

Minutes of the Kentucky LMSC Meeting

The meeting of the Kentucky Local Masters Swimming Committee, held on October 24, 1999, at Lakeside Swim Club in Louisville, was called to order by Chairman Bill Tingley (LAKE) at 10:46 a.m. Other delegates attending were Joanne Tingley (LAKE), Melinda Schmitt (LAKE), Bob Adams (MMSC), Mark Rogers (WKG), Janice Kregor (WILD), John Graham (CHMS), Pam Haeberlin (LAKE), Tracy Elton (WILD), Mike Lemke (CHMS), Tom Mester (CHMS), Meg Smath (WILD), and Gail O'Malley (WILD).

Reports of Officers and Committees

Secretary. The minutes of the March 28, 1999, meeting were approved.

Treasurer. Treasurer Melinda Schmitt's report is attached.

Melinda notified the LMSC that she had received a letter from Hillyard Lyons saying our CD will be moved into a new account with a different name, but the account will operate the same as before, and the account will still be liquid.

This is the "lean" time of year, with little income, but many bills to pay. To make sure we have enough money in our checking account to pay for convention expenses, Joanne moved that we transfer \$1,000 from our CD account to our checking account. The motion passed. Melinda will return the \$1,000 to our CD account when it is no longer needed.

Mike Lemke had submitted a reimbursement request to the treasurer that included reimbursement for a single-occupancy room rather than the double-occupancy room that the KY-LMSC financial guidelines stipulate. Mike stated that his going to the convention was a last-minute decision, and therefore he was unable to find a roommate, despite diligent efforts on his part. Meg moved that we make an exception to our guidelines in this case, and give Mike full reimbursement. The motion passed 9-0, with 2 abstentions.

Registrar. Joanne reported that as of October 24, we have 532 registered swimmers, the most ever. Registration for 1999 expires December 31, 1999, and the national registrars will be mailing out renewal forms by November 15. Joanne would like swimmers to return the forms to her promptly, so that she isn't swamped during the holidays. In order to receive the January/February issue of SWIM magazine, swimmers must renew by December 2. Joanne reminded us that swimmers competing in the Bowling Green meet on January 29 must be registered before that date. So far, seven clubs have registered for 2000; we had eleven in 1999.

Top Ten. Bob Adams reported that from now on, each swimmer who breaks a USMS record will receive a certificate, even if the record doesn't stand for the whole year. Approximately 350 records are set each year. Bob's main activity throughout the year is to proofread the Top Ten list that Kentucky sends to Pieter Cath (chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee) to check for duplicate names. Bob urged us to remind swimmers to enter every meet with the same name that appears on their registration cards. Meg asked if periods should be used after initials when entering information into Meet Manager, and the answer was no.

The next Top Ten publication, for long course meters, will be out in December.

Bob reported that the pool in Owensboro has been officially measured, so any records set during next month's meet will be valid.

Sanctions. Bill reported that all meets remaining in 1999 and all upcoming meets in 2000 have already been sanctioned. They are:

- ◆ Lakeside Mile, 11/14/99, Lakeside Swim Club, Louisville
- ◆ Kentucky Classic Invitational, 11/20/99, Owensboro Mercy Health Park, Owensboro
- ◆ Lakeside Relays, 12/19/99, Lakeside Swim Club, Louisville (limited to Kentucky Masters swimmers)
- ◆ Barbara Stevens Memorial, 1/29/00, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green
- ◆ Short course yards mini meet, 2/13/00, held throughout the state (limited to Kentucky Masters swimmers)
- ◆ Wildcat Masters Invitational, 3/25–26/00, University of Kentucky, Lexington
- ◆ Louisville Y open-water swim, 6/3/00, Boy Scout Camp, Shepherdsville
- ◆ SwimLouisville.com Invitational, 6/17–18/00, Mary T. Meagher Aquatics Center, Louisville
- ◆ Long course mini meet, 7/9/00, held throughout the state (limited to Kentucky Masters swimmers)
- ◆ Lakeside Invitational, 8/5–6/00, Lakeside Swim Club, Louisville
- ◆ Short course meters mini meet, 10/00, held throughout the state (limited to Kentucky Masters swimmers)
- ◆ Lakeside Mile, 11/12/00, Lakeside Swim Club, Louisville
- ◆ Kentucky Classic Invitational, 11/18/00, Owensboro Mercy Health Park, Owensboro
- ◆ Lakeside Relays, 12/17/00, Lakeside Swim Club, Louisville (limited to Kentucky Masters swimmers)

Bill noted that changing the Lakeside Mile from December to November is permanent, and also that the Lakeside Invitational is likely to remain on the first weekend in August for the foreseeable future, in order to avoid a conflict with a hotrod convention.

