

USMS CONVENTION – DALLAS, TEXAS - 2002

Committee Name: Safety Education

Agenda item #: 23

ACTION ITEMS

- **MSA to recommend to the Executive Committee to schedule time during the 2003 Convention for CPR training for delegates.**
- **MSA to use the USMS safety handbook as it existed in 2001 and, pending approval by Legal Counsel and others within USMS, put the handbook on the USMS website and distribute the handbook electronically through the National Office to LMSC Chairs, LMSC Sanction Chairs, LMSC Safety Chairs, newsletter editors, and, if possible, club representatives.**
- **MSA to select and offer a liaison from the Safety Education Committee to work with any safety subcommittee of the Long Distance Committee that works on safety guidelines for open water swims.**

Committee Chair: Patty Powis

Vice Chair(s): Jim Wheeler_

Number of committee members present: 5
attending this meeting: 17

Absent: 3 Total delegates

Committee Members present: Patty Powis, Jim Wheeler, Carol Berendsen, Katherine Branch, Dotty Whitcomb

MINUTES

Time Meeting Called to Order: 2:15 PM

1. CPR Campaign

The committee discussed a proposed campaign to encourage all USMS members to become trained in CPR. As a kick-off for the campaign, Julie Heather suggested arranging CPR training for the delegates at the 2003 Convention in San Diego, which could become an annual event. Delegates would pay a nominal fee for the training. It was suggested that USMS partner with the American Red Cross or American Heart Association for this project. Julie offered to contact ARC in San Diego to set this suggestion in motion.

There was also a discussion about how to disseminate information about CPR training to LMSC's. Katherine Branch volunteered to develop a sample article for newsletter editors and LMSC Safety Chairs to be distributed through Streamlines. Newsletter editors could incorporate information about CPR training in their locale into the sample article for their newsletter.

It was MSA to recommend to the Executive Committee to schedule time during the 2003 Convention for CPR training for delegates.

2. Status of the USMS Safety Handbook

The version of the USMS Safety Handbook as it existed for last year's convention was distributed at the meeting. Last year, the committee felt that the handbook had become diluted because of liability concerns and embarked on an effort to add more to the handbook. However, after not being able to create a better product this year, the committee decided that the 2001 handbook should be used. It was agreed that, after finalizing the existing version of the handbook, it should be distributed electronically to save the costs of printing and mailing. The committee will appoint a safety handbook editor to serve as the point person to carry this project through.

It was MSA to use the USMS safety handbook as it existed in 2001 and, pending approval by Legal Counsel and others within USMS, put the handbook on the USMS website and distribute the handbook electronically through the National Office to LMSC Chairs, LMSC Sanction Chairs, LMSC Safety Chairs, newsletter editors, and, if possible, club representatives.

3. Safety Training for Coaches

The committee had passed an action item before the convention asking the Coaches and Insurance Committees to consider a safety training requirement for persons who supervise Masters swim practices. Committee Chair, Patty Powis, reported that she attended the Coaches Committee meeting and there had not been a consensus in support of a safety training recommendation that a Coaches Committee subcommittee had proposed. Although the recommendation was not approved by Coaches, it engendered a helpful discussion about safety training that will continue.

4. Committee Progress Outside of Convention

The Committee Chair asked what the committee could do to accomplish more during the year and make concrete progress. Suggestions included:

- Have time where we can sit down face-to-face and share ideas instead of communicating only by e-mail.
- Make better use of LMSC Safety Chairs. This committee could focus on issues, then bring them to LMSC's that would, in turn, communicate those issues to members on the local level.
- Be in better touch with the LMSC Safety Chairs. Educate LMSC safety chairs and be "safety mentors".
- Make sure that each LMSC knows they need to have a safety chair.
- The committee is very small, so if we're going to have subcommittees, we need more members. Expand subcommittees to include non-committee members.
- Divide committee members into regions to match them up with LMSC's.
- Revive a LMSC Safety Chair job description.
- Offer articles for SWIM and materials for newsletter editors to include in their publications.
- Prioritize the committee's projects so we can focus doing a few things well.

5. New Business

Jim Wheeler, who is also on the Long Distance Committee, discussed a subcommittee of Long Distance that will be addressing open water safety issues. He requested a liaison from Safety Education to help him with the document he intends to draw up.

MSA to select and offer a liaison from the Safety Education Committee to work with any safety subcommittee of the Long Distance Committee that works on safety guidelines for open water swims.

Time Meeting Was Adjourned: 4:26 PM

TASKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

Begin a CPR training campaign for members.
Finalize and electronically distribute the USMS safety handbook.
Make contact with LMSC Safety Chairs.
Contribute safety articles to newsletters or SWIM.
Provide safety “blurbs” and “fill” articles for newsletter editors.