

PROPOSED SUBMISSION TO THE USMS REGISTRATION AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEES

Existing language (p. 56):

201.2 Membership of Clubs. Member clubs are organizations or groups of permanent character currently registered with USMS *through its LMSCs* and that actively promote and participate in Masters Swimming.

Proposed interpretation:

The Michigan LMSC is concerned about the interpretation of the phrase "through its LMSCs." We believe that the phrase should be interpreted literally, such that club (and workout group) registration may only occur when an interested group contacts the LMSC and makes appropriate application. We do not believe that representatives of the USMS National Office should be able to create and register clubs and workout groups as recently done with Lifetime Fitness entities across the nation.

Rationale:

Like many LMSCs, Michigan actively works to develop/assist new masters swimming groups around the state, whether they choose to become a registered club (e.g., Michigan Lakeshore Aquatic Masters - new this year) or a component of the regional Michigan Masters USMS registered club. We were dismayed to learn that USMS National Office staff registered one new Lifetime Fitness Club and five additional associated workout groups. We already had a Lifetime Fitness component of the Michigan Masters club. The newly formed Lifetime Fitness club and workout groups created confusion amongst Lifetime Fitness members who don't understand the nuances of club, workout group, regional club, etc. We fully agree that organizations have the right to make their own choices about whether to become a club, workout group, or regional club. In this case the National Office simply registered the Lifetime Fitness club and workout groups without any collaboration with the LMSC or any apparent effort to understand the culture of the LMSC.

Ironically, the Rochester Hills Lifetime Fitness facility within the Michigan LMSC already had what we believe to be the most active group of masters swimmers in the nation due to efforts of Board member Patrick Weiss. That facility chose to become part of the Michigan Masters regional club a few years ago.