

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #: 1	Report #: 1
Committee Chair:	Phyllis Quinn	Vice Chair:	Catherine Rust
Minutes recorded by:	Tim Murphy	Date/time of meeting:	04/28/2024 at 8pm ET

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. N/A

Motions Passed:

1. See New Business, pages 3-4 for Rules Discussion

Number of committee members present: 8	Absent: 4	Number of other delegates present: 1
Committee members present: Phyllis Quinn, Jim Davidson, Catherine Rust, Tim Murphy, David Miner, John Fox, Nicki Phillips, Stephen R.		
Absent: Bob Bruce, Jay Eckert, Jenny Hodges, John D		
Ex-Officio members present: Robin Smith.		

Topic: LDC Meeting – March 24, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm ET:

1. Welcome and roll call.
2. Reports from the chair (Phyllis) and vice chair (Catherine) and vice president (Robin) and USMS National Office (Jay)

A. **Liaison report:** Liaison Report: Lake Berryessa OWNC middle distance event is on track. Entries are open until May 29, 2024. No Race day entries. The website links to the race are working and available on the USMS and Pacific Masters websites. The Race director is working with the NO to get the swim caps and sponsor items. He will send the Medal order form in soon. Pacific Masters is working with the Race Director to validate USMS membership information since Club Assistant is not the entry vendor.

B. **Jay:** Hello from Arizona! I'll be on a flight back from SCAR tomorrow evening and won't be able to make the call.

5K/10K will be opening soon. Planning to promote in the event newsletter to all members this week. https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1246&smid=18748

I'll be at USA Swimming's Open Water Nationals in Sarasota on Friday to check out their setup and meet the organizers regarding a potential USMS event next year.

Caps, partner items, and banners will be shipped to OWNC hosts in the coming weeks. We also plan to ship the awards to hosts while our staff is in Sarasota for meetings this week.

C. **Catherine:** almost finished with National Championship Guidelines

D. **Robin:** Questions about policy/procedures manuals. Board has not had a discussion yet. For right now, keep going through the rules. We will receive additional guidance about manuals.

E. **Jim Davidson:**

0. The updated Score Sheet is at https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4koc45qmm0hjuc1huz9g1/04_22_24-Part-3-Score-Sheet.xlsx?rlkey=dlar74ovq4ox3de18403klmoz&st=0wrk2zim&dl=0

1. The updated Working Copy is at www.dropbox.com/.../04_22_24-Part-3-working-copy.docx

F. **Bob Bruce:** see message at end of minutes

3. Working groups – reports (please send your report to all in advance)
 - A. 2024 Rules/Legislation –Jim, Steve, Bob B, John F
 - B. Administration/ Liaison of Virtual and OWNC’s events- Tim, Jenny and Phyllis
 - C. PARA – Jim and Nicki; Patches & Awards – National Office; All-Americans (AA) - Men –, Bob B; (AA) Women –Jenny, Tim; (AA) Relays – Phyllis, Records – James, All-Stars – TBD; Postal Series – **TBD**, ePostal Series Recognition: Catherine, Jenny
 - D. Review of Bids for future LD events. –Update on location for 2025-(Jay)
 - E. LDNC and Open Water Service Awards – Bob B, Catherine, Stephen
 - F. Updating Guidelines and Educational Resources for Open Water Events- **NEW**. Members TBD

New Business-

Rules Discussion:

307.6: some discussion about open water entry fees. Motion to approve as revised:

* Approved: 8, opposed: 0

307.7.2: review entry forms before event host requests a sanction.

* Per Phyllis, this is more of a process. Perhaps we should leave this alone.

* Everyone on the call is OK with leaving as-is.

307.7.3b: Turn judges: no changes for this.

305.2.4: Virtual events:

* Approved: 8, opposed: 0

2024 LDC Championships. Liaisons assignments

Below is a list of the 2024 LD OWNC events. When assigned, each lead liaison will please give a brief written report on the status of their event (sent to the full committee prior to the conference call – Friday at latest for SUNDAY calls). LIAISONS—PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL EARLY AND OFTEN FOR MESSAGES.

2024 Long Distance National Championships:

- June 1: USMS Middle-Distance Open Water Nationals: Lake Berryessa, CA. lead liaison- Phyllis..Back up- Nicki
- June 8: USMS Marathon-Distance Nationals: Lake Del Valle, CA. Liaison Tim, backup Phyllis
- July 20: USMS Sprint-Distance Open Water Nationals: Stillwater, MN. Lead Liaison Jenny, backup Catherine
- July 21: USMS Long-Distance Open Water Nationals: Stillwater, MN. Lead Liaison Jenny, backup Catherine

USMS is also hosting five virtual championships: the 1-Hour Virtual Championship Jan. 1–31, the 5K/10K Virtual Championships May 15–Sept. 15, and the 3000/6000-Yard Virtual Championships Sept. 15–Nov. 15.

