

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards

Committee Chair: Elizabeth Nymeyer

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: June 9, 2024; 6 pm Central

Actions taken: MSA to change the deadline to nominate for the RJA award to July 1

MSA to strike out the old wording regarding the Fitness award and to approve a new G. Fitness Award section.

Number of committee members present: 14

Absent: 2

Guests: none

Present: Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Jessie Feng, Caitlin Gagnon, Tara Mack, Ann Marshfield, Michael Moore, Nancy Nevid, Sonny Nguyen, Ray Novitske, Elizabeth Nymeyer, and Nancy Ridout, Crystie McGrail (VPLO)

Absent: Sara Dunn, Teresa Frias

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm Central time. Beth welcomed everyone.

1. VPLO Report: Recognizing that this was not news to the committee, Crystie announced that Kris Wingenroth (Gulf LMSC) is this year's RJA award honoree. The USMS Annual Meeting will be virtual (September 13-15). The date for the R&A committee's "annual meeting" is Sunday, August 11 and the annual report is due August 1. At-Large Directors will be elected this year and Crystie encouraged nominations. Meet-ups (via Zoom) between zones and BOD members are taking place this month. Michael asked about EC meetings, noting that the most recent minutes posted are from January and wondering about meeting frequency. Crystie said the last meeting was in May and approved minutes should be posted soon. He also asked about correspondence from Ed to Sally that referenced minutes from March BOD meeting regarding priorities that affect the R&A committee. Michael was unable to find the referenced minutes online. Crystie said she would send him the minutes and Beth asked to be copied.
2. R&A meeting minutes: Skipped. Secretary's note: the minutes of the May 5, 2024 meeting were approved via email and have been posted on the USMS website.
3. Next meeting date: Sunday, July 21 at 6 pm Central.
4. Subcommittee reports:
 - a. Ransom J. Arthur MD Award (RJA)
Beth emphasized that she did not want to discuss the 2025 presentation at this meeting.
 - 1) Timeline for 2025: The USMS BOD requested that the deadline to submit a nomination be July 1 (in line with all other USMS awards), Hill noted that it was a fait accompli. **MSA to change the deadline to nominate for the RJA award to July 1.**
 - 2) Presentation format: Beth reiterated that the award format will be discussed in the next few meetings, not tonight so she can make through this agenda. Sally asked that committee members review the policy changes for the RJA award that were submitted for this meeting and send her comments and suggestions.
 - 3) R&A Community: Beth wants the committee to use the Community page for the policy review. Sally was unable to post the minutes there and others commented about their challenges with Community. Crystie shared a link to a "how-to" document in Chat and Tara suggested those seeking help gather via Zoom to explore the program. Beth asked Tara to offer a tutorial.
 - b. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame (MISHOF): Rich reported that the ballots went out the early last week and voting ends June 12. The formatting is much better this year and the 114 voters come from around the world. Rich finds it difficult to rank people who are coming from different sports. Voters were encouraged to not fill out sections that they might not be well acquainted with. He doesn't know when an announcement will be made or take place.
 - c. Fitness Award (FitA): It was approved at the last meeting that the R&A committee be responsible for this award since the USMS Fitness committee no longer exists. Beth noted that the R&A Policies need to be revised accordingly. Sally distributed policy revisions prior to the meeting. The relevant changes for the Fitness award are two-fold. First, strike the Fitness award from the section: "Policies regarding USMS awards given by other committees and groups".

Second, add more detailed policies for this award, using a format like the other awards R&A governs. The proposed new wording:

G. Policies regarding the USMS Fitness Award (FitA)

1. The USMS Fitness Award is presented annually to an individual or group recognizing efforts that go above and beyond toward enhancing the fitness experience for USMS members. The recipient/s must be a registered member/s of USMS.
2. The nomination form can be found on the USMS website or obtained from the R&A Committee Chair.
3. Nomination materials must be submitted to the R&A Committee Chair by July 1.
4. The selection committee shall consist of a minimum of five members with at least two from the R&A Committee plus members representing other USMS committees.
5. The chair of the selection committee shall arrange for the preparation of the award and when necessary, submit the invoice to the R&A Chair for processing.
6. The award shall be presented or announced during the USMS Annual Meeting.

MSA to strike out the old wording regarding the Fitness award and to approve a new G. Fitness Award section.

- d. June Krauser Communication Award (JKC): Nancy R has not yet received nominations. She will contact previous nominators and encourage them to refresh their paperwork and resubmit. She thought a subcommittee was contacting the LMSCs. Tara said promotions of USMS awards were sent to Chairs and VCs in every LMSC. Nomination links were sent to clubs, encouraging them to nominate for that award. Committee members were to remind their own contact lists about the awards. Tara expressed concern that messages end up in spam folders. Nancy N noted the subcommittee members who were involved in this task. Sally didn't recall receiving the information (she is the LMSC president). Apparently, no one was assigned to the Northwest and Oceana zones. Beth said she had not updated the Google sheet that is used.
- e. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: Beth will reach out to last year's unsuccessful nominators. She has appointed Ray and Ann to serve on the selection committee. The automatic members are the chair, VC, and USMS President. Beth will meet up with Nancy R and Ann at nationals to talk about a rubric to help with the selection process.
- f. Club of the Year (COYA): Sara reported to Beth that she has reached out to last year's unsuccessful nominators. Sara is seeking help with the voting process and will talk to other subcommittees.
- g. Award bios: Ray's current goal is to contact former recipients of the Fitness award and obtain their help for their story. He hasn't been in touch (recently) with the other "award giving" committees and if possible, would like to have Crystie's help.
- h. Creating a "Best Practices document": The objective is to share it with other "award giving" committees. Sally suggested that the committee needs a designated "lead" to get started. Ann suggested we determine which form works the best and then standardizing the various forms. Jessica Reilly can digitize them. Beth discussed the R&A forms with Ed Coates, who said he can recommend services that can do this as well. Beth also noted that Stacy Abrams had developed Google forms for our committee, but she can't find them. Michael said that with 9 nominees for the RJA award, the Google Form made it difficult to present that much information. He complimented Sally for being able to consolidate the information for the selection process. Crystie mentioned that the Elections committee is using "Jot Form". We might want to look at that.
- i. Social media and direct outreach: Caitlin designed "tiles" that are designed to be posted on club, LMSC, Zone websites and social media platforms. She will post updated versions on Community after the meeting. When posted, a link to the awards page needs to be included. Caitlin inquired as to when her committee can start posting the tiles. There was a lengthy discussion about various technology options.
- j. Award video for USMS Annual Meeting: Beth said the award recipients need to be selected before the July meeting so Ray and his subcommittee can get to work on the video. Ray needs a deadline for when the video is due to the National office.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm Central time.