

CONVENTION COORDINATOR Victor Buehler

There have been several meaningful developments initiated this year in preparation for convention and with regard to future convention budgets. With the help of controller Margaret Bayless, we have been able to break the convention budget down into more categories than used in past years. This provides a clearer picture of how our monies are spent and will enable us to recognize any developing patterns through the coming years. Hopefully future budget requests will be more accurate than they have been in the past.

A second rather unique development has been the organization process for convention Atlanta-2008 with the Georgia LMSC. This innovative LMSC conducts monthly conference calls of which they have graciously invited me to participate in. We have had unsurpassed communication throughout the year. Volunteers are lined up, the hospitality room and swimming pool are secured. The daily workout schedule is set. The bus to the pool will be arranged very soon. Locations of supply stores have been identified as well as potential barriers for getting supplies to the room. My special thanks are extended at this time to the members of this LMSC: Lisa Watson, Ed Saltzman, Sean Fitzgerald, Donna Hooe, Jeffrey Tacca, Bill Lotz, Rob Copeland, Bob Kohmescher and Karol Welling . I strongly encourage all LMSCs hosting conventions in the future to utilize this practice.

For the first time all committee chairs, BODs and other positions covered by the convention budget for travel and rooms will also be covered for registration. This will make tracking of registration costs much easier and relieve the committees of this chore.

We have experienced a significant increase in the requests for Audio-Visual equipment at convention by about 38% for 2008 compared to 2007. Fortunately, because several of the requests made are for setups that will be in the same room at different times of the same day we will only need to pay for one setup instead of four. Just the same, our needs and expenses in this area have increased this year and I expect this pattern to continue in future years. I predict we will need to procure a second LCD projector for convention 2009.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Improve reimbursement tracking and develop better methods for identifying convention expenses.
2. Improve communication with convention LMSC hosts.

Action items:

1. Track all 2008 convention expenses according to the following categories: EC Rooms, EC Travel, Chair Rooms, Chair Travel, Hospitality Room, Hospitality Room Supplies, Pool, Bus to and from pool, AV , Convention Booklets and Postage, Convention Office Costs at Convention, Registrations, Convention Coordinator Office Expenses.

CONVENTION STAFF MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, September 24th, 3:45-5:15 pm
Hospitality Suite

1. Meet with Vale parking personnel prior to 9/24/08.
2. Meet with committee chairs on 9/24/08.
3. Be available or assign someone to move LCD projector from one room to another in a timely manner.
4. Ensure all Committee Chairs have cell phone number: 352-317-0284.
5. Attend all HOD Sessions.
6. Attend finance committee meetings.

FINA REPRESENTATIVE
Nancy Ridout

This was a FINA World Masters Championships year and three days of meetings were held in Perth prior to and during to the competition. Topics of discussion included the World Championships and issues needing to be addressed, continuing development of Masters Rules, update of the Guide to Hosting Masters Events, a survey of National Federations, the growth of Masters worldwide, and providing Masters articles to the FINA Aquatics World magazine.

Walt Reid reported on the world record application process and celebrated the 16th year of FINA Masters records publication. He has also compiled an "All Time" Top Ten listing. The committee approved his plan to update the current records on the FINA web site so that those broken between publication dates can be recognized.

I presented a brochure I created for the FINA Masters Development sub-committee, which I chair, that was well-received and will be printed for the federations and posted on the FINA web site. I also developed a survey that was approved for distribution to each member federation. It will help us determine the best direction to build the Masters program throughout the world.

I asked for clarification about the eligibility for world records. The only reference in minutes to this issue was from those of the Masters Commission (Chair, Sec., & FINA Bureau rep) on Aug. 1 & 9, 2007. The reference was to "...third party events. The key word is 'controlled by or conducted by, ours vs. theirs.'"

From this, my understanding is that if a federation member or subgroup such as an LMSC, club, or zone, of USMS, conducts the meet then it is considered a FINA approved meet and swims would count as FINA records. If the event is conducted or controlled by an organization that not a direct subgroup of the federation, then it wouldn't count as a FINA record. For example, if the IGLA meet in Maryland was conducted and controlled by the host club, then those swims would count. If it was conducted and controlled by IGLA then they wouldn't. FINA has said in Masters Committee meetings, that Masters can participate in any meets they like; they don't care. And, this is significant. Masters athletes will not be penalized for their choices of competition.

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But, to break and set a FINA World record, it has to be done in a FINA (family) meet. USMS sets criteria for eligibility for its records and this is similar. We approve certain meets in which records can be set and so does FINA. In the past we have been operating under the radar and assuming that FINA and USMS agreed about record eligibility. The LalyCar problems made such practices more public and FINA has set the criteria for Masters that is consistent with all other FINA aquatic sports.