The open-water swim on June 3, 2000, will be sanctioned for the first time; in fact, it will be sanctioned by both USMS and USA Swimming. We also will probably have another open-water swim at the same location the weekend after Labor Day, also dual-sanctioned. We *tried* to have a dual-sanctioned open-water swim in Shelbyville after Labor Day this year, and had received permission from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold it. Unfortunately, local officials, unbeknownst to anyone at the state level, had scheduled a bass fishing tournament at the same time. The fishing tournament was already under way, with high-powered boats whizzing through the water, so it was clearly not safe to hold the open-water swim. The event was cancelled, and all entry fees refunded. Bill feels that we will have more control at the lake in Shepherdsville, and that we should hold all open-water swims there in the future.

Bill reported that short course nationals for 2000, originally scheduled for Phoenix, Arizona, have been moved to Indianapolis. This is a good news/bad news situation. The meet is now practically in our own backyard, but unfortunately it is scheduled during the Derby Festival. Bill encouraged us to attend long course nationals in 2000, in Baltimore, because flights to Baltimore are cheap, and with the world championships in Munich occurring only two weeks before Baltimore, all the really fast swimmers will be in Munich, not Baltimore (we hope).

Officials. Mike went over the new rule changes passed at the convention in San Diego. Beginning in 2000, the “whistle start” will be used. At the beginning of each heat, the referee will

blow three short whistles; this signals the swimmers to remove all clothing except swimwear and stand *behind the blocks*, prepared for the race. Next, the referee will blow one long whistle—if the race is a backstroke race, this is the signal for the swimmers to enter the water (feet first, in a cautious manner); if the race is any other stroke, this is the signal for the swimmers to step up on the block or step to the edge of the pool deck with at least one foot at the edge of the block or deck, or step into the water with at least one hand holding onto the edge of the pool or the starting block. For backstroke races, the referee will blow one more long whistle, which signals the swimmers to return to the pool edge and place their feet. At this point, the referee will turn control over to the starter, and the starter will tell the swimmers to take their marks, and start them (the starter may, and probably will, tell the swimmers the event and distance before saying “Take your mark”).

The other significant rule change is that false starts will no longer be recalled. The position of “recall starter” has been eliminated, in fact. If a swimmer (or swimmers) leaves the blocks before the signal has sounded, the race will proceed, and the swimmer (or swimmers) will be disqualified *after* the event. This means you won’t find out that you’re disqualified until *after* you’ve killed yourself swimming a 400 IM. It also means that if you’re drawn off by the first swimmer who false starts, it’s more likely that you’ll be disqualified too. So be very careful.

Mike also reported that the College Swimming Officials Association is now a certifying body accepted by USMS.

Fitness. Tom noted that we do not have many fitness events scheduled in the LMSC, probably because our emphasis is more on competition. Meg said that Wildcat Masters makes a big push for February Fitness Challenge, but that’s about it.

Safety. Mark reported that the national Safety Education Committee is supposed to be producing a booklet on safety. One thing we all need to emphasize to swimmers is that diving is not allowed during warm-up, except in designated sprint lanes. Meet directors need to do a better job of educating swimmers about this. Bob will put signs on all the starting blocks at the Owensboro meet warning swimmers not to dive during warm-ups. We decided to include an article in an upcoming newsletter on “horror stories” about what happens when people dive during warm-up, because we felt swimmers would be more likely to follow the rule if they understood why it is important.

