

Rules Committee Meeting: Minutes
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
February 26, 2004
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Debby Cabrera, Patty, Kramer, Dale Nickels, Joe Schweitz, Don Steinberg

Meeting convened at 7:15 PM.

I. Committee Action Concerning Rules

1. Coaches Meeting, Officials & Timers Meetings

USA Swimming, for safety purposes, requires that a Coach supervise his/her swimmers at all times when they are in the water. When a team has only one Coach at a Meet, the Coach may not be able to attend a Coaches meeting that is conducted during warm-ups.

The Committee recommends amending:

- A. Rule 2.2.1., Meet Information, to specify the Coaches meeting start time so a Coach may plan accordingly to both supervise his/her swimmers and attend the meeting. Also, the Committee recommends specifying the start times for Officials and Timers meetings, so they also have advance information and may plan accordingly.
- B. Rule 4.7., Meet Host Responsibilities, to expand “quiet time,” i.e., time between the end of warm-ups and the session start; to accommodate a Coaches Meeting; to note that a coach must supervise his/her swimmers while they are in the water; and to verify USA Swimming membership of Meet Directors, Meet Marshall, Coaches, and Officials.

Attached: 3/21/04 Memo to HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change: 2.2.1 & Draft Rule Change 4.7

2. Designating Meet Officials

The Meet Referee is the primary Official, who should receive Meet Information prior to the Meet, and usually is the only Official that the Meet Host is able to identify at the time of distributing Meet Information.

The Committee recommends amending Rule 2.2.1.R., Meet Information, to require the Meet Host to identify only the Meet Referee in the Meet Information.

Attached: 3/21/04 Memo to HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change: 2.2.1, same as above

3. Electronic Meet Entries

With wide availability internet access, Brian Beardsley suggested requiring a Meet Host to offer electronic means to input Meet entries.

The Committee recommends:

A. Amending Rule 2.4.1, Meet Host Responsibilities, to require a Meet Host to post both Meet Information and a Meet Event File to accommodate accepting electronically submitted meet entries.

B. Re-assigning information about a fine in Rule 2.4.1 to better fit in Rule 11.2.10.

Attached: 3/21/04 Memo to HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change: 2.4.1; and
3/21/04 Memo HOD LSC, Draft Rule Change 11.2.10

4. Proof of Times

The Officials Committee recommended amending Rule 2.7.1, 'Proof of Times,' to require a swimmer to achieve a qualifying time in a USA Swimming sanctioned or approved Meet or in an observed swim or observed Meet. The current Rule accepts "any printed Meet Final Results" as "Proof of Time" for a LSC Meet. Debby Cabrera reviewed proof of time policies of some LSC's adjacent to Wisconsin Swimming to learn that considerable variance exists in defining Proof of Time for LSC sanctioned Meets.

The Committee recommends no change.

5. Accuracy of Meet Entry/Seed Times

Al Brooks asked the Committee identify a means to eliminate an apparent abuse in submitting accurate Meet entries/seed times, Rule 2.7, Entry and Seed Times.

The Committee recommends that the General Chair ask the Technical Planning Committee to review/analyze USA Swimming's database of swimmers' times to recommend a means to verify the accuracy of seed times entered in a Meet, especially for LSC Championships.

6. Travel Fund -- Olympic Trials Swimmer

At its January 26, 2004, meeting, the House of Delegates suggested increasing the reimbursement to any LSC swimmer competing at 2004 Olympic Trials to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) as the Meet will be conducted in Los Angeles, which is a greater distance from Wisconsin than usual for this Meet.

The Committee recommends that:

A. The House of Delegates increase reimbursement from six hundred dollars (\$600) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a 2004 Olympic Trials swimmer by passing a motion to waive the exciting Rule 2.8.3. B.; and

- B. The General Chair refer to the Finance Committee a request to evaluate/develop a formula based on miles or some other criteria that would offer reimbursement flexibility to fit the Meet location.

7. Travel Fund

The Committee recommends:

- A. Re-assigning Rule, 2.8.3.A-H., Travel Fund, to a new Rule 12 to facilitate locating travel fund reimbursement information as this reimbursement information does not fit well in its current location in a Rule 2, Meet Entry Procedures.
- B. Making Rule 12, LSC Glossary of Terms, a true glossary and not a Rule, and locating the Glossary at the front of the LSC Rules.

