

## MINUTES

USMS New England Local Masters Swimming Committee (NELMSC)  
Board Conference Call  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 8:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm.

### 1. Roll Call

#### NELMSC Board Officers

Douglas Sayles, Chair  
Guy Davis, Vice Chair  
Al Prescott, Treasurer  
Sue Jensen, Secretary & Officials Chair  
Alana Aubin, Communications Chair  
Jason Eaddy, Top Ten Recorder  
Crystie McGrail, Coaches Chair  
Tara Mack, Awards & Recognition Chair  
Mindy Williams, Pool Sanctions Chair  
Charlotte Brynn, Open Water Sanctions Chair  
Laura Dennison, Para-Athlete Chair  
Bill Meier, At-Large Officer (Fitness & ALTS)  
Tracy Grilli, At-Large Officer (Hall of Fame)

#### NELMSC Board Club Reps

Doug Bosley, New England Masters Swim Club (NEM) Rep  
Jessica Stokes, New England Masters Swim Club (NEM) Rep  
Christina Lorenson, Kent Y Masters Swim Club (KENT) Rep  
John Gillis, Maine Masters Swim Club (MESC) Rep  
Todd Whitford, Great Bay Masters (GBM) Rep  
Michelle Toner, Greater Holyoke YMCA Masters (HOLY) Rep

#### Non-Voting Volunteers

Emily Cook, Fitness & ALTS Coordinator  
Jason Weis, College Club Swimming Liaison

#### Non-Voting Guests

Rick Osterberg, Harvard Meet Director  
Alford Green, WPI Meet Director

#### Absent Board Members

Tim Lecrone, Registrar  
Kate Radville, Charles River Swimming Club (CRSC) Rep

### 2. Adoption of Minutes for January 14, 2018 NELMSC Board Conference Call

- Crystie McGrail moved to adopt the minutes, Al Prescott seconded; minutes unanimously adopted.

### 3. Treasurer's Report – Al Prescott

- We usually incur most of our expenses in the second half of the year. Expenditures to date are where Al would expect them to be based on prior years' activity.
- The Board approved (via email) reimbursing Crystie McGrail and Doug Sayles for \$2,112 in expenses incurred to attend the USMS Leadership Summit (March 2 & 3 in Phoenix), including an extra hotel night caused by weather-related flight cancellations. Summit materials are posted at <https://www.usms.org/gto/lmscsummit>.

#### 4. Reports, as necessary, from Officers and Committees

- **Board Chair – Doug Sayles**

- Great Bay Masters has appointed Todd Whitford as its NELMSC board club rep.
- Annual USMS LMSC standards survey – Thanks to the diligence of its officers, this year the New England LMSC was 100% compliant with all of USMS's mandatory and target [LMSC standards](#).
- Resources for board officers: There are a variety of resources available in the USMS website [Guide To Operations](#), including role responsibilities, instructions and worksheets for administrative and governance best practices. Peer-to-peer calls are also available throughout the year, along with recordings and notes from previous peer-to-peer calls.
- [NELMSC Annual Meeting & Election of Officers](#)
  - Scheduled for September 29, 2019, 1 pm, Hilton Garden Inn, Waltham, Mass.
  - The Nominating Committee chaired by Guy Davis is looking for officer candidates.
  - Doug reminded officers of their responsibility to help identify potential successors.
- NELMSC Grievance Committee
  - Pending formal approval of the GC, a potential resolution has been identified that may soon formally close the single complaint that the GC was empaneled to address.
  - There have been no subsequent incidents of alleged unsporting behavior. In that respect, the GC inquiry may have had a remedial effect.
  - Doug S. may suggest to the USMS President that USMS consider reviewing its grievance procedures and recommended LMSC grievance procedures.
- Doug will finish his second term as board chair in September. He is not seeking reelection in this role but will remain on the board as immediate past chair (or another officer role if needed).

