

USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 -1:00 PM EST (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Derek Paul (Chair), Dana Covington, Jimmy Feigen, Joe Finke, Christina Fox, Clark Hammond, Suzanne Heath, Charles Hughes, Ellen Johnston, Greg Lockard, Brendan McHugh, Robert Pearson, Taylor Rogers, Kathleen Scandary, Herb Schwab, Sandy Searcy, Joel Shinofeld (staff), Michelle Steinfeld (staff), Rachel Stratton-Mills, Jay Thomas, Josie Uerling, Shannon Vreeland, Andrew Wilson, Beth Winkowski (staff)

Absent: Topher Bishop, Nicole Caruso, Sid Cassidy, Brad Craig, Maria Davila, Sarah Gibson, Simon Lamar

Guests: Donna Beryl, Michael Lawrence

Call to Order: 1:04 PM EST

Agenda:

- Mr. Paul began the meeting by reading the mission, Committee mission, and priority results.
- Mr. Paul provided assignments for subcommittees:
 - Technology: Clark Hammond, Rachel Stratton-Mills, Brad Craig
 - Technical Rules & World Aquatics: Andrew Wilson, Ellen Johnston, Suzanne Heath
 - HOD Matters: Herb Schwab, Robert Pearson, Nicole Caruso
 - Communication: Taylor Rogers, Josie Uerling, Maria Davila
- Mr. Paul will follow up with each subcommittee to provide ideas; however, each subcommittee will develop its own goals. All Committee members are welcome to participate in any subcommittee meetings.
- The Committee reviewed information from the February Meeting:
 - Mr. Paul asked all committee members to compile a list of potential legislative changes throughout the year and to communicate this information to Herb Schwab, Taylor Rogers, and Greg Lockard.
 - Committee members who would like a hard copy of the current rulebook should email Michelle Steinfeld.
- The Committee reviewed the current list of draft proposals and potential proposals:
 - Kathleen Scandary's group is working on potential changes and updates to the Glossary.
 - Lines 250-279 potentially reduce the size of the Rules & Regulations Committee.
 - Andrew Wilson stated the current committee size makes it difficult to find enough 10-year athletes to be compliant. AAC believes 4 athletes would be reasonable.
 - Mr. Paul shared that Caitlin Leverenz stated that to fill all current 10-year athlete positions across USA Swimming it would require participation by one third of all 10-year athletes.
 - Clark Hammond stated that there should be a broader discussion of the number of athletes able and willing to serve.
 - Beth Winkowski asked if a reduction of committee sizes will result in the loss of the voice of 2-year athletes.
 - Andrew Wilson stated that the AAC wants smaller, more reasonable sizes for committees and the House of Delegates without losing the 2-year athletes' voice. The committees and House must shrink proportionally.
 - Lines 528-551: Is it illegal to put an alternate into a scoring heat?
 - Mr. Paul stated that he could not find additional information outside of 102.5.6
- Mr. Paul reviewed two topics that have come up frequently:
 - LSCs are reorganizing. There are currently rules that outline how to redistrict both as an LSC and as individual teams.
 - R-9 may continue to elicit feedback as LSCs used to operate differently and will now be aligned for more fair and consistent officiating across all decks.
- Jay Thomas will be sending updated language for the 101.3 proposal.
 - Education may be needed to explain there are no changes to how this is officiated.

Adjournment: Mr. Paul adjourned the April 9, 2024 meeting of the Rules & Regulations Committee at 2:11 PM EST.