

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Rules Committee	<b>Session #:</b>	Teleconference #1
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Charles Cockrell	<b>Vice Chairs:</b>	Mollie Grover/Claire Letendre
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Christina Fox	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	Thursday 2/18/19 8pm EST

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**Motions Passed:**

None

<b>Number of committee members present: 12</b>	<b>Absent: 2</b>	<b>Number of other guests present: 0</b>
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Charles Cockrell, Mollie Grover, Claire Letendre, Carolyn Boak, Kathy Casey, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Judy Gillies, Karen Harris, Barb Protzman, Jessica Seaton, Rand Vaillancourt</b>		
<b>Ex Officio and EC present: Richard Garza, Peter Guadagni</b>		
<b>Committee Members absent: Julie Dussliere, Jason Weis</b>		
<b>Ex Officio and EC absent: Bill Brenner, Steve Hall, Clark Hammond, Teri White</b>		

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**Minutes**

The teleconference was called to order at 8:02 pm EST.

The following topics were covered during the teleconference:

1. Committee Introduction /Rule Books
  - a. Charles thanked both new and returning members for serving on the committee and briefly introduced new and ex officio members on the call.
  - b. Charles thanked those who helped with proof reading the 2019 USMS Rule Book. Rules books have been mailed; some committee members had not received a copy and Charles will follow up with the National Office. USA Swimming rule books have not yet been ordered; Charles will follow up and send when ordered.
2. Survey Results
  - a. Charles provided background on surveys sent to Rules Committee and a cross section of the organization and reviewed survey results ([Organization survey](#); [Committee survey](#))
  - b. The reason for survey to the organization was to get broad feedback on content, updates needed etc.; in general, there was no big differences between Rules Committee and cross section responses.
    - i. Charles provided summary of the responses from the broader survey to the organization
      - Q1 - Content: good; major theme was revision of Articles 104 and 105 (few people) but no big push to reorganize
      - Q2 - Clarity: very good; nothing major
      - Q3 - Organization: good to excellent
      - Q4 - Glossary: good to excellent
      - Q5 - Appendix B: good; content just right and understandable to good but maybe take some things out
      - Q6 – Resources used: mostly Guide to Operation (GTO), official interpretations and Rule Committee chair, directly
      - Q7 - Roles: responses from good cross section of the organization
    - ii. Charles asked for discussion on broader survey results: Carolyn suggested that if there were only a few

comments on an item, then do not pursue; Charles indicated that there was not a ground swell from the membership to make major changes and that people were using the rule book and appropriate resources.

- iii. Mollie indicated that South Texas was resubmitting a proposal to remove Article 104; Charles noted that there was not a majority of members wanting to remove this but was open to other specific ideas for this section (e.g. move specific things to policy); Carolyn noted that Article 104 was reviewed last year with by Championship and Rules to determine requirements and doesn't understand the reason for proposal to remove; Kathy noted that information in policy documents is essentially hidden and suggested adding references/links at start of Articles 101, 104 and 105 to policies, GTO and other resources.
- iv. Charles also provided a summary of Rules Committee survey covering work load and processes, etc:
  - Q1 - Workload: OK but maybe manage pre convention better
  - Q2 - Effectiveness: good
  - Q3 – Committee work during year: no major comments; minor suggestions for scheduling etc.
  - Q4 - Committee work at convention: it is what it is
  - Q5 - Important topics: foreign representation; jurisdiction on Appendix B; restructure; transgender policy

### 3. Plan for the year/Meeting Schedule and Processes

- a. Charles proposed the same process as last year: a spring meeting to prepare Rules Committee proposals and late June and July meetings (after June 10 deadline for proposals) to review and provide recommendations on all proposals prior to convention.
- b. Discussion: it is helpful if meetings can be planned out in advance; Charles will send a Doodle poll with potential dates and times for the spring meeting and then follow up with a poll for June/July meetings later.

### 4. Agenda Topics and Projects for 2019

Some key projects for the upcoming cycle were discussed.

- a. Administrative procedures for relays (Article 102.9)
  - i. Charles noted that a proposal has already been received on this and provided background: Indiana submitted a proposal after the deadline last year in response to relay discrepancies (names and order) at Short Course Nationals, but it was not deemed an emergency and was not considered at Convention; Indiana has re-submitted a proposal for consideration.
  - ii. Charles noted that any changes to these procedures/rules would apply to all meets and not just Nationals and the challenge would be how to write a rule that can be applied fairly and equitably in all situations
  - iii. Discussion: Judy noted that application of the rule relies on timers and can be emphasized at timer orientation. Charles and Kathy noted that timers and/or officials generally would not know if there is a discrepancy and that it often is found after the fact with record submissions etc.
  - iv. Charles asked for volunteers to review this proposal; Kathy and Carolyn will look at this proposal.
- b. Protocols for timing system operation
  - i. Kathy asked if this was addressed and Charles indicated that he is working with Teri White (Officials) on this.
  - ii. Discussion: Judy suggested that Rules committee chair (or representative) gives the briefing to officials; Charles noted (and Kathy agreed) that the model is to make sure that the officials crew/lead know the rules and does the briefing and that a Rules committee representative is available to answer questions
- c. Appendix B legislation/ Board delegation
  - i. Background: Rules submitted a Legislation proposal last year to have Appendix B jurisdiction under Rules Committee. This proposal did not pass and Charles requested delegation of responsibilities for Appendix B from Executive Committee (EC).
  - ii. The Executive Committee has provided proposed delegations ([Proposed Appendix B Delegations](#)) and the committee needs to decide whether to keep these delegations or propose legislation change.
- d. Meet announcement requirements for Part 1 and Part 2
  - i. Charles asked for volunteers to work on this with Legislation; Marilyn and Claire will work with Richard Garza (Legislation).
  - ii. Location needs to be determined - Appendix B, Guide to Operations or provided to sanctions chairs; Kathy

suggested that information goes in all of these locations.

- e. Rules for recognized meets (Article 202.2.1)
    - i. This article needs review and proposed legislation to update based on recent updates (e.g. facility standards, consistency of language, etc.); Charles and Kathy will work on this.
  - f. Pool measurement summary table
    - i. There was a survey suggestion to have a table to summarize pool measurement requirements; Christina will work with Records/Tabulations, Walt Reid and Mary Beth Windrath.
  - g. Definition of foreign swimmer
    - i. There have been questions on designation/definition of foreign swimmers in the context of USMS records; Carolyn, Judy and Kathy will work on clarification of the definition.
  - h. Local and regional clubs
    - i. There have been some questions from the National Office (NO) on the definition of regional and local club for nationals and also from the perspective of tracking and reaching membership; nothing specific has been received from the National Office or Championship
    - ii. Discussion: Carolyn recommends asking for specific ideas (for re-word, other changes, etc.) as questions without specific input is counterproductive; Marilyn provided some perspective/background on recent thinking of the National Office on regional and local clubs and noted that the National Office is not happy with large regional clubs or clubs with multiple facilities etc.
    - iii. Charles indicated that Rules can work on this if there are more specific ideas/comments to address; Richard will help with this if/when the committee decides to follow up on this.
  - i. Housekeeping
    - i. There are a number of housekeeping (just do it) items which are listed in the [2019 Proposed Amendments Working Version](#)
5. Open Forum/Other Business
- a. Richard noted that there are now professional swim leagues in Europe and wanted to make the committee aware of possible questions in the future regarding professional Masters swimmers and leagues
6. Action Items
- a. Charles to send out Doodle poll for spring meeting dates to committee.
  - b. Charles to follow up on USMS and USA Rule Books.

The teleconference was adjourned at 9:20 pm EST.

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