. (7 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstain) The committee feels that measurement of bulkhead pools prior to each session is a good officiating practice which should be emphasized to Meet Directors and Meet Referees, but there is concern that imposing a rule requirement could invalidate swims even when the required post-session measurement is acceptable.
11. The committee discussed projects for the coming year, including inclusion of materials for an **officials page on the USMS web site** and a **periodic newsletter for officials**. Leo Letendre noted that there is an opportunity for an officials Q&A feature in our national publication.

The meeting was adjourned at: 10:59 am

TASKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

1. Compile material for an officials page on the USMS web site.
2. Develop officials newsletter for LMSC Officials Chairs.
3. Assign Officials Committee Liaisons for 2005 Short and Long Course Nationals and 2006 FINA World Championships.
4. Update responsibilities of the Officials Committee Liaisons for USMS National Championship meets.
5. Have USMS representation at the "our kids" initiative in the coming year and provide a report of actions by this group.
6. Continue to work on the program with USA-Swimming for certification of officials and look for opportunities to expand this program.