

# GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING

APPROVED 3/10/24

March 6, 2024 Zoom meeting 6:04 pm

**Gulf Officers present:** Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Karlene Denby (Treasurer, Communications Chair/Newsletter, Fitness Co-Chair), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary)

**Gulf Committee Chairs present:** Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator, Top Ten), Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Alana Wilson (Social Media Chair)

**Team Representatives present:** None

**Not present:** Nicole Christensen (Chair, Communications-Webmaster), Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Herb Schwab (Officials), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Nicole is out-of-town. Stacey welcomed attendees. All members present are certified to vote.

The minutes from the 1/11/24 meeting were approved via email on 1/16/2024 and have been posted.

## 1. OFFICER & CHAIR REPORTS:

- a. **Chairman** – Nicole Christensen - no report-not present
- b. **Vice Chairman** – Stacey Eicks – no report
- c. **Secretary** – Kris Wingenroth – no report
- d. **Treasurer** – Karlene Denby (see attached reports)
  - As of 2/29/24 we have a fund balance of \$76,331.41. Our 2024 revenue to date has been \$6976. and our expenditures to date have been \$1207.13 which leaves us with a cash balance in our checking account of \$8538.13.
- e. **Membership Coordinator and Top Ten** – Linda Visser (see attached report)
  - As of 3/4/24, we have 664 members and 27 teams, last year at the end of February, we had 639 members and 25 teams. The Sweetheart meet has been submitted to the USMS top times database.
- f. **Sanctions** – Kevin Lunsford – The following meets have been sanctioned:
  - Rice March Madness 3/9/24 (SCY, pool)
  - Lake Longhorn Open Water Roundup 4/14/24 (open water)
  - South Central Zone Spring Champs, 4/26-28/24 (SCY, pool)
  - Shark Attack at Lake Longhorn, 6/2/24 (open water)
- g. **College Club** – Jill Gellatly – Twenty CC swimmers participated in the Sweetheart Meet and 21 CC swimmers are entered in the Rice March Madness meet. Between the two meets, 30 CC swimmers have participated in USMS meets. Jill wants to thank the Gulf for approving the budget to pay the bridge membership for these swimmers. USMS is exploring the possibility of making it possible for CC swimmers to participate in USMS meets without the bridge membership.
- h. **Fitness** – Karlene Denby –
  - Galveston Island Virtual Swim - 28 entrants, 18 completed the 60 miles, 7 attended the post event social in Galveston. Each swimmer was given \$20 toward their meal. Tee shirts were awarded. Total expenses: \$140 lunch, \$47.90 postage, \$532 t-shirts, \$719.90 TOTAL
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Swim University (in progress), 54 entrants, runs from Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, over 2785 miles have been swum, awards will be t-shirts and possibly swim caps. The 3 swimmers that have entered all ten years will receive a special award.
- i. **Coaches/Club** – Patrick Harrington – Patrick is in the process of contacting local coaches to solicit their participation in a Coach's subcommittee for the Gulf. There have been no responses to date. The Coaches on Deck program is progressing well. It is hoped that the organization of the subcommittee will

make a coach at every meet set up much easier. At this time, no one is available for March Madness so Kris has volunteered to fill the spot. Patrick would welcome a discussion of compensating coaches on deck at meets. Patrick will pursue the idea of asking the host teams to provide the Coach on Deck.

- j. **Open Water/Long Distance** – Andreas Lorenz – The Open Water Series begins on April 14 at Lake Longhorn. There are five swims in the series this year. He also is working on plans to hold a beginner’s introduction to open water swimming clinic at Lake Longhorn on May 18.
- k. **Diversity and Inclusion** – Anna Bass – no report-not present
- l. **Newsletter** – Karlene Denby – The most recent newsletter went out at the end of January. The next newsletter will likely come out in late April or early May.
- m. **Website and Emails** – Nicole Christensen - no report-not present
- n. **Social Media** – Alana Wilson – Alana is actively putting out messages about the March Madness meet but will be switching to notices about the Zone Champs as soon as the MM entry deadline is over.
- o. **Officials** – Herb Schwab – no report-not present

2. **Financial Review Report from Andreas:** The 2023 Gulf Financial Review has been completed. (attached)