- **Top Ten Chair – Jason Eaddy**

- Top Ten SCY submissions have been submitted to USMS.
- Meet directors have been compliant reporting meet results within 14 days.
- Pool measurement for sanctioned meets – this is important and necessary for valid Top Ten results. A recent long course meet in Beverly did not have a 50m measuring device on hand.
- Discussion of purchasing a measuring device for the NELMSC to loan to meet directors. Al Prescott will give Jason a previously purchased device that works for short course pools.
- Jason is officially the Top Ten Recorder for SCY, SCM & LCM. In early 2019 Laszlo Eger resigned as the NELMS SCY Top Ten Recorder, but he continues to help Jason process SCY records on a volunteer basis, just not as a board member.
- Jason plans to stand for reelection in his current TTR roles.

- **Awards & Recognition Chair – Tara Mack**

- Considering promoting and bestowing the NELMSC Frank Wuest Open Water Swim Award during OW season moving forward. Need NELMSC officers to help solicit nominations.
- National USMS Awards: Working on submissions for this year's July 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.
- **Tracy Grilli, Doug Bosley and Alana Aubin volunteered to:**
  - **Help prepare national award submissions.**
  - **Discuss the timing of the FWOWS Award and minimize potential confusion between this award and the Hall of Fame's Open Water / Long Distance induction category.**
  - **Work with the open water chair to liaise with event directors re: the FWOWS Award.**
- Tara plans to stand for reelection in her current role.

- **Hall of Fame Chair – Tracy Grilli**

- **Additions to NELMSC HoF Committee: Gail Pentheny (GBM), Sandy Potholm (MESC), Dan Rogacki (NEM-PITY), and Steve Carroll (NEM-GSP)**
- Inductee Nominations – the committee will work on the first class of the Open Water/Long Distance Performance category, the second class of the Contributor "Trailblazers" category (1990's & early 2000's), and the third class of the Pool Performance category.
- Website – work with Alana to establish a discrete HoF section on the NELMSC website.
- 2020 induction ceremony – determine what, where and when.
- Tracy plans to stand for reelection in her current role.

- **Communications Chair -- Alana Aubin**
  - Always looking for newsletter submissions (200 to 500-word articles) throughout the year.
  - Next deadline: June 14<sup>th</sup> deadline for June 24<sup>th</sup> publication date.
  - Alana plans to stand for reelection in her current role.
  
- **Coaches Committee -- Crystie McGrail**
  - Last workshop happening this weekend: Laura Dennison running a para clinic for coaches.
  - Clinics this past winter and spring – overall went well with good participation.
  - Full wrap-up report will be presented at Annual Membership Meeting in September.
  - Crystie will stand for the NELMSC board chair role in September and is communicating with a potential candidate to succeed her as coaches chair.
  
- **Open Water Chair -- Charlotte Brynn**
  - Four USMS sanctioned OW events coming up this spring/summer:
    - Charles River Swim, June 15
    - Kingdom Swim, July 27
    - Glen Lake Swim, August 11
    - 2019 USMS Sprint (1 mile) & Long Distance (5 mile) Open Water Nationals, Lake Willoughby, VT, August 16-17, 2019 -- both are sold out and have a waiting list.
  - Charlotte will not seek reelection and is in contact with a potential candidate to succeed her.
  
- **At-Large Officer -- Bill Meier**
  - Bill will lead a stroke clinic later this month for Great Bay Masters as its reward for having the most NELMSC team participation in the SmartyPants Vitamins USMS Winter Fitness Challenge. Bill thanked Emily Cook for her support of this initiative.
  - A USMS Adult-Learn-To-Swim National Summit will be held at Bard College (200-250 people) in June 2020. It is in the planning stages but will be open to all USMS-certified ALTS instructors.
  - Bill is not standing for reelection.
  
- **Para-Athlete Chair -- Laura Dennison**
  - Two Para clinics for coaches this year – March & June.
  - Laura plans to stand for reelection in her current role.
  
