

**2020 U.S. Masters Swimming – Rules Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Monday, May 18, 2020

Meeting Time: 8:00 p.m. EST

Chair: Charles Cockrell

Vice Chair(s): Mollie Grover, Claire Letendre

Minutes recorded by: Julie Dusliere

Committee Members Present: 12

Kathy Casey, Charles Cockrell, Julie Dusliere, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Judy Gillies, Mollie Grover, Ian King, Claire Letendre, Mark Marshfield, Jessica Seaton, Jason Weis

Committee Members Absent: 2

Carolyn Boak, Barbara Protzman

Ex Officio and EC present: 3

Bill Brenner (USMS National Office), Chris Colburn (VP of Administration), Teri White (USMS Officials Committee)

Ex Officio and EC absent: 3

Steve Hall (USMS National Office), Richard Garza (Legislation), Clark Hammond (USA Swimming Liaison)

Other Attendees: n/a

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. EST.

Approval of Minutes from April Rules Committee Meeting

Charles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2020, committee call.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Claire Letendre.

The motion was seconded by Mollie Grover.

Committee members in favor of approving the February minutes – 12.

Committee members opposed – 0.

Abstentions – 0.

Re-cap of Action on 2020 USMS Sumer Nationals

Charles provided a re-cap of the action previously taken regarding the 2020 USMS Summer National Championships (long course). The Championship Committee officially recommended cancellation of the meet and has negotiated with both 2020 hosts to hold the 2022 events. The 2021 events have already been awarded and sites are Greensboro (spring/SCY) and Geneva/Spire Institute (summer/LCM). Therefore the 2020 hosts, San Antonio and Richmond, will host the 2022 National Championships events. This will go in front of the USMS Board of Directors tonight – Monday, May 18, 2020.

The following motion was approved by the Rules Committee via email vote on Sunday, May 17, 2020.

The motion was made by Mollie Grover and seconded by Claire Letendre. The motion passed 13-0.

The rules committee concurs with the suspension of articles 104.3.1 (solicitation of bids) and 104.3.4 (bid deadline) for purposes of awarding the 2022 USMS national championships. The Championship committee is authorized to award the 2022 championships to the sites originally awarded the 2020 championships. If the committee is unable to reach agreement with the 2020 sites to host the 2022 championships, then the process described in article 104.3 will be followed to determine the 2022 host sites.

2020 Convention

Charles reminded the committee that USMS has announced that the 2020 convention will take place in a digital format. There are no further details yet regarding how convention business will be conducted. More information forthcoming soon.

The Rules Committee will proceed with the standard convention processes as outlined. June 10 remains the administrative deadline. The packet for the House of Delegates is to be completed by August 1.

Charles will attend the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations meeting in late May, also being held in digital format.

Rulebook Part Two Reorganization

Marilyn Fink, Barb Protzman, and Kathy Casey continue to work on this project. Marilyn and Kathy provided the following updates to the committee:

- a) The working group has not met (since the prior Rules Committee meeting) to discuss whether these changes will move forward or not. No decision or information yet regarding the next time the group will convene.
- b) A significant portion of the project is moving text within the rulebook. Kathy has helped with subsequent changes, including identifying and updating references, and Marilyn and Barb have reviewed. Formatting is a challenge.
 1. Move article 202.1 to create a new article 108, which creates a substantive change to Part 1.
 2. References to 202.1 throughout the rulebook must be found and updated.
 3. Recommend one R-# proposal to solely cover moving of items from one section to another.
 4. Substantive changes require separate pieces of legislation in order to clearly delineate rationale for each item.
 5. Sanction and dual-sanction issues continue to be identified.
- c) The committee held a brief discussion regarding this year's convention timeline, the scope of work remaining with the project, and the philosophy of submitting part this year [moving of text] and part in 2021 [substantive changes] in order to minimize controversial items in the digital convention format.
- d) Action items and next steps for Rulebook Reorganization Project:
 1. Kathy, Marilyn, and Barb will finalize the text and reference changes and put into legislative format by Friday, May 29.
 2. Marilyn will follow-up with Stephanie Gauzens and Jane Moore from the Legislation Committee regarding the project.
 3. Kathy, Marilyn, and Barb will submit the legislation to Christina for inclusion in this year's legislation packet.

The committee approved a motion to submit the Part Two reorganization, pending formatting and reference checking, to the Legislation Committee as a proposed legislation item for the 2020 convention.

The motion was made by Claire Letendre.