Other business for the good of the order

Next Call: May 26, 2024 (Memorial Day Weekend, do we want to move to the week before, May 19)

Projected List of Dates for 2024 LDC Calls:

January 28

February 25

March 24 One week early to avoid Easter Sunday

April 28

May 26

June 30

July 28

August 25

LDC Approximate High-Level Timeline Items by Month: A work in progress

January:

New OWNC season registrations open

initiate work on new goals

Assignments for working groups

February:

send out award nomination requests

begin to consider rules changes

March through May:

Review bids and documents for next year

consider rules changes

updates on LD NC events progress

June:

Prepare next year's events

finalize rules proposals

finalize award nominations

thick of the competition season

July:

award working group meets

finalize OWNC for next year

August:

finalize all LDC details to prepare for Annual Meeting

September: Annual Meeting

October-December:

Relay meeting: Open water workshop

Request for next season's details

Conclude remaining event details.

Open registration for next season's OWNCs

Wrap-up year's business

Message from Bob Bruce:

Hi Gang,

I will be unable to attend the next LDC meeting on Sun 28 Apr (I'll be in Prague at that point), so these are some of my thoughts about LDC rules and proposals. We made a good start on considering proposals at our last meeting and I think that we're on track to finish our rules work on schedule.

03_29_24 Scoresheet:

- 303.4.2B: Amend: “Add Suit ties at the ~~back~~ waist as acceptable.”
- 303.10: Consider 303.10.1-3 these as one proposal (they are intertwined so considering them separately makes little sense).
- Also 303.10: In the Rationale, Amend: “Of particular note, this proposal ~~removes the open water event director from this section and~~ places the referee...”. I believe that simplifying our rationale by removing mention of the event director will make for easier passage in the HOD.
- 306.12: I'd like to get a sense if the LDC would favor the concept before I write a specific proposal. I consistently get swimmers who would consider joining this event—in a separate category, or even unofficially—if they were allowed fins, buoys, or other gear. We're missing their inclusion at this point.
- 307.6: I would approve this proposal as written.
- 307.7.2: I believe that the LDC liaison, in addition to the already required review by the LMSC sanctions officer, should approve the event information before the event host requests sanction. This adds an additional step to the process and, as always, the devil is in the details. This item, including the sanctioning process, should be added to the Liaison instructions.
- 307.7.3B: This detail should be a discussion item between the LDC Liaison and the Event Host. I oppose including this in the event safety plan. The primary function of turn judges is to assure fairness, as such supervised by the Referee. Although turn judges are another set of eyes on the course, their primary function is not safety, which is supervised by the Safety Director. The requirement for and positioning of turn judges should be added to the Liaison instructions.

I volunteered to consider rewriting the second proposal for 305.2.4, an attempt to revisit the proposal that we withdrew last year and which is complicated by mistakes in the rulebook. Recall the discussion among ourselves a few months ago that acknowledged that LD-2 (involving 303.4.2B, suit ties) was approved by the HOD but mistakenly omitted from the 2024 rulebook, while the LDC withdrew LD-3 but was mistakenly added to the 2024 rulebook. Yikes! To amend this rule, we need to...

- Recognize that 305.2.4 should currently read “~~The USMS National Office in coordination with~~ The Long Distance Committee shall have jurisdiction only over virtual events that meet the requirements given in article 305.2.1.” I believe that this error from last year is the major cause of confusion about this rule now.
- Recognize that the LDC has approved a separate amendment to remove the confusing word “only” in this text. This should remain a separate proposal!
- Amend as follows: The Long Distance Committee shall have jurisdiction over virtual events that meet the requirements given in article 305.2.1, except for National Championship events described in article 307.2.3.”

Rationale: This aligns the jurisdiction over national championship virtual swims with article 307.2.3.” (BB)

LDC Note: Since 307.2.3 already mentions the role of the National Office, I have deliberately NOT included it in this proposal. In the end, realizing that the background noise was the confusion rather than the proposal itself, I did not rewrite the proposal that I submitted a few months ago and that the LDC looked at during our March meeting.

- I so move. We might consider tabling discussion and consideration of this proposal until the May meeting when I can attend to explain the amendment, rationale, and process of bringing this to the House of Delegates but, in my absence this month, that's up to you.

Goals for 2024: The Executive Committee has been putting together a list of 2024 priorities/goals for our committees. Here are some draft priorities/goals for the LDC:

1. Develop a plan to increase the number of USMS sanctioned open water events
2. Look for more prominent venues for Open water National championships
 - Clarify Open water strategy between LDC and NO
 - 1-3mi OWNC weekend festival concept already in discussion
 - Clarify NO role regarding the OWNC bid process, at least for shorter events.
3. Remove the operations and procedures from Rule Book and update Guide to Operations documents.
4. Clarify LDC roles and responsibilities and those of National Office.