It was also decided to discontinue the FINA Masters Officials List. The committee felt that some good officials were not attending because they were not on the list and many of those from the actual list were not attending. It was generally felt that officials should be recruited from the federations for the FINA World Masters Championships.

It was suggested and approved that the next FINA Masters Congress be held in conjunction with all other Technical Congresses in Rome, 2009.

2009 is the final year of the current term of the FINA Masters Committee. Nominations will be submitted from the federations and a new committee chosen for the term beginning in 2010. I have been proud to represent USMS as a member of this committee and hope that it sees fit to recommend to USMS that I continue for another term.

IGLA LIAISON Jessica Seaton

The 2008 IGLA Championships were hosted by the District of Columbia Aquatics Club and the Washington Wetskins (waterpolo) June 18-22. It was a very successful meet. IGLA was granted Associate status by USMS. There is no final word on whether or not the results will be accepted for FINA top ten, but we're hoping for the best.

The IGLA Championships in 2009 will be hosted by the Copenhagen Mermates in Copenhagen, Denmark from July 25 until August 2. The championship meet will be part of a broader athletic and cultural event, The World Outgames. The World Outgames are similar to the Gay Games, but have only been held once before. When asked about the records counting for FINA Masters top ten, the Danish Swimming Federation replied that as long as the swimmer is affiliated with a club that is a member of FINA, there will be no problems of recognizing a FINA-record. This could truly be the case, or the Danish Swimming Federation is unfamiliar with the problem of FINA recognizing such events. The Danish Swimming Federation will provide the necessary proofs of length and there will be electrical timing and so forth. The aquatics will be held in the newly constructed Bellahoj Swim Arena.

The IGLA General Meeting held in Washington, D.C. resulted in the election of a new Board of Directors, updates to the Policy and Procedure booklet and the Championship Rules booklet. The IGLA web site is currently being revised. IGLA is actively reaching out to other organizations.

RULE BOOK COORDINATOR Susan Ehringer

Opening paragraph:

Once again Cheryl Gettelfinger; Walt Reid; Tracy Grilli; Kathy Casey and the Rules Committee; and Marcia Cleveland and the Open Water Long Distance Committee; and Sean Fitzgerald and the Legislation Committee pulled together to help edit and publish the 2008 Rule Book. I thank all of you for your hard work.

Advertisements rolled in a little better this year than last year. Many were sent via email. The deadline for ads for 2009 is Oct. 3, 2008. One advertiser was mistakenly left out of the printed Rule Book, Total Immersion. As soon as I was notified, I updated this in the online version.

There were some issues with the selected printer. A lack of communication caused the printing to be delayed.

A notice was published in *USMS SWIMMER* calling for submissions for the cover contest and bids. As of 07/15/08 no bids or covers have been received. I am going to request quotes from printers if nothing is received in the next few weeks.

The price of USPS postal rates is affecting the cost of shipping the Rule Book. A task force was approved by Rob Copeland in an effort to make recommendations about how to reduce the number of pages.

366 Rule Books were sold or distributed to LMSC's by June 2008. The selling price of the books is \$9 per book. It costs \$5.84 to print each book and \$3.21 to ship each book. That means that in 2008 USMS is losing \$.05 per book. The cost to print a mini book is \$4.88 per book; USMS is selling these for \$3 per book. USMS is losing more than \$1.88 per book. (I am not sure of the cost of shipping). It is my recommendation to increase the price of the rule books to \$10 for the regular and \$6 for the mini.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Susan has started reviewing and correcting the 2008 Rule Book for 2009.
2. Cheryl will begin contacting advertisers for the 2008 Rule Book.
3. Rule Book task force, approved by Rob Copeland, has made suggestions about how to reduce the size of the Rule Book.

Action items:

1. Seek printing bids and cover submissions.
2. Work with task force to streamline the Rule Book.
3. Prepare book for 2009 changes.
4. Work with Walt Reid to get a better format for transferring the records into the book.
5. Work with Open Water Long Distance committee to implement changes and review Part
6. Work with Rules committee to implement changes and review Parts. 1 and 2.
7. Work with Legislation Committee to ensure no editing changes need to be fixed.

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RULE BOOK COORDINATOR MEETING AGENDA

1. Announce the winner of the Rule Book Cover based on voting by Convention Attendees
2. Announce the Rule Book Dedication

USA SWIMMING LIAISON Ted Haartz

Following the 2007 Aquatics Convention in Anaheim, CA, the USA Swimming board of directors met in Los Angeles in November, Colorado Springs in January and Omaha in May of 2008. Of the greatest interest to the USMS membership was the resolution for dual sanctioning of events. USA Swimming, USMS and their respective insurance carriers were finally able to reach an agreement and agree on a process to allow combined events by the two organizations. A “hats off” to John Peterson and Sandi Blumit at Risk Management Services, Inc. our insurance brokers in Phoenix, AZ for their efforts on behalf of both organizations to bring this endeavor to a successful conclusion.

