

U.S. Masters Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Committee Chair: Michael Abegg	Vice Chair: Omar de Armas
Minutes recorded by: Michael Abegg	Date/time of meeting: February 10, 2025, 8:00p EST

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

- 1.

Motions Passed:

- 1.

Committee members present: Michael Abegg, Omar de Armas, Virgil Chancy, Emily Cook, Rob Duguay, Judy Gillies, John King, Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Ed Stranc, Teri White, Cindi Wood, Robin Smith (liaison), Onshalee Promchitmart (staff)

Committee Members Absent: none

Others present: Michael Moore

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm EST.

1. Introductions of members – all attending
2. Approval of minutes – not required, previous meeting's minutes were approved by email
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair – Omar offered to continue, nobody else indicated a desire. We will formally approve next time
4. Chair's Report: Mike reviewed information from Board of Directors' discussion regarding staffing & timelines for national meets, support for training of officials, and the USA Swimming charge for its online training. Mike also reviewed changes in the 2025 Rule Book that affect officiating – the definition of backstroke and butterfly, the backstroke start, buddy taping of injured fingers/toes, and pool measurement. Mike reviewed the Rules Committee's progress on the Gender policy & procedures.
5. Ongoing Business: Website – Teri, Ed, and Judy agreed to look at the certification page and see what could be cleaned up to reduce confusion that has been reported.
6. Ongoing Business: Certification program – Teri reports we have certified 555, 109 are lapsed. We have 145 referees and 294 starters. Only 30% are active USA Swimming officials. Alina noted she'd be willing to help with tracking which is very manual right now.
7. Ongoing Business: Championship Meets – checked in on College Club Swimming (Mesa), Spring (San Antonio), and Summer (Federal Way) Nationals progress. We will have a non-US official at San Antonio. Judy and Cindi are interested in the liaison job for Summer.
8. Ongoing Business: Testing – Teri noted updates to the Testmoz site. It was suggested we appoint someone else to take ownership of this in March.
9. Ongoing Business: Nametags – lots of discussion regarding options for the future. Onshalee will followup on order for San Antonio. Thinking is to allow officials to order their own as what always kills us is the shipping cost. Also suggesting that LMSCs could/should purchase nametags for their officials.
10. Ongoing: Officials Award: Need to think about doing a general call for the award this year. Deadline for receipt of nominations by the committee is July 1.
11. Old Business: Administrative Official Training: Mike will send out the Final Draft Guide and Test questions. We need to decide whether to go it alone or just adopt the USA Swimming training, which is awesome but might be overkill.
12. New Business: None.
13. Meeting dates: Proposed for week of March 17 or 24, and week of April 21. Mike will send out Doodle requests.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
2. Finalize Administrative Official training and launch.
3. Propose Rule Book changes to clean up certain elements – especially to match USA Swimming where possible.
4. Prepare/formalize Policy Handbook
5. Plan for Session Tracking which currently we just rely on LMSC Officials Chairs (whose processes vary).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15p EST