Mini Meets. Tom reported that the number of participants doesn’t vary much from year to year. We have a core of swimmers who always compete, and then a few new swimmers every time. The short course yards meet has the best participation. We should encourage new swimmers to participate, because it’s an ideal first exposure to competition—a low-pressure, low-hassle environment, and it’s over quickly. We all felt the mini meets were successful and worthwhile, and should continue. When we see swimmers from the smaller clubs at the bigger meets, we should make a point of encouraging them to participate in the mini meets. Bill pointed out that swimming in an 800 free relay at a mini meet is practically a “free ticket to the Top Ten,” and this should be an incentive.

Newsletter. The next issue will contain the state records for short course meters. Mike hopes to have it out before the Owensboro meet so that swimmers have records to shoot for. It’s still not too late for submissions—contact Mike if you have items for the newsletter.

Records. Bill Tingley reported in Brad Schmied's absence. He reminded us that if we have any meet results from old meets, particularly those from out-of-state, we should send them to Brad. We should remind swimmers that if they're participating in out-of-state meets, they should get their results to Brad.

Internet. Meg reported that the new Web site is up and running at www.kylmsc.org. If you have any corrections or suggestions, please e-mail them to her at megsmath@usms.org. We have begun posting the meet information as PDF files on the Web site. We decided to post the results of the mini meets on the Web site, but not publicize them otherwise, because they are open only to Kentucky Masters swimmers. We will add a new page on administration, which will include our bylaws and the minutes of our meetings (minus financial information). Bill pointed out that the Internet has become critically important for Masters Swimming, particularly at the national level. One-third of the entries for the last national championship meet were sent through the Internet. Mike told us that the biggest hurdle for Internet meet entry is not signing the waiver, as many have supposed, but payment. This will probably be an issue for us sometime in the future.

Several of our clubs have begun posting heat sheets or psyche sheets on the Web before their meets, and they are encouraged to continue doing this, either on their own Web sites or at the LMSC site. Bill said a tentative heat sheet for the Lakeside Mile will be posted on the Thursday before the meet, but that deck entries may make it necessary to reseed at the meet.

New Business

Convention Reports. Meg, Joanne, and Tom's reports are attached.

Mike reported that the Legal Counselors Committee discussed privacy issues, particularly in relation to the USMS Web site. This will also have an impact on permanent registration numbers, because a permanent registration number is likely to contain personal information such as birthdate. The Legal Counselors will recommend a policy for USMS.

Bill reported on the Championship Committee meeting. The same facilities are bidding over and over for national championships. This is because there are few facilities and programs across the country that can accommodate a meet as large as nationals and have the manpower to run them. The University of Louisville is scheduled to break ground soon on a magnificent new aquatic center, and UofL representatives have instructed Bill to bid on a national championship as soon as we have an opportunity. We would bid as an LMSC, not as a particular club, and we would need the support of the Lakeside Seahawks as well. The next championship that our section of the country can bid on is long course nationals in 2002.

Bill also reported on the Finance Committee meeting. That committee voted to increase the amount it reimburses the Board of Directors for convention expenses. All directors, beginning next year, will be reimbursed by USMS for the full amount of their plane fare (previously, only half) and two nights of their lodging (previously, only one night). This means that next year the LMSC will save several hundred dollars for Meg's expenses.

Hytek Software. A new version, this time for Windows rather than DOS, will be coming out soon, so the LMSC will need to upgrade. Because the Windows version will require more disk space than previous versions, computers with larger hard drives may be necessary to run the new version.

2000 Budget. Bill and Melinda will soon begin working on a budget for 2000. Any expenditure requests should be sent to one of them. Once the budget is finished, the Executive Committee will approve it via e-mail. Joanne asked that we consider buying the treasurer an HP three-in-one printer/scanner/fax machine.

Melinda asked how long she should keep financial records. Mike recommended eight years.

Currently, all LMSC checks are being signed by both the treasurer and the registrar. Mike moved that we adopt the following resolution:

Any check drawn on any LMSC bank account must be signed by an officer of the LMSC or the registrar; provided, however, any such check in an amount greater than \$500 must be signed by any two such persons.

The motion passed 12-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held following the Wildcat Masters Invitational on March 26, 2000, in Lexington.

