

2010 USMS Convention Report  
Cathy Kohn

My primary duties at Convention were associated with my position as a representative from the Ozark LMSC and the Breadbasket Zone to The RULES Committee. This was a "RULES year", meaning that the RULES committee was especially busy; we had 7 or 8 meetings, most of them for 1 ½ or 2 hours each.

Several of the Rule Changes, which we recommended and which were approved by the House of Delegates, involved the running of a meet. For example:

1. A bulkhead pool must be measured at the BEGINNING and end of a session to insure that times achieved during the day's races are submissible for Top Ten and records consideration.
2. The Committee approved a measure submitted by our own Ozark LMSC (drafted by Mary Pohlmann and re-worked by Leo Letendre and myself at the request of the Committee) to allow splits achieved at a meet where manual timing is used to be considered for Top Ten status, so long as there are 3 designated timers assigned to time each split.
3. Some of the duties of a Meet Director can be delegated to a Meet Administrator.
4. Starters or Stroke/Turn judges who act as referees must have referee training (not officials' certification---it can be on deck, even by phone with a certified referee)
5. Starters and Stroke/Turn judges must have Officials' certification or "training".
6. "Adjustable setting back plate(s)" can be attached to blocks to assist in starts, as now allowed in USA Swimming

Other Rules changes passed include:

1. Applications for records must be submitted within 90 days of performance.
2. Event Schedules at Nationals will no longer have a relay at the end because of the difficulties of scoring and protests when swimmers leave before the conclusion of the scoring.

Some of the proposals that DID NOT pass were as follows:

1. To use the FINA age rules for short-course yards in addition to meters; in other words, a swimmer would “age up” in ALL competitions at the beginning of the year in which his or her birthday falls. This FINA rule is already a huge advantage for swimmers born late in the year who compete in their new age-group for meters competition, even though their birthdays may be almost 12 months away.
2. To use the “sum of the ages” rule from FINA Rules for relays in scy competition as well as meters.
3. To allow split requests up to 30 days after the race.
4. For backstroke turns, to allow a swimmer who turns over on to his/her stomach too early to kick or glide into the wall.
5. To designate the top 5 swimmers in every event in every age group to achieve All-American status.
6. To continue to allow USMS swimmers to use “tech suits” in scy competition.

The Rules Committee also reviews RULES changes passed by USA Swimming, because our rules state that we will follow the rules of USA Swimming unless we specifically vote NOT to do so. The most prominent of our exceptions to USA Swimming rules involved the number of watches necessary for a submissible time. USA Swimming has decided to require 3 watches per lane when manual timing is used. We felt that this would be impractical in a small LMSC like ours where we have a hard enough time finding 2 timers per lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Kohn