

USMS OFFICIALS COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

January 30th, 2023 5:30 PST

Those in attendance-Michael Abegg-Chair; Teri White-Vice Chair; Jerrilynn Bayless, David Diehl; Omar de Armas, Judy Gillies; Robert Duguay; John King; Mark Marshfield; Chris Ottati, Alina Perez De Armas. Robin Smith-EC; Jay Eckert sitting in for Onshalee Promchitmart-Ex Officio

Absent-Emily Cook

Michael called the meeting together at 5:30 Pacific time and welcomed everyone, returning and new members.

Approval of last minutes-no approval necessary since we did that in 2022.

Old Business/New Business-

Michael, suggested that as he called our names to give a little background about ourselves including what LMSC we were in and one thing about ourselves that was not swimming related.

Mike Abegg-Pacific LMSC and has an Irish passport.

Teri White-Snake River, Idaho. Non-swimmer, Official of all categories form multiple years. For 30 years she trained Arabian horses.

Jerrilynn Bayless-Indiana Chair, still swims open water. Trained and raised Assistance Dogs

Omar de Armas-S. Pacific, Simi Valley area, very involved for multiple years as a Referee. Born in Cuba

Alina Perez de Armas- S. Pacific mostly Administrative Official-working on getting her Spanish citizenship.

David Diehl-Potomac Valley, Delaware, still competes and past chair of USMS Officials Committee.

Robert Duguay-(new member) Connecticut LMSC Chair, HS and USMS Official and coach for 10 years. Started competing again in 2006. He is into Auto Racing.

Judy Gillies- Arizona LMSC. Been USA certified 38 years, also, HS, USMS & NCAA. On the first Officials Committee. From Detroit so into Motown and cars.

John King-Pacific LMSC. Swims and officiates for so long he remembers using the 22 pistol.

Mark Marshfield-Treasurer of Lake Erie LMSC. Swims and Officiates for multiple years. In Navy for over 20 years. Lived all over the world. He'd rather be driving submarines.

Chris Ottati-Pacific LMSC, administrative Referee and Membership Coordinator, also on USMS Records and Tabulations committee. Connected to Walnut Creek, swims but does not compete.

Michael Moore- past member of this committee and still wants to sit in on meetings. Pacific LMSC in the Sierra Nevada area. He was a Ham Radio operator in Antarctica.

Robin Smith-Vice President of Programs-Southern Pacific LMSC. Registered Nurse with Trauma and Public Health.

Jay Eckert-USMS Membership services sitting in for Onshalee Promshitmart.

Officials Certification Process

Teri told us we currently have 374 certified USMS Officials. She has “cleaned out” the list taking out those who have not continued to officiate. 194 Starters, 79 Referee’s. 52% are Stroke and Turn and Starters. 132 are current USA-S Officials. 40 NEW Officials since 9/1/2022.

Championship Meets

College Club Nationals-Columbus, Ohio March 31st-April2nd 2023. If interested in Officiating you can find Application to officiate on the College Club Swimming website. They do an unique thing and give an award for Sportsmanship to a TEAM! Teri and Judy will be there. Mike Abegg?

Spring Nationals in Irvine, CA. April 27-30, 2023. Teri is the Meet Referee. Those going to officiate-Teri, Judy, Mark, Omar and Alina John, Robin. Teri announced that she does have 40 officials who have applied. Good since we will be using two pools. Teri brought up that USMS-Officials Committee does offer some financial reimbursement, but suggests you also encourage your LMSC to offer some.

Jay is still working on a block of hotel rooms for officials. We should know by the end of the next week.

Summer Nationals, Sarasota, August. Ed Saltzman is Meet Referee, Scott Rabalais Administrative Referee. Application to Officiate is open.

FINA World Aquatics-Japan August 2nd-11th. Teri White has been selected from USA to Officiate. One other non-Japanese official is from Canada. They will be running two pools at the same time, two hours apart.