3. **Report about Swim Across America from Alana.** Two events will be held in the Houston area this year. The open water swim at Lake Conroe will be Oct. 5. A pool swim will be held at the Fleet pool on May 5. The pool swim will have more of a focus on fun such as games and relays and will have a minimum entry fee of \$50 for participants over 18. The open water swim will have a minimum of \$300 raised to receive the participation award of a towel. The funds raised stay locally and will go to MD Anderson. We discussed ways to support this event. Patrick will send out information to the Coaches. It was agreed to allow the events to be advertised through our media sources. Other ideas such as making a straight donation or making a donation per participating Gulf swimmer were discussed. Kris mentioned that in the past, we have had other people and organizations ask for our support for their favorite charities and we don’t want to be inundated by requests for donations. Proposals can be brought forward if so desired.

4. **Report about the Zone Champs from Alana.** There are currently 28 swimmers entered. Everything seems to be progressing on schedule. There will be a self pay social on Saturday at a nearby Mexican Restaurant, private room. At this time, they do not foresee needing any help from the Gulf.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

#1. Kris and Karlene introduced the idea that the Gulf might wish to request that the LMSC name be changed to “Texas Gulf Coast” due to confusion by individual members and clubs. It was discovered that three teams located in the Gulf area had registered (and been renewed) with South Texas by mistake. We are also aware of individuals who register with South Texas by mistake. It was pointed out that the ideal solution would be help from the National Office to identify and notify members that may be registering in the wrong LMSC. Jill had expressed her concerns about a name change to Kris before the meeting. She pointed out that the IRS would have to be notified and that she didn’t like having the word “coast” as part of the name since not all cities in the LMSC are on the coast. Others were concerned that it would be confusing to USA swimmers if we did not share the exact same name as USA used for the LSC. It was agreed that Board members should think about the concept and discuss it further at the next meeting.

#2. **Proposed policy statement to be added to the Gulf Policies.** Moved Kris, second Karlene, Approved, 1 abst

## TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Gulf registered members who travel more than 100 miles round trip as either a voting delegate at Gulf LMSC meetings or for other Gulf and/or USMS events approved by the Board, may be reimbursed for travel. The reimbursement shall be a designated amount per mile plus tolls. The mileage reimbursement rate shall be reviewed each year and adjusted as part of the annual budget approval process. If necessary, the rate may be adjusted at other times by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. (3/6/24)

Rationale: This adds a statement to our policies indicating that mileage and tolls may be reimbursed for approved events. It also states the procedure for adjusting the mileage rate.

### **#3. Proposed mileage reimbursement rate for 2024. Moved Kris, second Patrick, Approved, 1 abstention**

The 2024 Budget shall reflect a mileage reimbursement rate of 28 cents per mile.

Rationale: 28 cents per mile is more than enough to pay for gas with current gas prices. It will be reviewed annually to keep up with changes in gas prices. The IRS rate of 65.5 cents per mile is too extravagant.

## **The following are proposed updates to current Gulf Policies.**

### **#4. USMS ANNUAL MEETING Moved Kris, second Andy, Approved unanimously**

The Gulf LMSC shall reimburse the designated USMS Annual Meeting representatives for the following expenses:

- Transportation (coach airfare or ~~gasoline~~ mileage and tolls (if driving), whichever is less)
- Hotel – one half of room for required nights (delegate is expected to have a roommate)
- Ground transportation to and from the airport to the meeting site (but not a rental car)
- Airport parking
- Meal per diem of \$25 35 per day, ~~(no receipts necessary)~~ if meals are not provided
- USMS Meeting registration

In order for expenses to be reimbursed, receipts (excluding meals) must be presented to the Treasurer. (9/8/98, 10/6/22, 3/6/24)

Rationale: Updates our policy to the current USMS meal policy at the annual meeting and updates language. An increase in the meal per diem for instances when a per diem is used is warranted.

### **#5. Grounds for Grievances Moved Kris, second Stacey, Approved unanimously**

Any individual member of the Gulf LMSC and/or any Club member of the Gulf LMSC may bring a complaint on any matter for which grievances may be heard under the Rules of USMS Article 4. Specifically, complaints may be brought alleging unsporting conduct, defined in Article 402.4 Unsporting Conduct. as:

Rationale: Delete the section below as 402.4 has been revised already. Citing only the article reference number will keep our policy up to date with the USMS code if it is revised.