In April, I was asked to serve on a USA Swimming Board of Directors review panel to consider an appeal to a National Board of Review decision. We met, via conference call in May, considered the facts and rendered a decision. I found the process quite educational and interesting.

USA Swimming is engaged with Wasserman Media Group to expand its media coverage in all fields to better access a wider audience than its own basic membership; think, MLB - major league baseball, NASCAR, NBA, etc. as a means of increasing membership, sponsorship and general public exposure. There is probably no better time than in an Olympic year with its stable of great athletes, to attempt this.

The next USA Swimming BoD meeting will be in Atlanta, September 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE Jeanne Ensign

Members: Jeanne Ensign (chair), Carolyn Boak, Chris Colburn, Jim Miller (EC liaison), Jim Wheeler, Mel Goldstein, Nadine Day, Rob Copeland, Tom Boak, Tom Boyd

History: The task force was created at the 2006 convention with the mission to “develop an initiative for servicing, staffing, enhancing and developing a support system for our clubs”.

Our objectives are:

1. Increase awareness of how USMS can help clubs through effective communications
2. Create recruiting tools for clubs
3. Create tools for club management and coaching
4. Develop an active strategy for assisting development of existing and new clubs

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5. Act as a resource for navigating governmental and facility policy and decision making bodies
6. Establish dialog with USA Swimming and similar fitness oriented organizations

(The word club(s) is used throughout and meant to encompass clubs, teams and workout groups).

Activity this Year

Shortly after the 2007 convention Mel Goldstein, Jim Wheeler and Tom Boyd met to develop curriculum for club mentoring. The materials created are for use by mentors in working with clubs and fall into three categories: effective club models, facilities and marketing. A finance module was added later.

In late January a mentor workshop facilitated by Mel, Jim and Tom, our training instructors, was held in Dallas and attended by Chris Powers, Dan Cox, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Jill Wright, Nadine Day, John Grzeszczak, Lisa Dahl, Christine de Santos, Chris McGiffin and Jeanne Ensign. The workshop was the first step in the educational process of providing resources and now educators to help clubs throughout USMS to grow their memberships.

After our mentor training session we saw the need to expand the materials we have, create new materials and develop processes for club selection, assigning mentors to clubs, overseeing mentors, evaluation of the mentoring process and evaluation of the benefits to clubs. We concluded that an individual was needed to coordinate these functions.

The Pilot Program was developed to address these needs and was approved by the EC in June. The duration of the Pilot Program is through the end of the year and payment to a current USMS contractor, Mel Goldstein, to be coordinator for the Pilot Program was approved. A one page summary of the Pilot Program is at the end of this report.

Mel has received a tremendous response from clubs, individual YMCAs and colleges and universities to what we are going to try to provide and we have not as yet actively marketed the program. We are scheduled to have a [paragraph/blurb – help!] posted on the front page of the USMS website. Setting up mentors and clubs for visits took a little longer than anticipated due to hectic schedules during the summer but by convention one club will have been visited by two mentors and Mel will visit White Plains, NY and meet with representatives of several YMCAs.

The Budget

At last year's convention Finance Committee approved a line item budget of \$25,000 with the requirement that prior to spending we submit a detailed request. Finance approved our request in December to fund the facilitators meeting, two mentor training workshops (one in early 2008 and one in Atlanta prior to convention), and travel for mentors to clubs. The task force decided not to hold the second mentor training

In June Finance Committee approved a reallocation of part of the unspent monies to fund the Pilot Program.

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Our Future

Our new Executive Director views club and coaches development as a primary facet in the growth of USMS. Club and coaches development is included in his USMS Vision and budget request.

The task force will not meet at convention.

END TO END EVENT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (“E2EEM”) Anna Lea Roof

This task force is defining the tools and processes to make it easier for USMS to sanction a Masters swim meet and process the meet results data afterward. We're still working on defining the different phases of E2EEM. Some of the components, however, were already under development before the task force was formed.

National Calendar of Events (in progress): The online calendar of events is being changed to an online database with various search capabilities. Tools will be developed to allow an LMSC representative to maintain their own listings on the national calendar of events.

Sanctioning of meets (future): An online system that will allow a meet director to apply for a sanction and receive a sanction number from the appropriate LMSC. The meet and sanction information will automatically feed into the Calendar of Events.