- **Sanctions Chair -- Mindy Williams**
  - Problem with Beverly meet has been resolved.
  - Mindy will not stand for reelection in September -- Jason Weis has reviewed the sanction process with Mindy and is prepared to stand for election as her successor.
  
- **Registration Chair – Tim Lecrone**
  - Not present at meeting.
  - Doug Sayles reported that the USMS Volunteer Task Force and USMS National Office have proposed changes to the registrar role and registration process (e.g., IT upgrades).
  - Tim is not seeking reelection in September. Doug Sayles is prepared to run for the registrar seat (which he previously held before Tim), at least for one term until the proposed changes have been implemented
  
- **Secretary & Officials Chair – Sue Jensen**
  - Nothing to report.
  - Sue plans to run for reelection as officials chair but will not seek reelection as secretary.

- **Vice Chair – Guy Davis**
  - Nominating Committee consisting of Guy (chair, GBM), Jessica Stokes (NEM) and John Gillis (MESC) satisfies the NELMSC bylaws requirement for diversified club representation.
  - The committee will notify all NELMSC members of the nominating process for the upcoming officer elections in September and is working to identify qualified officer candidates.
  - Guy plans to run for reelection as the board vice chair.

## 5. Unfinished Business

- Proposed USMS rules amendment (attached)
  - GBM member Ed Gendreau has asked the NELMSC to sponsor the attached, proposed amendment to USMS “Representation” rules 201.3.5 and 201.3.6 regarding USMS requirements for when and how members may transfer their club affiliation.
  - Discussion ensued touching upon the rationale, pros, cons, logistical concerns and other considerations surrounding existing representation rules and Ed’s proposed amendment, including:
    - Enhancing member value by providing more flexibility to score team points and compete in relays at national and international championships and meets outside their home LMSC.
    - The administrative burden on registrars and meet directors of manually processing club transfers and (per the USMS CEO) the fact that USMS will not have the IT capability to effect real-time online transfers via its website until the 2021 registration year.
    - If the 60-day waiting period is eliminated should there be codified club-transfer limits to minimize the practice of members “club hopping” around the country just to set records?
    - Can other rules changes or governance mechanisms accomplish the same objectives?
    - Garnering support among USMS thought leaders and convention delegates – i.e., best to be prepared to address all objections before submitting controversial rules changes?
  - In lieu of a motion to vote on Ed’s proposal as written, Crystie suggested forming a small task force to review options and recommend actions such as Ed’s and/or other proposed rules changes.
  - A task force consisting of Doug Sayles, Jason Weis and Jessica Stokes was appointed to further examine the above issues, assess options and develop a recommended course of action.

## 6. New Business

- NELMSC championship meets
  - Appointed a Championship Committee
    - Guy Davis (chair), Crystie McGrail, Jason Weis, John Gillis, Rick Osterberg, Alford Green
    - Create sustainability plans for the NELMSC SCM championship meet at WPI in December and the SCY championship meet at Harvard in March
    - Define LMSC and meet host roles (who is responsible for what and who pays for what)
    - Prepare any corresponding budget requests
    - Deadline: next full board call in mid to late August 2019
- Awards & Recognition support – Addressed above in the officer and committee reports.
- 2019 USMS Convention, St. Louis, Missouri (September 11-15, 2019)
  - Interested in being appointed NELMSC delegates: Douglas Sayles, Crystie McGrail, Bill Meier, Michelle Toner, Emily Cook, Tara Mack (TBD), Mike Hurd (TBD).
  - Automatic NELMSC delegates: Guy Davis, Alana Aubin, Jason Weis.
  - Doug to work with Guy to determine if any prospective officer candidates are interested in attending convention and then finalize a recommended list of delegates within a few weeks.
- NELMSC Annual Meeting – September 29, 2019, 1 pm, Hilton Garden Inn, Waltham, Mass.
  - Before the August 2019 board call, all officers must submit written reports including a summary of 2019 activities to date, 2020 action plans and any corresponding 2020 budget requests with quarterly expense projections.
  - Hot lunch will be served at the annual meeting to NELMSC members who RSVP by Sept 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Resolutions and Orders

- Hall of Fame Committee, Nominating Committee, Championship Committee, Awards & Recognition Task Force, and Rules Amendment Task Force appointments as described above.
- Next board conference call to be held in mid to late August 2019.
  - Doug will email potential dates to board members.
  - High-priority agenda items will be to review the Championship Committee's meet sustainability recommendations, prepare the 2020 NELMSC operating budget, and review the Nominating Committee's slate of officer candidates.

