

Minutes of the Safety Education Ad Hoc Committee (9/21/95)

Voting committee members present: Forrest Sullivan, Chair; Colleen Driscoll; George Simon; Edie Jacobson; Nancy Miller, Recorder; Don Mehl; and Joanne Tingley.

ITEM: George made a motion that this ad hoc committee be given full standing committee status. Edie seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously in favor of it. Our main purpose would be educate our membership about safety issues and disseminate pertinent information to them about these issues.

Forrest, Edie, and Colleen will work as a subcommittee to publish safety articles and items and disseminate them to each LMSC on a quarterly basis.

Forrest outlined what the position of Safety Coordinator should entail within each LMSC. He also sent out suggested warm-up procedures in August. These need to be strictly enforced to avoid injury. There was discussion about the different interpretations among the LMSC's. It was suggested that perhaps we should also publish safety tips for our officials. We should continue to use the lane signs, preferably in laminated form.

CLARIFICATION: In a USMS-sanctioned or -sponsored event, insurance coverage is only in effect if all swimmers are registered with USMS. If an unregistered person gets into the water, all USMS insurance coverage becomes void. All liability would then fall on the host facility. Of particular concern were children of meet participants.

George proposed that we send a copy of all five brochures within the USS Safety Resource Series to each Safety Coordinator. Colleen seconded, and the committee agreed unanimously. Edie made (and George accepted) a friendly amendment to send only three of the five brochures ("Facility And Emergency Planning," "Swim Meet Safety," and "Officials' Safety Awareness"). Perhaps they can be included in the packet which is sent out to each LMSC in October.

Forrest reviewed accident reports. There were only two reported incidents/claims made this year. Our premiums have not gone up as a result. Seventy-nine incidents have been reported/claims made between 5/85 and 6/95; twenty-one occurred in open water. Our policy has a \$10,000 deductible of any pure loss amount, and any attorney fees/deposition fees/autopsy fees/independent medical exam fees, etc. incurred by USMS in defending a claim are covered under our policy. Our coverage has just been increased to \$5 million per occurrence. We were reminded that water polo players are not covered under our insurance. Mike Laux clarified the fact that any official who might be injured during our of our events is covered under our insurance.

USS has no policy (and states that they will have none) regarding blood-borne pathogens (eg. HIV and hepatitis B). Each

pool should have a policy on this issue and how to handle incidents involving bodily emissions. We may want to consider disseminating information derived from the Red Cross to quiet any hysteria on the subject, as it has been determined that chlorine effectively kills these pathogens.

Massage therapists who perform their services at meets must have their own liability insurance. Mike Laux recommended that the meet host avoid printing in the meet information any mention of provision of such services in order to avoid any potential liability as a sponsoring agency. Licensing of these individuals varies widely from state to state, and they do not have malpractice insurance (as chiropractors do). Monitoring of this situation should therefore be carried out at the local level.

FACT: only swimmers in workouts where there is a registered USMS person on deck are eligible for coverage under our insurance.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.