Meet Results Database (complete): A new USMS-hosted meet results database has been created with online views of the database for viewing meet results history for any swimmer and for viewing YTD event rankings in any event/age group. This database is available for various other online USMS tools to use, such as integrating with online entry for nationals and the individual swimmer info pages.

Top Ten Collection (in beta-testing): Tools have also been developed to allow LMSC top ten recorders to feed the meet results database and retrieve annual top ten submission files at the end of each season. Several LMSCs participated in early tests of these tools; some created their 2008 SCY top ten submissions using these tools.

Nationals Online Entry (ongoing): The online entry tools for our national championships continue to evolve. A new innovation was rolled out for this year's LC meet that allows USMS members to look up and select their entry times from past meet performances. This required integration with the meet results database.

Club Assistant database (ongoing): This data, which is transmitted from the online member registration site to the USMS database in real-time, is necessary for the E2EEM system to function properly. The data includes the swimmer's permanent ID, which is used for cross-referencing purposes in the meet results database, Top Ten, and records. It is also used in the Nationals online entry process. Having this real-time data allows USMS to verify meet entries much more quickly. For the 2008 SC Nationals, the verified meet roster and psych sheets were

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posted the day after entries closed. This verification process used to take 2-3 weeks after the close of entries.

USMS records (future, late 2008): The way that USMS records are tracked will be updated. This will help to streamline the processes for volunteers and will also allow us to publish the record progression history for all age groups on our website.

LMSC, club, zone, and meet records (future): A future add-on to the records area will also allow local groups to track LMSC, club, zone, or meet records.

US TRIATHLON ASSOCIATION LIAISON

Jerry Clark

My appointment to be the Liaison to USAT began in February 2008 at the mid-year meeting of the USMS board of directors. I prepared a set of missions, objectives and goals (MOGS) and submitted those to the Executive Committee for review, revisions and subsequent approval. In June, after consultation with the Vice President of Member Services, I agreed to proceed with the following tasks (with results as of August 11, 2008 shown in bold print):

- Contact USMS coaches to gather information and success stories. The goal is to conduct an electronic brainstorming session. The coaches were asked to tell things that help them work successfully with triathletes. The deliverable from this effort will be a list of ideas, attributed to the programs that use them, so other coaches can use those ideas and become successful in attracting triathletes. We will send this list by email to all USMS coaches and also share it with the club development task force. A comprehensive questionnaire pertaining to how coaches work triathletes into their daily workouts was created, revised to include distance swimmers and submitted to the members of the Coaches Committee in July. As of this writing, the past and current chairmen of the Coaches Committee and I are developing a summary document from the replies to our questionnaire. A full report will be included in your packet at the convention.
- Contact the coaches committee and ask them to increase the number of online workouts to include one or two that are written specifically for triathletes. The Coaches Committee chair agreed to find coaches to post weekly workouts for triathletes / distance swimmers on the USMS website. NOTE: it is recommended that any and all workouts posted on the website should be password protected so that just USMS registered members of might access those workouts. As of this writing, no coaches have yet been picked because we want to complete the summary of the replies before deciding what will be offered in the workouts section of the Discussion Forum.
- Create a document that explains the steps for hosting a USMS open water swim as part of a triathlon event. Help and information will be solicited from the Open Water Committee. When completed, this will be shared with LMSC chairs and the Open Water chair. This is actively in process as we're working with the step by step process with a local promoter of multiple triathlons. By following this event director's planning and submittal in July/August of an application to host one of the USMS Open Water championships, a document is being created showing the steps to follow for hosting an Open Water championship in conjunction with a triathlon. It will be attached with this report in your packets at the convention.

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- Help LMSC's understand what information is available for usage in packets at triathlons. Make a list of materials that can be ordered from the national office and how far in advance they need to be ordered. This might include bonus distributions of our magazine, various fliers, the planner, etc. Make note of any good ideas that could be used by triathlon directors in our LMSCs. This is not active at the time of this writing due to the fact that a new branding effort is underway. Once the branding process is completed, new materials will be ordered. The existing materials stored at our former national office (Tracy's address) have dwindled. Advance notice of at least 90 days for requesting materials will be required.

The USMS Executive Director, Rob Butcher, met with the head of marketing for USA Triathlon (Tim Yount) and the executive director of USA Triathlon (Skip Gilbert) at the USA Swimming Olympic trials in Omaha this year. They discussed how the two organizations might work together more closely in the future. According to Rob, a number of ideas came up that will need to be flushed out before more a definitive relationship can be implemented. It is the general opinion of myself, other board members, the coaches on the USMS coaches committee, many of our members and our executive director that these two organizations serving adults in their quest for fitness should be able to find common ground on which to enhance the delivery of their respective goals.