## 8. Adjournment

- Crystie moved to adjourn the meeting, Charlotte seconded.
- The board conference call was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

*Meeting minutes prepared by Sue Jensen and edited by Douglas Sayles.*

*Attached: Ed Gendreau's proposed USMS rules amendment*

**From:** [Ed Gendreau](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Sayles](#)  
**Cc:** [greatbaymastersswimteam@gmail.com](mailto:greatbaymastersswimteam@gmail.com); "Guy Davis"  
**Subject:** Proposed Rules change

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Hello Doug,

Please see the proposed rules change below. I would like to submit it to the LMSC, and if the LMSC approves to submit it as a proposed rules change to USMS.

**Current Rules:**

201.3.5 A swimmer shall not represent any club in competition for 60 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club, unless this transfer takes place at the time of annual registration. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time without written application. It is recommended that swimmers who intend to compete as unattached in a meet contact their registrar prior to the meet and request that their registration status be changed. The registrar shall change the club affiliation of the swimmer to the UC and note the effective date.

201.3.6 All applications for changes of membership (including transfers) must be accompanied by a reasonable fee to be determined by USMS and the LMSC in which the swimmer will register for change of membership.

**Proposed Change:**

~~201.3.5 A swimmer shall not represent any club in competition for 60 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club, unless this transfer takes place at the time of annual registration. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time without written application. It is recommended that swimmers who intend to compete as unattached in a meet contact their registrar prior to the meet and request that their registration status be changed. The registrar shall change the club affiliation of the swimmer to the UC and note the effective date.~~  
*201.3.5 A swimmer may transfer from one club to another at any time. The transfer will be effective immediately if done through USMS on-line registration. Paper based club transfers will be subject to paperwork processing time. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time without written application. It is recommended that swimmers who intend to compete as unattached in a meet contact their registrar prior to the meet and request that their registration status be changed. The registrar shall change the club affiliation of the swimmer to the UC and note the effective date.*

201.3.6 All applications for changes of membership (including transfers) must be accompanied by a reasonable fee to be determined by USMS and the LMSC in which the swimmer will register for change of membership.

**Rationale:**

- 1) Enhance value to USMS members and revenue to USMS.
  - Revenue to USMS: through transfer fees and greater number of club registration fees [ suggest the USMS club transfer fee \$25 (??) ]. [This effort would require the addition of a feature to transfer USMS clubs at <https://www.usms.org/login-to-registration-page>]
  - Value to USMS members increased since they will be able to swim their local championships with their local club, and if they go to Nationals they can choose to swim under their local club banner, or transfer to a larger regional club to be part of a bigger group with more relay opportunities.
- 2) Encourage the formation of local clubs. One of the primary reasons for large regional USMS clubs is to enhance team head count and relay opportunities at Nationals. This rule change eliminates that factor.
- 3) USMS club registration revenue can be used most effectively to enhance opportunities and value for swimmers when the Club is closest to its membership.
- 4) The 60 day non-compete window in the current rule is a carry-over from USA Swimming rules. In USA Swimming one of the reasons for the 60 day non-compete window while transferring clubs is to prevent coaches from poaching swimmers from other clubs. This dynamic is not relevant to USMS swimming.
- 5) Registrars currently have no means of knowing, definitively, the exact date of a swimmer's last competition. As such the current rule is porous and open for potential violation. The proposed rules change eliminates this problem.