

2022 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name: Oceana Zone	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: Ian King	Vice Chair: n/a
Minutes recorded by: Linda Hepworth	Date/time of meeting: September 1, 2022

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

Motions Passed:

1. 2021 Oceana Zone meeting minutes approved

Number of committee members present: 25	Absent:	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): See page 3		
Committee Members Absent:		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm PDT

1. Ian King welcomed all to the meeting
2. 2021 Oceana Zone meeting minutes were approved
3. Report of LMSCs
 - Ali Hall presented on behalf of Phyllis Quinn, Chair, Pacific Masters. **See page 2**
 - No report for Hawaii
4. Review of proposed rule/legislation changes (delegates were encouraged to read through the Rules and Legislative packets and attend the respective Forums prior to attending HOD sessions)
 - David Benjamin presented a high level overview of the Rules Proposals to be addressed during HOD sessions. **See page 2-3**
 - Teddy Palmer presented an overview of the Legislative Proposals to be addressed during the HOD sessions. USMS Legislative Packet used as reference
 - Vicki Shu discussed the Diversity and Inclusion Committee's proposed rule change (L-17) to include the phrase "Gender Expression" as differentiated between "Gender Identity." This is expected to be a "hot topic" at both the Legislative Forum as well as the HOD. Chris Campbell noted that this proposal was Not Recommended by the D & I committee. Any proposal Not Recommended by a committee needs two thirds of the HOD to pass. (Any proposal Recommended by the committee needs a simple majority.)
 - Proposed rule/legislative changes that might be of interest to the Zone:
 - Proposal that "starting commands" be made more user-friendly for the hearing challenged with the use of strobe lights and/or arm/hand signals
 - Discussion of changing wording from: The swimmer must start and finish "in the assigned lane" to "in the same lane"
 - Acknowledging the irregular schedule of events during the pandemic, new rules for the "deadlines for submission of Top 10 Times" cut-off dates
 - Transitioning power, to decide the "method" of future Annual Meetings, from the HOD to the Board of Directors
5. New Business – no new business
6. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:55pm PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hepworth

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting – Pacific Masters LMSC

In 2022:

- Pacific Masters clubs hosted six pool events, and two championship pool events
- We are in the process of 2023 pool and open water (OW) scheduling; we are encouraging returning and new hosts
- We approved an administrative handbook amendment, allowing us to respond more quickly to our hosts
- Our OW season scheduled twelve events in five venues with 3 USMS OW National Championship (OWNC) events (Sprint, Middle and Long)
- While the Del Valle swim festival was postponed due to high algae levels, the new date allowed the group to host a second OUNC event
- Our calendar also holds two virtual events that serve as host club fund-raisers
- Pacific Masters will launch a new website this year; the website committee has been meeting weekly this year to design and create a beautiful and informative website, responsive to the current platform's end life; project initiation follows two years of research as well as bid recruitment and selection
- Several new and long-time volunteers attended the USMS Relay meeting in Denver
- Our four VPs (pools, open water, clubs and coaches, and communication/technology) have been very active finding ways to engage our members and to encourage new members to join.
- We continue to have our monthly meetings via Zoom, to accommodate our geographically distanced California and Nevada members, and our LMSC Annual meeting will be virtual this year
- We approved a volunteer code of conduct, recognizing that we had no process for navigating conduct concerns not covered by the USMS code; Pacific Masters recommends that all clubs have a written process in place for their facility and practices
- We thank our many committed volunteers; we are truly fortunate in Pacific Masters

Oceana Zone meeting – Proposed Rules Overview

Ian asked me to give you a summary of the matters coming out of the Rules Committee. The full details of each matter and the text of each proposal can be found by going to the USMS website, go down to annual meeting, scroll down to "Proposed Amendments" and click on "Rules."

Proposals from Rules fall into three categories, housekeeping matters; pending amendments to swimming rules by USA Swimming that affect USMS rules; and amendments to USMS rules submitted to the Rules Committee.