Attached: 3/21/04 Memo, HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change 12 and Glossary.

8. Consolidate Meet Entry Limit Information

At its January 26, 2004, meeting, the House of Delegates referred back to the Rules Committee consideration of the consolidation of meet entry limit information and discussion of the background for the development of the limits. The Committee was unable to identify the history for the limits on entries based on number of swims per competitive lane used per day.

The Committee recommends:

- A. Consolidation of the meet entry limit information for both distance and non-distance Meets, from Rules 2.8.2 and 3.4.5, respectively, into a new Rule 3.5.
- B. The General Chair refer to the Technical Planning Committee any consideration to modify the entry limits.

Attached: Memo 3/21/04, HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change 2.8.2 & 3.4.5

9. USA Swimming Membership Required for Meet Marshals and Meet Directors

USA Swimming requires membership for Meet Marshals and Meet Directors.

The Committee recommends:

- A. Incorporating the requirement for USA Swimming membership for Meet Marshals and Meet Directors into Rule 4.7, Meet Host Responsibilities; and
- B. Specifying the jurisdiction and authority of the Meet Marshals in this section.

Attached: Memo 3/21/04, HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change, 4.7

10. Unescorted Swimmer

USA Swimming, for safety purposes, requires that each swimmer have a coach to supervise him/her during all Meet warm-ups and during all Meet sessions. The swimmer, without a coach at a Meet, is responsible for requesting such oversight.

The Committee recommends amending Rule 4.7, Meet Host Responsibilities, to include assigning a Coach to supervise such swimmer who may be competing as an unattached swimmer or as a swimmer whose team is not participating in the Meet.

Attached: Memo 3/21/04, HOD, LSC, Draft Rule Change, 4.7, same as above

11. Penalty for Entering Unregistered Swimmer in Meet

Registration Coordinator, Carol Graham, and Meet Hosts have experienced difficulty with Meet entries as Teams enter swimmers who are not properly registered members of USA Swimming. Some Teams enter the same swimmers repeatedly, despite notification by the Graham and, sometime, Meet Hosts.

The Committee recommends adding a section to Rule 11, Fines, to establish a fine for entering a not properly registered USA Swimming athlete member in a Meet..

Attached: Memo 3/21/04, HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change, 11.2.6

12. New Rule Section: Fees

The Committee deferred action on establishing a new Rule to consolidate information on LSC fees.

13. Quality Meets: Pentathlons and Decathlons

At the suggestion of Joe Schweitz, and discussing pentathlons and decathlons, the Committee decided to recommend:

- A. Amending 1.4.2 Distance Rule to exempt pentathlons from the Distance Rule.
- B. Amending 2.8.2 to include pentathlons and decathlons to Quality Meets and having their Meet Hosts remit five percent (5%) of entry fees to the LSC General.

Attached: Memo 3/21/04, HOD, LSC: Draft Rule Change: 1.4.2 & 2.8.2

II. Committee Action Concerning Bylaws

1. Election of Coach Representative

Suggestions from Dave Joyce, regarding the election of the Coach Representative, would provide for: 1) better informed voters; 2) broader representation of coaches voting; and 3) permitting coaches to vote who otherwise are unable to vote because they do not participate in the LSC 12 & Under Short Course Championships. These changes would specify:

- A. Requiring submittal of nominations at least two (2) weeks prior to the LSC 12 & Under Short Course Championships;
- B. Mailing ballots to all LSC registered coaches at least one week prior to the LSC 12 & Under Short Championships; and
- C. Requiring the return of ballots to the Age Coach Chair by the last Saturday session of the Meet.

The Committee concurs with these recommendations and, further, recommends that the Coach Representative must be a properly registered coach member of USA Swimming.
Attached: 3/21/04 Memo HOD, LSC: Draft Bylaw Changes, 4.1.4

2. Election of Athlete Representative

At the January 27, 2004 House of Delegates meeting, the members approved in concept a Bylaw amendment for the election of Athlete Representatives so that the most recently chosen representative is elected in Spring and has time to acquaint him/herself with business of the LSC prior to becoming a Delegate to the USA Swimming Annual Convention in Fall.

