

## U.S. Masters Swimming

**Committee Name:** Recognition & Awards

**Committee Chair:** Elizabeth Nymeyer

**Minutes recorded by:** Sally Dillon

**Date/time of meeting:** March 12, 2023, 6 pm CST

**Actions taken:** MSA to approve two proposals to revise the R&A Committee Policies (see details below).

**Number of committee members present:** 10

**Absent:** 2

**Guests:** 1

**Attendees:** Committee members: Stacy Abrams, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Michael Hillegonds, Mary Jurey, Nancy Kryka, Michael Moore, Beth Nymeyer, Ray Novitske, and Nancy Ridout. Ed Coates, VPLO.

**Absent:** Rich Burns and Elise Shank

**Guests:** Ann Marshfield

Chair Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm Central.

1. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the January 22, 2023 meeting were approved via email and submitted to the USMS Secretary for posting on the website.
2. Next meeting: April 23.
3. New Business:
  - a. Fitness Committee request: Ann Marshfield, USMS Fitness Committee chair, joined the call. Her committee would like to revise the criteria for the Fitness Award using the following wording:  
***Fitness Award nominee** is someone who by their example both passively and actively encourages others to seek fitness through swimming as a lifestyle (competition is not required). The individual provides encouragement through social interaction in and out of the pool to keep people involved in a fitness lifestyle within their swimming community.* She mentioned that the Fitness Committee might be “sunsetting” this year and her committee thought the award might become the R&A Committee’s responsibility. Beth pointed out that the Fitness Committee can change their criteria without our permission and R&A will arrange for the website change. Ed noted that our committee has been tasked with determining whether current awards should continue. Ann’s committee has discussed whether past Fitness chairs could select the award winners in the future. She also said the Fitness committee feels very strongly that their mission has been overshadowed by competition. The committee feels that by sunsetting the committee and its award, USMS is doing a disservice to the vast numbers of fitness swimmers. Ed will send the new criteria language to Jessica Reilly.
  - b. Policy changes: A few days prior to the meeting, Sally distributed policy revisions for the committee to consider. The first proposal had been submitted prior to the January meeting but did not get on the agenda. Proposed changes indicated in red.

Proposal #1 – rationale: All of the awards given by committees are listed in the R&A policies. It’s our responsibility to post the names of all award recipients. Submitted by Sally Dillon and Nancy Kryka. New language is in red.

### **G. Policies regarding USMS awards given by other committees and groups**

Add a #9 as follows:

**9. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award:** The USMS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee shall maintain criteria and select the recipient. The award shall be presented at a meeting of the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting.

**MSA to approve Proposal #1 as written.**

Proposal #2 – rationale: The MISHOF subcommittee was asked to develop best practices for the nomination process because they were not included in the R&A Committee policies. Source: IMSHOF Subcommittee Report 2007 (AKA Hall of Fame Status Report). Submitted by Sally Dillon with amendments by Stacy Abrams. New language is in red.

### **H. Policies regarding Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame (MISHOF) recognition**

1. The MISHOF is maintained within the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The purpose of MISHOF is to recognize participants in Masters aquatic sports for their achievements as outstanding competitors and contributors to Masters with a goal of **who inspiring** every adult to live an active and healthy lifestyle.

2. It is the role of the USMS R&A Committee to ensure that qualified USMS members are submitted as candidates for ~~several of the~~ **following MISHOF** aquatic categories: Open Water Swimming, Coaches, ~~and Contributors,~~ **and Pioneers**. Candidates for the **Masters** Swimming category are selected on a point system under the control of the ISHOF, **and the R&A Committee has no role in their selection.**

3. **The R&A Committee shall form a subcommittee of three or more members, who will be actively involved in the nominating process for MISHOF candidates. The committee recognizes that while nominations can be made by anyone, the work of the committee can serve as a significant endorsement for nominees.**

4. **The primary purposes for the subcommittee are to:**

a. **Serve as a clearinghouse for USMS related nominations in the categories.**

b. **Discuss priority nominees with the R&A Committee.**

c. **Conduct research, do due diligence, and perform such other tasks as will help best substantiate and enhance nominations from the committee.**

d. **Serve as a liaison by maintaining contact with ISHOF and MISHOF.**

e. **Pursue collaboration within USMS to facilitate nominations for coaches and long distance swimmers.**

~~35. The R&A Committee shall maintain a list on the USMS Awards page of all USMS members inducted into MISHOF~~ **on the USMS Awards page.**

**MSA to approve Proposal #2 as written.**

c. Executive Committee Report: Ed had nothing to report.