- The housekeeping matters are HK-1 through HK-4. HK-1 would re-order the provisions of Article 102.12.1 relating to swimsuit design, to align our USMS provisions with USA Swimming provisions; there is no substantive change to the Article. HK-2 through 4 update Articles 104.5.6, 105.16 and 105.71, respectively, on matters of Rule Book style only.
- U-1 through U-8 reflect proposed amendments to swimming rules by USA Swimming. Such amendments are automatically adopted by USMS unless the USMS HOD votes to reject them.
- USA Swimming has announced its intention to withdraw U-1 and U-3.
- U-2, U-4, U-5, and U-6 relate to the starting commands to be given when there is an athlete who is deaf or hard of hearing. U-2 would add a figure that demonstrates the "stand up" command; U-4 would add a figure demonstrating the "relax" command in a backstroke event; originally, U-5 simply required a strobe light "and" arm signals at the start, instead of "and/or," but USA Swimming has made additional changes since the Rules Committee acted on it. U-6 requires arm signals in every heat of an event with a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer; this proposal, however, has also been amended by USA Swimming since the Rules Committee addressed it.
- U-7 concerns the positioning of the personal assistant permitted for deaf and hard of hearing athletes.
- U-8 concerns Article 107.5.2, relating to judging swimmers with a disability. Now, Article 107.5.2 states that "if a part of [the swimmer's] body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged." U-8 would rephrase this as a "proactive direction," to

state that if a part of a swimmer's body is absent or cannot be used, "a necessary stroke accommodation may be applied, by the meet referee. All other body part(s) shall be judged in accordance with USMS rules."

R-1 through R-3

- R-1 was proposed by Pacific and Southern Pacific. Currently, a swimmer must start and finish the race in "the assigned lane." (102.13.4) A swimmer who swims in the wrong lane is subject to automatic disqualification. R-1 would amend 102.13.4 to provide that a swimmer must start and finish the race "in the same lane." This would conform to current FINA and USA Swimming language and, as most swimmers swim in the wrong lane due to inadvertence or inexperience, would protect them from automatic disqualification.
- R-2 corrects a typographical error and adds a subtitle to a paragraph in Article 104.5.6, to conform to the style of other paragraphs in the section.
- R-3 concerns the deadlines for achieving and submitting times to be considered for records and Top 10 times. Under existing rules, times must be achieved and submitted by the deadlines set forth in Article 105.1.2. (SCY times must be achieved before May 31 and submitted by June 30, and LCM times must be achieved before September 30 and submitted by October 20.) In recent years, however, several national championship meets have had to be postponed, and the Championship Committee has had to get approval from the Rules Committee and the BOD or HOD for exceptions to the deadlines in Article 105.1.2 — a cumbersome process. R-3 would amend 105.1.2 to provide that if USMS requests a meet host to conduct a national championship after the season-ending deadline, the times achieved in that meet shall be considered for Top 10 in the season just ended, not the next season. It would also give more time for the submission of times if a national championship meet occurs after the submission deadline.

One more item - L-14. This proposal is made by the Rules Committee and the Legislation Committee. It changes USMS's process for acting on amendments to the technical rules of swimming by USA Swimming and FINA Masters. Now, amendments adopted by USA Swimming are automatically adopted by USMS unless the USMS HOD votes to reject those amendments. This proposal provides, in essence, that changes to the technical rules of swimming by USA Swimming, or by FINA Masters, are automatically adopted by USMS unless rejected by the USMS Rules Committee; such amendments would no longer go to the HOD for approval/rejection

Attendees: Michael Moore, Linda Hepworth, Ali Hall, Ian King, Chris Ottati, Sally Guthrie, David Benjamin, Laura Val, Rich Burns, Chris Campbell, David Brancamp, John King, Nadine Day, Chad Holbrook, Bob Anderson, Donita Flecker, Erik Hektner, Kathy Gill, Teddy Palmer, Juliet Cox, Lorena Sims, Jennifer Phalen, Vicki Shu, Peter Guadagni

Post Meeting endorsement for Oceana Zone At-Large Director – In an email communication (post the Oceana Zone annual meeting on Sept 1, 2022), the Oceana Zone committee voted to endorse John King for the Zone At-Large Director role.