1999 Convention San Diego, California

Meg Smath

Rule Book Committee

This was the most important meeting at the convention! Well, at least it was to me. We chose a cover designed by Tom Lyndon for the 2000 rule book, and agreed to require those submitting designs in the future to sign the following release: "I understand that my submission in the Rule Book cover Contest ("Contest") conducted by United States Masters Swimming, Inc. ("USMS") will become the property of USMS and will not be returned to me. I further agree that USMS can use my submission for any purpose without compensation." We decided to print the same number of full and mini-rule books as we did last year, and this year we will include the ads in the mini-rule book as well. Full-size rule books will be distributed to all members of the Board of Directors; members of the Rules, Long Distance, Legislation, and Rule Book Committees; and all registered USMS clubs. Mini-rule books will be distributed to all LMSC Officials Chairs. Both full and mini-rule books will be distributed to all LMSC registrars. The national office will be in charge of distributing rule books. If you are entitled to a rule book and do not receive one by mid-January, contact Tracy Grilli at the national office, (603) 537-0203, fax (603) 537-0204, e-mail usms@usms.org.

Rules and Legislation Committees

See attached handout summarizing major changes for 2000.

MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2000

New Forward Start Procedure: At the beginning of each heat, the referee will blow a short series of whistles, signaling the swimmers to remove all clothing except swimwear. Next, the referee will blow one long whistle, signaling the swimmers to take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the deck, or on the wall. Finally, with an outstretched arm, the referee will turn control of the swimmers over to the starter. The starter may give optional instructions such as event, stroke, and distance, and then will give the command "Take your mark." When all swimmers are motionless in the starting position, the starter will give the starting signal. (articles 101.1.1, 103.8)

New Backstroke Start Procedure: At the beginning of each heat, the referee will blow a short series of whistles, signaling the swimmers to remove all clothing except swimwear. Next, the referee will blow one long whistle, signaling the swimmers to enter the water, followed by another long whistle, signaling the swimmers to return to their starting positions. Finally, with an outstretched arm, the referee will turn control of the swimmers over to the starter. The starter may give optional instructions such as event, stroke, distance, and telling swimmers to place their feet; then the starter will give the command "Take your mark." When all swimmers are motionless in the starting position, the starter will give the starting signal. (articles 101.1.2, 103.8)

Butterfly Clarification: After the start and after each turn, swimmers using the breaststroke or whip kick while swimming butterfly are allowed only one kick before the arm pull that brings them to the surface. (article 101.3.2)

False Starts: If the starting signal sounds before a false start has been declared, the race will continue and the swimmer or swimmers who false started will be disqualified at the conclusion of the race. (article 103.8.5B)

Relay Take-Off Judges: If two judges are being used, each judge will record in writing whether relay take-offs are legal or illegal, and will not raise their hands to signal an infraction. At the end of the race they will compare notes, and if both judges considered the same take-off illegal, the relay will be disqualified. (article 103.10.5B)

National Championship Surcharge: The surcharge has been increased to \$30. (article 104.5.4D(1))

Deck-Seeded Events at National Championships: If a swimmer enters a seed time in a deck seeded event that is significantly slower than the swimmer's recently recorded times, the meet director may change the seed time to a more realistic seed time, after notifying the swimmer. (article 104.5.5A(9))

Equal Opportunity: USMS has clarified that it does not deny membership on the basis of sexual orientation. (article 501.3)

Recognition and Awards Committee: This committee is now a standing committee. (article 507.3.14)

Internal Auditor: The Internal Audit Committee no longer exists. Instead, the president will appoint an individual to serve as internal auditor. (article 508.3)

UNITED STATES AQUATIC SPORTS

San Diego Convention XX

Sept. 15–20

Coaches Committee:

With the conviction that the coaches determine the success of USMS, most of the tasks outlined in the Committee meeting dealt with identifying, aiding, and promoting coaching. Identification and registration of coaches is an immediate goal. I have offered my assistance on the LMSC and zone level. If selected for this position I will ask for any help that Registrar(s) might be able to give me.

Because of the common use of the web, the Coaches Manual and updates will be available in that medium. It will make this manual widely accessible.