4. Standing 2023 Committees:

a. RJA Award: Michael M. has received 4 nominations; one needs to be submitted on the Google form. He has reminded three nominators from last year who have not yet resubmitted a nomination. He is working on the ballot and will send it to the subcommittee for review.

b. RJA Pins: Sally reported that the RJA pins presented to the latest honorees, Jim & Anna Lea Matysek, are not what has been presented the past 10 years. As background, the R&A committee redesigned the pin in 2012 and ordered a 10-year supply in 2013. The design included the new USMS logo, and it also increased the size of the pins, which were deemed by all (recipients and the committee) to be quite small. Between the increase in the size of the pin and the increase in the value of gold, the pins were significantly more costly than the original pins, which were designed and purchased back in the 1990's. 50 pins were ordered at that time and past recipients received them as well as those being honored through 2012, when the supply ran out. The National Office took the ordering of the pins out of the hands of the R&A committee last year. Sally and others are unhappy that they ordered pins that are now smaller than the tiny original pins. She noted that the original 10k pins were 3/4" X 1/2", with a clasp and necklace loop on the back. The 2012 10k "new design" pins, also 10k, measured 1" X 3/4", with a clasp and necklace loop on back. The newest pins are only 3/4" X 3/8" with a tie tack. The gold quality is unknown. Sally asked Ed: What is the best approach for informing the National Office of our displeasure regarding the situation? Ed said he can share this information with the NO. He doesn't know how many pins were ordered and it apparently took a long time to get them. He will inquire about the cost and about the inventory.

Other comments:

• Nancy Ridout shared both of her pins to demonstrate how tiny they are. The larger pin is easier to read. She noted that the Finance committee approved the increased expense for the pins (2013), noting that it was appropriate for the RJA award.

- Beth asked Ed to request cost and order information about the new pins. She was not consulted about changes.
  - Ray would like to know how and why this happened. He suggested that if the cost is too much for the National Office to bear, the recipient's LMSC might be willing to pitch in.
- c. June Krauser Award: Nancy R. doesn't expect any nominations until the announcement comes out in Swimmer Magazine and Streamlines. The new ad has a QR code so people can scan it.
  - d. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: Beth created the new ad and will send it to the committee.
  - e. Club of the Year: Mike had nothing to report.
  - f. MISHOF: Sally did a deep dive into historical documents on her computer and shared a 2007 subcommittee report in a message to the committee on Thursday. The recommendations from that document clarified best practices for the MISHOF subcommittee and were used to propose the changes to the MISHOF policies that were approved earlier. Meanwhile, with Nancy K. compiling much of the necessary data, and an ample amount of time to polish the document, the committee prepared a nomination for Nadine Day in the Contributor category. It was shared with the committee and submitted before the March 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. The subcommittee also confirmed that it can nominate for the MISHOF Pioneer award. A potential candidate, Jim Matysek, asked that we hold off until next year so he can focus on the upcoming LCM nationals. Beth thanked the subcommittee - Rich, Hill, Nancy K, Nancy R, and Sally for their due diligence.
  - g. Webinar: Beth reported that the subcommittee is working on a slide show. Michael M. has data that has come in from 33 LMSCs and is looking for info from the missing LSMCs. The larger LMSCs seem to be the givers of awards. Beth can share the presentation as a google slide document with the committee.
  - h. Social Media Outreach: Beth is targeting a May start for this project.
  - i. Outreach/Email Effort: Also, a May start.
  - j. Awards Reel: Convention - Sept 1st deadline.
  - k. Bios: Ray & Sally discovered some Fitness stories were already posted. Sally found stories from "way back" that had been submitted to Jim Matysek when he was webmaster, and most, but not all, were posted. Ray will get the rest posted.  
Nancy K asked about MISHOF bios and Ray said he has gotten the info directly from the MISHOF website. The most recent honorees do not have writeups on MISHOF. For photos, Ray has taken the pics from the MISHOF website, but they no longer work. Ed said photos that appear for swimmers were usually posted by the individuals.
  - l. Awards Form Standardization: Stacy has created a unified Google form to collect information that is standardized for each award. Then nominator fills out the basic information and then selects the award of their choice. Stacy will send the forms to all to review shortly. Nancy R said it's important that progress can be saved so they can step away from it and come back without losing the work. Stacy confirmed that it will work that way. Ray asked if a Google account is required. It is not – just an email address is needed.
  - m. New Project: Awards that LMSC's give – Michael M mentioned the survey previously.
  - n. New Project: USMS Awards Overview – Beth is developing criteria with Stacy. Stacy looking at how to write criteria that honors the mission of the organization. The R&A committee is supposed to look at the actual physical award as well (design, cost, ordering). Nadine Day had started this last year and has passed on to Beth the information she had collected.

MSA to adjourn at 7:20 pm Central.