2024 SC Indianapolis, in coordination with Olympic Time Trials.

This meet will be in the U of Indiana Natatorium overlapping with the last 3-4 days of the Olympic trials. Jay was saying the meet will be a 5 day format Thursday thru Monday, with Monday being the distance events. The events will be set up with the idea that Masters can compete, shower, have dinner and go over to the Trials to watch the finals at night. USMS is currently working on hotels for masters and a block for officials.

USMS Officials Award

Looking for committee members to work on this. You would email LMSC Officials Chairs to spread the word about looking for nominations for this award. Then get nominations to fill in a form. Then those will go to the committee to vote. Reminder that no one on this committee is eligible for the award.

There were no volunteers as of yet.

Website

Michael mentioned that he has done much of the work. He said mostly NOT technological. We need another volunteer. It would be looking at links to make sure they are still working. Chris Ottati volunteered to work on this using Michael as her mentor.

Open Water

There has been a continuous problem with swimmers looking at our website when trying to find out about Open Water Officiating. If Mike puts up a link on our website to theirs, it does not go there? There is no longer an "Open Water Committee". It is joined together with Long Distance. Mike is open to anyone wanting to help him solve this problem.

Name Tags

Jerrilynn has agreed to keep doing this. Teri gets the names of new officials working at Nationals, then gives the names to Jerrilynn and she gets the name tags made and delivered to Teri or brings them to the National meet.

Testmoz

This is the USMS Testing site that we use. The cost for us is only \$25 a year. We (Teri) takes many of the USA-S test questions that relate to Masters and use them in our test. Plus we are always looking for master's situations that need to be brought to all officials' attention. An example would be a really hard of hearing older adult who could not or does not want to use the deaf hand signals for the start, but they cannot hear the "beep". The referee could move the swimmer to a lane closer to the start. Or it is OK to have a friend or timer tap the swimmer on their butt or leg when the start signal is given. Or just because an older swimmer loses their balance and falls in, is NOT a false start.

Administrative Officials Role

Our committee, mostly Mark Marshfield and Alina have been working on this for the last two years. Chris Ottati has volunteered to work on this also. Michael feels we need to have some requirement eventually, next year? In the USMS Rule Book, under Officials that there needs to be a requirement to have certified Admin Officials at our National meets. Currently the Rule Book has a section on what the Admin officials should do, but no listing of an admin official as a requirement for local or National meets. There is no definition also, for this position in the rule book. Michael and Teri will be looking through the rule book to see where we can make rule change suggestions. This is one of the areas they will be working on to change. Michael mentioned that in the near future we would like to encourage funding only for those officials working Nationals, only if they are USMS certified.

FINA/USA-S Rule Changes

Michael went over the changes that he was aware of. He did mention that FINA & USA-S did change the breaststroke rule that the swimmer did NOT have to be horizontal before they did the pull out. However, after I questioned him on this, he mentioned that USMS is as of now, NOT going to change their rule. In the 2023 Rule Book it says that the swimmer must be horizontal for the pull out and the arm and leg movement must be horizontal.

The Lochke Rule-This was in effect the last two years and still is in effect. That rule states that when a swimmer is doing a IM, or on a Medley Relay, the last ¼ of the distance cannot be one of the three already swam. Therefore the swimmer must come off the wall from the turn from breaststroke to freestyle toward the breast. If they come off the wall toward their back, they cannot kick or stroke until on the breast. If the swimmer repeats one of the three strokes already swam, that is a DQ.

Placement of toes when using a backstroke ledge-the toes of both feet must be touching the wall. This is currently in our Rule Book.

Omar discussing request for splits-At National Meets, splits are automatically taken from the results because the primary timing system is automatic. But, in local meets, usually swimmers will request splits one or more splits when doing a distance event. Omar brought to our attention that in 103.18.2 it states that if it is stated in the meet flyer, automatic splits can be taken without the pre-request form being filled out. Except for backstroke splits, they must be requested prior to the swim. Therefore if it is mentioned in the meet flyer, the swimmer will only have to request the split, after the meet. This will help the referee and admin official from constantly being interrupted with split requests all during the meet.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21st, 5:00PST. 6:00 AZ time, and 8:00 EST.

Michael Moore made the motion to adjourn, Robert and Teri seconded, and all voted in agreement. Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM PST.