The Committee recognizes that representation of coaches on the LMSC level is crucial to the overall well-being of USMS.

The National Coaching Director Proposal is by far the most ambitious idea to be discussed in Committee since I have been attending the Convention. This proposed position would be responsible for developing and promoting Masters coaching, and developing lines of communication between coaches of Masters and other aquatic and sport disciplines. This position would also be responsible for education through SWIM magazine and other publications, schedule clinics and camps, etc., and coordinate coaches meetings at all levels. And finally, assist in coaches' and clubs' development and facilitate employment for Masters coaches. Ambitious, yes; timely, definitely. I could be prejudiced!

Finally, the Snooper Video Program will go color soon and is available for rent. The Kentucky LMSC has tentatively requested for an Open Water Clinic to coincide with the Louisville Y Open Water Swim. More details later.

Long Distance

Probably the most exciting thing to come out of Long Distance for the Kentucky LMSC is that two National Open Water Championships have been awarded to the Great Lakes Zone for 2000 & 2001. Indy will host the 1 Mile and Chicago the >3–<6 mile for 2000. Indy has the 2 Mile Cable (June 23, 2001) and the > or = to 6 Mile Championship (no date yet) to be held in Eagle Creek. Couple that with a Postal distance event and any swimmer is eligible for All Star Team status. Our LMSC certainly has some worthy candidates, especially among our triathlete ranks. Long Distance All-Star status is accomplished by participating in three Long Distance events, at least one being Open Water and one being a Postal Championship.

Great Lakes Zone

I was proud to nominate Michael Lemke for the Zone Chair (how's that Meg) of the Great Lakes Zone, replacing Skip Thompson. While a worthy candidate, as a "first-timer" to the Convention, Mike's chances were slim. Melissa Rinker of Indiana beat him out.

Overview

Thumbs down; those proposing that swimmers of "foreign descent" while being registered as USMS swimmers not be allowed to hold USMS records, and insisting that any Masters swimmer be limited to one national registration. There are certainly quite a number of swimmers on CHMS and other Kentucky LMSC teams in that category. PARTICIPATION, NOT EXCLUSION!!

Thumbs up; San Diego hospitality, food, and public transportation. Kudos also to the coaching at each morning workout and a wonderful LaJolla Cove Swim with the fish, seals, and sea otters!

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT
October 24, 1999

10 committee members were in attendance with 37 delegates attending. Sarah Hromada (along with son Brad—5 months) chaired the meeting. No action items were taken.

At the request of the Coaches Committee all registration forms will contain the request: *Are you a Masters coach?*

Jim Matysek, Chair, Computer Online, is developing an area on the website to have each LMSC's registration form referenced so that potential swimmers can download a form. Please see KY-LMSC website for Kentucky registration form placed by Meg.

Beginning in 2000 the USMS National Office will handle all registrations. Two part time workers have been hired to handle the monthly reports from LMSC registrars.

Kentucky Masters have the 4th best membership retention record from 1992–1999. Ozark 1st, Missouri Valley 2nd, Indiana 3rd. We had in 1999 a 70.7% retention rate, which puts us in the Top Ten.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Secondary accident deductible has been lowered to \$100 from \$250. If a USA swimmer is in the water with Masters during a practice, in order for insurance to be in effect, a Certified USA coach MUST be on deck. USA coaches are better trained so there is less risk. Hope to encourage Masters coaches to have CPR training.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

A motion was made to include the College Swim Officials Association as a USMS certifying body. Request that add all certifying bodies rule differences in Appendix B. Masters will add articles periodically to MACA newsletters and SWIM magazine. FINA rule that there is no recall on a false start—but DQ announced at finish. This will not affect USMS at present. USMS observers at SC and LC Championship meets are there in an advisory capacity only. Because of a butterfly DQ at the LC Championships due to multiple underwater breaststroke kicks prior to surfacing for the first over arm recovery, there was discussion of interpretation of this rule at starts and turns. Recommendation was made to Rules Committee to clarify this rule.

Again another fine convention for learning and renewing friendships. Reservations for the banquet was new this year—great idea.

Report by Joanne Tingley