The Committee recommends amending Bylaw 4.1.3 "Athlete Representatives" to conduct the election at the LSC 13 and Older Short Course Championships.
Attached: 3/21/04 Memo, HOD, LSC: Draft Bylaw Changes, 4.13

3. Establishment of Additional Board of Directors Position: Adaptive Swimming Chair

At its June 25, 2002, House of Delegates meeting, members approved a motion to add a position of Adaptive Swimming Chair to the Board of Directors. The motion provided that the General Chair, with the consent of the Board of Directors, appoint this person who has voice and vote at Board and House of Delegates meetings. To date, no language has been proposed to amend the Bylaws to incorporate position, committee composition or committee responsibilities.

The Committee recommends amending relevant Bylaws to incorporate an additional Board of Directors position, establish a committee, and committee responsibilities.
Attached: 3/21/04 Memo: HOD, LSC, Draft Bylaws. 5.1.16, 7.3.1, and 7.4.1.

4. Committee Meeting Notices

Suggestions by Dave Dahler, regarding committee meetings, Age Group would: 1) insure better informed committee members; 2) give advanced notice of anticipated committee action; and 3) prohibit a few group members from overly influencing meeting results. These changes would specify:

- A. Establishing requirements for posting/announcing/ mailing agendas to committee members; and
- B. Permitting one representative only of any group member of a committee to vote on any resolution.

The Committee reviewed:

- A. Bylaw 7.3, "Members of Standing Committees" which reads " ...members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Committee Chairman with the advice and consent of the General Chairman.... The General Chair ... shall be an ex-officio member (with voice and vote) of each standing committee..."

- B. Bylaw 7.15, "Notices," 7.15.1 "Time" which reads: "...not less than seventy-two (72) hours notice in the case of notice given by telephone, and ten (10) days notice in all other cases, shall be given for any meeting of a committee."
- C. Bylaw 7.15, "Notices," 7.15.2, "Information" which reads: "The notice of a meeting shall contain the time, date, site and sufficient agenda to inform members of anticipated discussions and actions and geographic directions to the meeting."

Revised: 3/24/04

- D. *Bylaw 7.4, "Duties and Powers of Standing Committee and Coordinators," Bylaw 7.4.1 reads, "Age Group Committee: The Age Group Committee is authorized and obligated to conduct a minimum of two (2) meetings annually, between September 1st and September 15th and another meeting between May 1st and May 15th with the meeting agenda published to all clubs with a least two (2) weeks notice; the Committee shall prepare for and assemble Team Wisconsin to compete in the Central Zone Championships; promote competitions for adaptive swimmers and open water swimmers; and establish time standards for WSI championships for swimmers twelve (12) years and younger." (End of revision)*

Given this information, the Committee concluded that proper adherence to the existing Bylaws should provide both adequate notice and adequate representation on committees.

The Committee recommends:

- A. No change on the Bylaws.
- B. The General Chair advise all committee chairs of their responsibilities to give meeting notices consistent with the Bylaws and to obtain his consent for committee members.
- C. The General Chair use his authority to manage the composition of committees so that any group member has only one voice and one vote on a committee.

5. Annual and Regular Meetings (Revised 3/34/04)

Sometime ago, the House of Delegates amended its schedule of annual and regular House of Delegates meetings. To date, ~~no language~~ some but not all references to annual meeting were changes, and the April meeting was not added. This draft has been proposed to amend relevant sections of the Bylaws.

The Committees recommends amending relevant Bylaws including 4.5, 4.8.4, 4.14.6, 4.14.8, and 4.15.1.

Attached: 3/21/094 Memo to HOD, LSC: Draft Bylaw Changes: 4.5 and 4.15.1

6. National Time Verification

The Committee recommends as housekeeping changes in Bylaws 5.1.14, 7.1.4, and 7.4.9, to change the "OVC" to NTV" to reflect current USA Swimming terminology.

Patty Kramer, Rules Committee Chair Rev: 3/24/04