



Greetings, and thank you for reading our 2013 USAS Convention Notes. These are a few recaps of committee meetings attended at Convention compiled from reports provided by several of our delegates. Many of us will also serve on several national committees throughout the year and are great resources for many things. Please reach out to any of us if there for additional information.

New Delegate Orientation

For the new delegates to the Convention process, the meeting provided an explanation of the USMS organizational structures as well as an overview of the schedule of meetings during Convention.

(Jen Carlson)

Legislation

Much of this year's legislation items involved Part 4 of the Rule Book which covers the National Board of Review. As there is now a policy and procedures document for this, much of the detailed material has been removed from the Rule Book.

Other legislation items of note are:

1. Effecting all pool meet sanctions - meet information must include the status of pool length certification for the competition course
2. Creation of a USMS "club" under which all unattached swimmers will be listed for FINA requirements.

(Deb Morrin-Nordlund)

Recognition and Awards Committee

The committee meeting first presented Patty Miller, 2013 Ramson Arthur Award recipient, with her pin. After reviewing the awards the committee presents each year, a revision to the Dorothy Donnelly review criteria was approved that essentially requires any service listed on nomination forms be highlighted if compensation was received. The committee also reviewed methods to encourage more nominations for all awards in the future.

(Ray Novitske)

International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Reception & Induction

This ceremony and reception honored the inductees. This year, the list included water polo, diving, synchronized swimming, in addition to the swimmers. What impressed me were the riveting and extremely entertaining acceptance speeches given by the inductees. It proved that these individuals were not just exceptional at their sport, but were truly outstanding, well-rounded individuals that continue to be active in giving back to their sport.

(Ray Novitske)

Open Water

The Open Water Committee used their meetings to host a Safety Directors Clinic. It was informative in terms of perspective of safety for the lake swim some of the things shared were new and helpful, specifically making sure boaters have their own insurance. Second safety meeting which got into more in-depth perspectives on safety. I enjoyed the deeper analysis of the meeting in terms of looking at what and how safety needed to be focused on.

(John Carlson)

Long Distance Committee

This was the most interesting committee in the sense of what they are trying to accomplish. The task of creating an open water championship on par with the championship committee makes sense the challenge of how to do it brought things home. I offered opinions and thoughts on how to handle a festival, for the event and have brought it back home as an opportunity for our team to attempt to create one.

(John Carlson)

Registration

A new online registration system is about to go live. It should be transparent to swimmers when they register/renew but Registrars have been asked to be a little patient with using the new system. USMS decided to bring the online registration system in-house instead of using Club Assistant, but the new system will be modeled much like the Club Assistant format.

There will be a new option for coaches to officially register as a USMS Coach (and pay a fee), however, it will not be required that your coach be recognized as a USMS coach to preserve your insurance coverage. For the insurance coverage, your coach on deck must still be a (regular) USMS member in good standing. But if the coach registers and pays the coaches registration fee, they will receive more benefits. This new coaches certification is intended to replace the ASCA Masters coaching certification (including no longer being a requirement to attend USMS Coaching Certification courses going forward).

Lastly, membership fees are expected to increase by \$2 each year for the next 5 years.
(Jeff Roddin)

Championship

Updates were given for both Spring (Santa Clara, CA) and Summer (Univ. of Maryland, College Park) Nationals for 2014. There was also a review of the 2013 meets by reps from each meet. Due to the size of the Mission Viejo meet and the same anticipated size of the Maryland meet, there was discussion of requiring NQTs for the distance events and a proposed emergency rule change to allow NQTs for both events.

There was discussion regarding requiring EMTs being present for the warm up day of both spring and summer nationals and the merits of doing so. The decision was made to keep EMTs for warm up day. There was also discussion about changing the available warm up time on the first day of the meet (distance day) to allow meet directors to close the facility earlier if needed.
(Natalie Ferdinand)

Fitness

Discussed how we can encourage more swimmers to get involved in the various events hosted by USMS such as the go the distance or the check off challenge. Thoughts were to advertise more or give people more options for prizes besides the t-shirt. There was also discussion on getting more information out to the membership about awards that are available for teams and swimmers related to fitness. Several people were unaware of the requirements for entry or even the basics of the awards.
(Natalie Ferdinand)

Coaches

The Coaches committee continues to work on quite a few projects and has an incredible amount of volunteers leading subcommittees. Coaching certification continues to be a big project with 1100+ coaches certified through Level 3 to date, with Levels 4 and 5 to come in 2014. The committee has also worked on quite a few outreach projects, including finding new ways to educate coaches and reach out to the fitness swimming community, as well as better utilizing publications and online tools to reach out to swimmers. Coaches are contributing quite a few articles to Streamlines and USMS Swimmer, and the online workouts continue to be one of the most popular places to visit on USMS.org.
(Jeff Strahota)

LMSC Development

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to LMSC Scorecard review, where the committee reviewed each LMSC's adoption of 44 "high-risk" standards, and the progress that LMSCs made from 2012 to 2013. Results from these scorecards have prompted action items for both the Mentoring and Practices & Standards subcommittees, who have acted as liaisons from the committee to reach out to LMSCs to provide guidance and assistance as the LMSCs adopt the standards.

The LMSC Development Committee also sponsored several workshops at Convention:

Marketing Resources – showcased the resources available online and from the National Office

Dual Sanctioning – gave an overview of how to run a dual-sanctioned meet (USA-S and USMS)

Working with Your Aquatic Facility – help clubs and facilities work together to create a win-win situation for all groups involved, including how to handle difficult situations, facilitating relationships and promoting the "big picture"

Club Development – successful strategies to recruit, retain and engage swimmers to your team

(Jeff Strahota, John Carlson, Jen Carlson)