

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2022 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Legislation Committee	Session #:	2
Committee Chair:	Charles Cockrell	Vice Chair:	Stephanie Gauzens
Minutes recorded by:	Douglas Sayles	Date/Time:	March 29, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Motions Passed:

1. MSA (Rob, Kristof) motion to approve the minutes of the [February 21 meeting](#). Motion passed unanimously.

Number of committee members present: 7	# Absent: 5	# Guests: 0
Committee members present: Charles Cockrell, Rob Copeland, Kristof Kertesz, Steve Peterson, Douglas Sayles, Meg Smath, Patrick Weiss. Absent: Diana Dolan LaMar, Jeffrey Enge, Stephanie Gauzens, Kirsten Hoffman, Teddy Palmer.		
Ex Officio Absent: Maria Elias (Legal Counsel), Mollie Grover (Rules Committee Chair), Dawson Hughes (CEO), Jessica Reilly (Sr. Director, Marketing Technology & Volunteer Services)		
EC present: Chris Colburn (VP Administration)		

Minutes:

1. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. EST.

- a. Welcome and roll call. Quorum present.

2. Meeting Minutes.

- a. Discussed the process for reviewing minutes and other committee documents on Google Drive.
- b. MSA (Rob, Kristof) motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 21 meeting. Passed unanimously.

3. Update from Rule Book Restructuring Task Force:

- a. Charlie reviewed potential amendments the task force is working on and reminded the committee that the rationale for restructuring Parts 5 and 6 is to simplify how the Code of Regulations is organized.
- b. 504.3 (Meetings of the House of Delegates) establishes who has the authority to set the date, time, place, and method of the annual meeting. The draft amendment names the HOD, which can delegate authority.
- c. Changes to 504.3 affect 504.2 (Powers). Amending for clarity and conformity with current practices.
- d. Discussed what rule book content should be in code and what is just informational.
 - i. The draft glossary definition of “code” refers to the Organizing Principles and Parts 1-6 of the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*. Parts 1 and 3 are the Rules of Competition; Part 2, 4, 5, and 6 constitute the Code of Regulations.
 - ii. The glossary, appendices, and other informational content are not part of the code, so future changes to these sections will not require a HOD vote.
 - iii. The committee of jurisdiction can effect housekeeping changes (non-substantive factual or stylistic corrections) to the code without a HOD vote.
- e. Move Zone and LMSC names and boundaries from Appendix D into the code.
 - i. Consider returning jurisdiction over names and boundaries to the Legislation Committee where it lived prior to 2006. Chris/Charlie will discuss with the LMSC Development Committee chair.
 - ii. Consider moving the deadline for proposed LMSC and Zone boundary amendments from February 1 to June 10, so all committees of jurisdiction have a common process and deadline.
- f. The task force may review emergency powers amendments.

- g. To conform with USA Swimming and FINA changes, the Rules Committee may need more leeway to amend technical rules without the need for a HOD vote.
- h. Rewrite Part 6 so it is solely about amendment procedures. Move everything relating to committee jurisdictions and responsibilities to Article 507.
- i. Chris voiced support for the direction of the changes with the caveat that the committee avoid making it harder to remove the bylaws from the code if the Board of Directors pursued that course of action.
 - i. Briefly discussed the pros/cons of such an action, what constitutes the bylaws, and whether originating a bylaws proposal falls under the Governance Committee's purview.
 - ii. Charlie: The Legislation Committee would need to consider how removing the bylaws would affect the rule book's structure, and the code would still need to define the process for amending the bylaws.
- j. Next task force meeting is April 19.
 - i. Committee members not on the task force should use the Comments feature in Google Drive to insert comments or suggest edits to version 3 of the task force's primary working draft. (Please reserve the tracked edits feature in Suggesting mode for the task force members.)
- k. The goal for May is for the full committee to review and agree to formally propose the task force's restructuring amendments.
- l. Charlie: There will be two meetings in May (9 & 23) – Doug to set up on Zoom account.

4. New business and suggested agenda topics:

- a. There were no new amendments or agenda items proposed by Legislation Committee members.
- b. Consider if there is a legislative basis for considering the USMS Year-Plus member renewal timing issue raised in the Feb. 21 meeting.
- c. Charlie has received two amendment proposals to date — one from another national committee and one from an LMSC — which this committee will consider at a future meeting.

2. Adjournment:

- a. **MSA** (Rob, Steve) motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.
- b. The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. EDT