

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Legislation Committee	Session #:	2
Committee Chair:	Stephanie Gauzens	Vice Chair:	Kristof Kertesz
Minutes recorded by:	Diana Dolan Lamar	Date/Time:	July 19, 2023 7pm eastern

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA** (Copeland, De Armas) motion to recommend L-7 for adoption to the HOD.
2. **MSA** (Copeland, Strahota) to continue debate on L-1 to recommend for adoption to the HOD.
3. **MSA** (Peterson, Copeland) to amend L-1.
4. **MSA** (Copeland, Strahota) to recommend L-4 for rejection to the HOD.
5. **MSA** (Copeland, Strahota) to recommend L-5 for rejection to the HOD.
6. **MSA** (Copeland, Strahota) to consider the changing of the word “must” to “shall” as Housekeeping by the Committee.
7. **MSA** (Copeland, Kertesz) to recommend L-6 for adoption to the HOD.

Number of committee members present: 10 **# Absent: 3** **# Guests: 2**

Committee members present: Marcia Benjamin, Rob Copeland, Omar de Armas, Diana Dolan LaMar, Stephanie Gauzens, Kirsten Hoffman, Kristof Kertesz, Steve Peterson, Jeff Strahota, Patrick Weiss

Ex Officio present: Katie Kenyon (Legal Counsel)

Absent: John Dussliere, Teddy Palmer, Meg Smath, Chris Colburn (VP Administration) Dawson Hughes (CEO), Jessica Reilly (Sr. Director, Marketing Technology & Volunteer Services)

Guests: Peter Guadagni, Juliet Cox

Minutes:

1. **The chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm eastern.**
 - a. Welcome and roll call. A quorum is present.
2. **Agenda for this meeting:**
 - a. Discussion of L-7
 - i. The Committee approved of the glossary definition for a “member in good standing” without any further discussion.
 - b. Discussion of L-1
 - i. Having received no edits to L-1 via email, the Committee discussed whether it should simply pass the proposal as sent in by the Board or start amending the various sections, with the understanding that any new combination of people on the MVV subcommittee would naturally result in a different mission, vision, and values to recommend to the HOD.
 - ii. The Committee added “Competition” as a Value
 - iii. There was discussion of replacing “improve” with “enhance,” but the motion was withdrawn.
 - iv. The Committee recommended the proposal as amended for adoption to the HOD.
 - c. Discussion of L-4
 - i. The Chair welcomed our guests for the evening, who were invited for the purposes of providing background information to the Committee on how the NBR process functions, the timeline of past NBR proceedings, feedback on a strict deadline for NBR proceedings, and the work of a subcommittee that is looking at revamping the NBR process significantly. The NBR subcommittee is aiming to finish their work before the new year and anticipates that the Committee will see another NBR proposal for next year’s annual meeting.
 - ii. After robust conversation with the USMS President, current NBR Chair, USMS Legal Counsel, and a review of NBR timelines over the last 5 years, the Committee finds that most NBRs were

concluded within a reasonable timeframe but did not want to deprive members of a fair and complete hearing by setting an absolute deadline for completion.

- iii. The Committee recommended the proposal for rejection to the HOD.
- d. Discussion of L-5
 - i. The Committee found that the rationale seems at odds with the recommended course of action and the Committee did not agree with the assertion that removing Section D would not "remove any right of any member that already exists."
 - ii. The Committee recommended the proposal for rejection to the HOD.
- e. Discussion of HK-2
 - i. The Committee voted to consider this SPMS proposal as a Housekeeping amendment and pursuant to 601.1.2 has adopted the change and will report it to the House of Delegates in our Annual Report.
- f. Discussion of L-6
 - i. Rob Copeland provided some background information on why there were both Special Appointments and Coordinators in the Rule Book, which dates back to when the Coordinators were automatic delegates for the Annual Meeting.
 - ii. The Committee recommended the proposal for adoption to the HOD.
- g. Discussion of 201.1.2A
 - i. The Committee had a lengthy discussion via email on the wording of 201.1.2A and decided that there was no proposal needed to amend it at this time, but would like to continue discussing ways to make it clearer to our membership that club changes are effective immediately, given that this is contrary to what USMS advertises on its website.
 - ii. The Committee hopes to formulate a recommendation for the National Office after the August meeting.

3. **Adjournment:**

- a. **MSA** (Strahota, Lamar) motion to adjourn.
- b. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm eastern.