

USMS Convention — Dallas, Texas 2017

Committee Name: Rules	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: Charles Cockrell	Vice Chair: Kathy Casey
Minutes recorded by: Mollie Grover	Date/time of meeting: Thursday 9/14/2017 9:45 am CT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None.

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to recommend F-2 to the HOD.
2. MSA to recommend F-3 to the HOD.
3. MSA to recommend R-2 as amended to the HOD.

Number of committee members present: 16	Absent: 4	Number of other delegates present: 33
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Charles Cockrell, Kathy Casey, Mollie Grover, Christina Fox, Rand Vaillancourt, Laura Groselle, Chris Lysinger, Karen Harris, Carolyn Boak, Matt Hooper, Steve Unruh, Jessica Seaton, Chris Colburn,		
Ex Officio: Meg Smath, Brian Albright, Ed Tsuzuki		
Committee Members Absent: Brian Hoyt, Barb Protzman, Marilyn Fink, Claire Letendre		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am CT.

1. Charles had the committee introduce themselves to the audience.
2. Meeting minutes from the August 27th teleconference were approved as amended.
3. Charles explained the process for FINA rule changes before starting discussion regarding the masters-specific FINA rules. One of the changes requires no action by the committee (F-1), two require action (F-2, F-3).
 - a. F-1 – SW8.1 Butterfly
 - a.i. This change in the FINA rule is not a substantive change. Kicking on the side on butterfly is still acceptable. This change is only to remove duplicate language and is not substantive.
 - b. F-2 – SW9 Medley Swimming
 - b.i. This change is regarding the recent change of what is considered freestyle in the IM and medley relays. The FINA rule change impacts USMS article 101.6. In the final packet, the rule will appear under the USA Swimming rules, as USA Swimming has adopted this change already. This rules change will take effect on September 21.
 - b.ii. MS (Kathy/Rand) to adopt the change. Motion passed to adopt the change.
 - c. F-3 – Removal of semi-automatic and manual times for World Records
 - c.i. This change removes the ability for masters world records to be set with a primary timing system that is semi-automatic (buttons) or manual (watches). MS (Kathy/Rand) to adopt the change. Carolyn asked what happens if the automatic timing system (touchpads) fail. This change still allows semi-automatic backup times to be accepted for records.
 - c.ii. Rand asked what would happen in the case of a facility disallowing the use of touchpads after meet information has been published. In this case, records would not be acceptable. Carolyn then asked what happens if both the touchpads and buttons both fail. In that case, the records would again not be acceptable.
 - c.iii. Motion passed to adopt the change.

4. Charles then moved on to the two proposals that would be dealt with in this meeting (R-2 and R-3).
 - a. R-2 – Age groups in other organizations
 - a.i. MS (Kathy/Rand) to recommend the proposal to the HOD. Charles explained the history behind this change, which involved an interpretation that was issued by the Rules Committee in January.
 - a.ii. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of meets such as the various Senior Games (SCY) and the Huntsman World Senior Games (SCM). Charles then mentioned that there is a caveat for FINA World Championships in the USA to allow for a sanction without the 18-24 age group.
 - a.iii. Meg then mentioned that the Legislation Committee did not agree with the interpretation issued in January, and that this change would require companion language in Part 4 to align the difference in wording between Part 1 and Part 4. This discrepancy is due to the use of the word “event” in different parts of the rule book. Discussion was had as to potential wording changes for Part 4.
 - a.iv. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of this rule on the college club initiative. Charles then asked if there were any suggestions on possible wording changes for this proposal. Kathy mentioned that the change in 102.5.2 may be confusing when separated from the change in 102.3.3. MS (Kathy/Rand) to change the wording in 102.5.2 to strike “For” in line 3 and to remove the wording after the parenthetical on line 4, and add “...must comply with 102.3.3. Motion for the amendment passed.
 - a.v. Discussion then returned to R-2 as a whole. Matt asked if this change would allow for changes to age groups beyond what is specified in the rule book (e.g. changing 50-54 to 50-52, etc). Charles stated that this change would only allow changing the minimum or maximum age groups, but not changing the age group ranges. Motion passed to recommend R-2 as amended to the HOD.
 - b. R-3 – 25 yard and 25 meter events
 - b.i. MS (Kathy/Rand) to recommend the proposal to the HOD. Discussion ensued regarding the history of 25 yard events and if they were conforming events at a point of time. Leo Letendre mentioned that 25s were never conforming events, but have been allowed in sanctioned meets, and gave history as to why 25s have never been conforming events. Matt asked why 100 yard/meter relays were not included.
 - b.ii. Carolyn then stated that this would require keeping records and would open a can of worms with other current proposals. Chris asked about the impact for nationals. Charles then mentioned that both Championship and Records and Tabulations are opposed to this proposal.
 - b.iii. Tim Lecrone (NE) mentioned that the perceived logistical difficulties in implementing this rule are potentially precluding expanding the membership by allowing members who may only be able legally finish a 25 of the strokes. Susan Ehringer (KY) agreed that adding the 25s would help expand USMS membership. Additional audience members expressed agreement with these sentiments.
 - b.iv. Jeanne Seidler (WI) mentioned that 300 pools in the database are not long enough to have a second set of touchpads. This would then require meets to have people starting in shallow water and potentially having novice swimmers diving into shallow water, which causes a safety issue. She also reiterated that the Records and Tabulation Committee is not in favor of this proposal.
 - b.v. Peter Guadagni (Pacific) mentioned that the Pacific LMSC is also not in favor of this proposal, for similar reasons as the Championship Committee. Karen mentioned that in meets where 25s are offered, the top level swimmers in the 50s are the ones typically winning and competing the 25s, which goes against the rationale of adding 25s. Ginger Pierson (OR) mentioned that she feels this is exactly what will happen if 25s are added.
 - b.vi. Carolyn then brought up that this is not recommended, approval of this proposal would require a 2/3rd majority to pass the proposal. Further discussion ensued regarding ways to allow the HOD to ultimately approve this proposal. Charles brought the motion to a vote. Motion to recommend failed (1 yay, 12 nays).
 - b.vii. MS (Carolyn/Matt) to reconsider this proposal. Motion failed (4 yays, 9 nays).

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am CT.
