

2022 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting - Hybrid

Committee Name:	Officials Committee	Session #:	5
Committee Chair:	Teri White	Vice Chair:	Mike Abegg
Minutes recorded by:	Judy Gillies	Date/time of meeting:	8/24/22

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. Rule Change proposals for 102.13.4 to change the *wording from assigned lane to same lane*.
2. 102.12.1 A, B, &C to accept the same language as USA swimming. This section is regarding swimsuits.

Motions Passed:

- 1.

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 2	Number of other delegates present: 24
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Teri White, Chair; Mike Abegg; Vice Chair; Jerrilynn Bayless; David Diehl; Omar de Armas; Alina de Armas; Judy Gillies; John King; Mark Marshfield; Michael Moore; Emily Cook; Onshalee Promchitmart-National office; EC: Robin Smith- V.C. –Programs		
Committee Members Absent: Lisa Phillips; Jeff Sargent		
Guests present: Allison Abad, Barbara Protzman, Bill Brenner, Bob Bruce, Christina Fox, Diana LaMar, Ed Saltzman, Frank Odell, Jim Clemmons, Ken Brisbin, Linda Chapman, Marilyn Fink Michael Biondo, Nadine Day, Nancy Kryka, Mike Whaley, Sandi Rousseau, Sarah King, Sarah Welch, Susan Hengstenberg, Teddy Palmer, Virgil Chancy.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM MDT/8:00 PM EST.

Approval of minutes from last meeting on 7/7/22. M.S. and All approved.

Introductions: Teri White asked each committee member to introduce themselves, LMSC, current position in LMSC and how many years on the committee.

Teri, then wanted to thank all of the officials from the committee and those on the Zoom call who stepped up to work the Summer Nationals in Richmond VA. She stressed that Officiating in USMS is unique in that we have Athlete/Officials, Coach/Officials and Officials. We could not have staffed the decks at either National Championship this year without these incredible volunteers who do multiple jobs at each meet. Round of applause for all!

Official Certification Program- Currently we have 354 total, 187 Starters, 73 Referee's and 86 new officials since 9/1/2021. This is in spite of COVID having many pools closed in the fall of 2021. This is second largest gain after 88 new officials in 2019-2020. The certification program is six years old. In the first year we added 17 officials; this past year 86 new officials!!!

Teri asked if it is time for the committee to discuss changing the Rulebook and require ALL officials at USMS

Sanctioned meets to be certified by one of our recognized certifying bodies. This will eliminate the ability to pull someone out of the stands to work as an official. 103.3.2.

This led to a discussion of how smaller LMSC's would handle this. This will be a topic for discussion after convention for our next meeting.

Summer National recap- Richmond, VA: Teri reported that there were 29 total Officials, and 26 of these were USMS certified! The highest number in any session was 15. Everyone understood Master's rules, no "USA-S calls". There were five Athlete/Officials; Six were Coach/Officials. Fly-overs starts were tried on Friday with the 200's; there was no problem. This continued with all 100's on Saturday and Sunday, except for first two heats of each event (oldest swimmers). The athletes were very appreciative so this should be the norm for LC Nationals. This is still not appropriate for short course yet. Teri shared that the majority of Committee members attended one or both National meets this year, which is important to be visible/available to other officials and provide mentoring on USMS best practices.

This was the smoothest Nationals that Teri has attended, with no real issues or protests. Richmond was an amazing facility with a great video board and replay equipment. Teri shared a situation that happened at this meet where this great video system came into

play. A coach came to the Meet Referee to argue a 15M mark DQ. They were told that the IT people had cameras on the pool including right at the 15M mark. The IT person, showed Teri and the Meet Referee that the DQ call was correct and the 15M mark official was in the correct position. Then he showed it in slow motion, and printed it out to show the coach as proof. The coach was very happy afterwards, and in agreement with the officials.

As a result, Teri would like us to look at the USA Rule Book were it mentions using video cameras to back up a DQ call or to overturn a call. **UPDATE:** Already there, just not where expected. 102.13.16.

FINA World's- Japan August 2023: Nadine Day spoke that "they" are not sure if they will need any ITO's (International Technical Officials) from other countries. Teri will post the Application to Officiate anyway just in case.

USMS Award, Excellence in Officiating- a recipient has been chosen, award has been ordered, and it will still be a video presentation on Friday night in Denver at the Annual Meeting.

Officials Website Page: The Committee agreed it is time to revisit our website's Certification process documentation. Some are taking the test but are not sending in results, some miss taking the Supplemental Test. Others are not aware that some LMSC's require extra deck work. We will put this on our agenda for the next meeting.

Administrative Official (AO) Certification: Mark Marshfield has been working on getting AO information, a Test, and Certification for our website. He has tons of information to sift through and will have documentation to share by next meeting. Mike Abegg brought up that we also need to look at our rule book and getting section 104, and 101 aligned when it mentions an Administrative Referee but only for National Championships. AO is defined but not Chief Judges which we use a lot.

Name Tags: Teri received a great number of name tags at the Richmond meet, many for new Referees and past National meet attendees, and we need to mail them out. Neither Teri nor Jerrilynn Bayless have the addresses. Onshalee Promchitmart spoke up and said if Teri can get the name tags and the addresses to the National Office, they will take care of mailing them out. Teri will pursue.

TESTMOZ: Teri shared that the USA testing site will be shut down in early September and could be down for one year, but will be moving to Google Docs. Mike Abegg suggested that we take what we can from the site before they shut down. Teri will see if she can get the questions directly from the committee.

Annual Meeting- Teri asked who will be in Denver in person from our committee - Teri, Judy Gillies, Michael Moore, and John King. Our Officials Award will be presented Friday night via a video. HOD will be from 6-8:30 (EDT); The Award video will be at the end of the Friday session.

Recognizing USMS certification levels at USMS National Championship meets: Teri said that with our Certification database of over 350 officials, including 187 Starters and 73 Referees, it was important that these officials be used in all appropriate roles at our Championship meets. In the past we have had Meet Referees who only used USA-S officials for Referee, Starter and Chief Judge roles. It's important that we recognize our certified officials, give them opportunities, mentoring and experience at our National Meets. Teri is not sure where this should be documented, we will work on it at the next meeting.

2023 National Meets: Irvine, CA will be Spring, SC Nationals; Sarasota, FL the Summer, LC Nationals. Hosts have asked for Application to Officiate to be posted on the USMS website ASAP. Even though the National information pages are not up on the USMS website as of yet. Onshalee said she would get the applications up in an appropriate place. Meet Referee for Sarasota will be Ed Saltzman, our Officials Chair, Teri White will be Meet Referee for Irvine.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Administrative Official documentation, test and Certification.
2. Possible Rule change for 103.3.2 and clarification of defined roles for officials (Referee, Starter, Stroke & Turn, Administrative Official, Administrative Referee, Meet Referee).
3. Continuation of all other projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 MDT. Next meeting date will be via zoom on Wednesday, October 5th at 8:00PM EST.
