

MASTERS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairman Elizabeth Knowles with committee members - Nan Zack, Dawn Bean, Beth Borland, Barbara Eaton, Scotti Nichols, Lorraine Valerino and Sue Bessette present.

Dawn discussed the FINA rule changes including the time changes, adding free combo and the wording corrections for tech routines.

Motion made to make these rule changes take effect January 1, 2007 which will conform to FINA. Motion seconded and passed. FINA rules will take effect October 3, 2006. These will be forwarded to Rules and then the BOD for approval. All USS clubs will be notified that these rules do not take effect until Jan 1. If Masters perform the tech parts incorrectly at Master Nationals in Portland, they will be penalized.

FINA World Masters at Stanford University has 346 swimmers from nine countries, US winning 18 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze medals. The US has 11 judges and 28 foreign attending.

It was discussed on the age placement between tech and free routine and this was deferred to Nationals for discussion. Club option paying of US judges was discussed and it was suggested that a special fee should be collected from each swimmer to pay the FINA judges expenses in the future such as Australia in 2008. This will be discussed at Nationals. It was also suggested that US judges try to obtain their airfare as soon as possible to get the best rates.

The 2007 Championships will be held in Tucson, Arizona and the sites committee is trying to get the 2008 Championships to be held in Las Vegas. It was also asked whether the swimmers liked having the judges all together as in Stanford and it was favored by all.

Dawn discussed the difference in eligibility for Masters programs in many foreign countries and the US. Most programs allow athletes of the current age to swim both the regular program and masters. The US does not allow this so Masters/Grand Masters are restricted from competing in regular programs. Becky and Dawn will investigate this.

It will also be discussed in Portland whether to keep figures as an event, whether a club can swim several combos or have several clubs join together and swim one combo and who will get the points and whether all combos will get points. The High Point team trophy point system was discussed and still no solution to change the system.

The Masters Chairman will meet with Rob Copeland, President of USMS on Friday along with the Masters Chairs of the other aquatic sports to see how we can help each other better the Masters sports.

Master swimmers that we have lost this year - Peg Hogan, Marj McClung, Marty Strawser, Jess Eastwood and Fred Wing.

Meeting adjourned at noon.