The motion was seconded by Kathy Casey.

Committee members in favor – 12.

Committee members opposed – 0.

Abstentions – 0.

Verification of Times Project Update

Kathy Casey and Carolyn Boak continue to work on this proposal. Kathy provided the following updates and information to the committee:

- a) This item will be drafted as R-5, Verification of Times.
- b) Kathy thanked Charles for review and edits to the proposal.
- c) The NQT language remains the same as the committee reviewed at our prior meeting. The Championship Committee is provided the option to utilize time verification procedures at National Championship meets at their discretion. If time verification is used, it must be published along with the meet information and the Championship Committee may implement penalties, examples of which are included in the proposal.
- d) Kathy has sent the proposal to Jim Clemmons for the Championship Committee's input and agreement.
- e) The committee briefly discussed submission and agreed that it may be best to be put forth as a joint proposal between the Championship Committee and the Rules Committee.
- f) The committee discussed the language "NQT verification" and impact upon the three "free events" allowed at National Championships. There was agreement to update the title to "NQT entry verification". Intent of the proposal continues to be seeding and positive impact on timelines, as well as improving honesty of NQT entry events at National Championships.
 - a. Suggestion to review data from prior National Championship meets to compare entry times vs. actual times swum. Kathy will follow up with Mary Beth Windrath and Walt Reid to request historical data.
 - b. Idea for a future year may be to expand upon the proposal and divide into two sections – one for NQT entry times and a second for all entry times.
- g) Action items and next steps for Verification of Times proposal:
 - a. Kathy will edit the title of the proposal to be "NQT Entry Verification".
 - b. Kathy will share with proposal with Jim Clemmons and get a sense of whether the Championship Committee supports the language.
 - c. The language will be added to the legislative package and the committee will review/vote upon as part of the legislative agenda this summer.

Review and Discussion of Proposed Legislative Items

Charles reviewed and led the committee through discussion on several of the proposed legislative items for 2020.

- a) Item R-2 was drafted by Charles in order to align meet announcement terminology throughout the rulebook. The committee had positive feedback on the proposed changes and this item will be included in the legislation packet.
- b) Item R-4 was suggested by Chris Colburn, to eliminate the terminology of a "meet committee" and in place consistently use "meet director". The committee had a brief discussion regarding the differences between USMS and USA Swimming and when a jury or committee may be needed. Rulebook language still maintains a protest panel at National Championships. At all other USMS meets the Meet Director and Meet Referee are the decision-making roles. All meets have the option to utilize National Championship rules.
 - 1. Specific reference was mentioned regarding article 102.14.2 and references to "meet committee". Charles will complete a find and replace throughout the rulebook to ensure all references to "meet committee" are addressed.
- c) Charles provided the committee an overview of the FINA rule cycle and potential changes to the normal timelines due to COVID-19. The committee held discussion around the "timed finals" rule, article 102.5, and the required actions needed by USMS should FINA undertake a rule change at the international level. The item will be included in the legislative packet as a placeholder, contingent upon timing of action by FINA. Should FINA not make a change prior to September 2020, the item can be withdrawn.
- d) Charles provided the committee with updates regarding dual-sanction and discussions held with the Legislation Committee and USA Swimming regarding updating the guidelines. Currently there are three issues:
 - 1. The phrase "competing according to USA Swimming rules";
 - 2. The prelims and finals situation; and

3. Conflict between USMS (sanction must be held by same host) and USA Swimming (sanctions will only be issued to USA Swimming member clubs) rules regarding holder of the sanction.

Other key areas that need to be addressed include open water sanctions, meet announcement inclusion of all pertinent information for both USA Swimming and USMS athletes pursuant to both rulebooks (in one document), and consistent language for pool and open water events within the dual sanction guidelines.

- e) Item R-3 was briefly discussed by the committee. This item has been proposed as a result of ongoing challenges with last minute sanctions in several LMSCs. Item 102.5.7 was included a year ago in an effort to discourage late sanctions. Discussion ensued around appropriate timeframe, meet announcement and sanction requirements, and the intent that USMS does not allow for time trials. The item will be included in the legislation packet and the committee will review/vote upon as part of the legislative agenda this summer.
- f) Kathy will send Charles a list of housekeeping items for the 2020 packet.

Other Business

None.

New Business

None.

Other Information

Summer meetings in June and July. Plan for 2-4 meetings based upon number of legislative items submitted for 2020. Mollie will assess committee member availability and schedule the meeting(s).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.m. EST.