~~a. Violation of the opportunity to participate, as set forth in Article 4.~~

~~b. Discrimination in violation of Article 5 of the Rules of USMS.—~~

~~c. Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USMS related activities.~~

~~d. Any intentional nonconsensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or conduct directed toward members, volunteers, staff, or bystanders meet personnel, in connection with a USMS event.~~

~~e. Any act, conduct or omission that is detrimental to the image or reputation of USMS, an LMSC, or the sport of swimming.~~

~~f. Any form of harassment, hazing, or bullying.~~

~~g. Aiding or abetting another to engage in any of the foregoing violations. ... (3/6/24)~~

#### **#6. OFFICIALS \_Moved Andreas, second Linda, Approved unanimously**

The Gulf LMSC shall reimburse reasonable expenses for individuals training to be Masters Officials. (11/6/90)

The Gulf LMSC Officials Chairman should maintain a list of officials meeting USMS certification requirements that are willing to officiate Masters swim meets. (9/12/89, 3/27/19).

A minimum of two certified officials (a referee and starter, who may double as start and turn judges) are required for sanctioned or approved USMS competitions. (3/27/19)

All officials working a sanctioned or approved USMS competition shall be briefed on USMS rules. (3/27/19, 3/6/24) **Rationale: Current USMS rules require certified officials.**

#### **#7. TRAINING REIMBURSEMENTS Moved Andy, second Karlene, Approved unanimously**

To the extent that the annual budget allows, the Gulf LMSC shall reimburse the registration fee of those Gulf-registered USMS members who attend a "How to Do A Swim Clinic" certification training. A housing and transportation allowance may also be granted. ~~A portion of the reimbursement will be held until the participant meets the requirement of conducting a pro-bono, pre-approved masters swim clinic open to all Gulf LMSC members. In order to receive reimbursement, the clinic must be held within one calendar year of the certification.~~ The participant must apply for grant approval in advance and must be both registered in and reside in the Gulf LMSC. (11/6/90, 2/1/23, 3/6/24)

**Rationale: We have already decided to drop the requirement to hold a clinic in order to be fully reimbursed. This updates our policy to the current practice.**

**#8. Discussion of fee reimbursement proposal:** The discussion of the suggested proposal to pay the USMS registration fee for the Gulf Board Members was continued from the last meeting. It was decided to not pursue this concept.

**#9. Coach-on-Deck discussion:** The discussion of the Coach-on-Deck program was continued from the last meeting. Patrick decided not to pursue asking for a stipend at this time. He will explore the idea of asking the home teams to provide the Coach-on-Deck. It was reiterated that the desire was to have certified coaches only.

7. **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING** No date was set for the next meeting.

8. **THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 pm.**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE:**

**2024 Pool Competitions:**

Mar 9, 2024	Rice Aquatics Masters March Madness Rice University Houston
Mar 23-24, 2024	South Texas - Texas Senior Games (not a USMS meet) San Antonio
Apr 26 – 28, 2024	South Central Zone Spring Champs (short course) Conroe ISD Natatorium
May 11, 2024	South Texas – Save the Date-Two Rivers Meet (*new event!) New Braunfels, TX
Jun 20 – 24, 2024	USMS - 2024 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals, Indianapolis, IN
Jun 29, 2024	Save the Date -Summer Splash Conroe ISD Natatorium The Woodlands (Houston area)
Jul 26 – 28, 2024	South Central Zone Summer Champs (long course) SMU Dallas, TX
Aug 21 – 25, 2024	2024 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals, Mission Viejo, CA

**College Club Swimming:**

Apr 5 – 7, 2024 2024	College Club Swimming National Championships Indianapolis, IN
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**Open Water Swims:**

Apr 14, 2024	Lake Longhorn Open Water Round-Up - Grand Prix #1 Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
May 5, 2024	Swim De Mayo – Grand Prix#2, Joe Pool Lake in Grand Prairie, TX (Dallas area)
May 5, 2024	Swim Across America Cancer Fundraiser, Lake Conroe (Houston area)
Jun 2, 2024	Shark Attack #1 – Grand Prix #3 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
Jul 14, 2024	OWS Challenge – Grand Prix #4 – Joe Pool Lake in Cedar Park, TX (Dallas area)
Oct TBA	Shark Attack #2 – Grand Prix #5 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX

**2024 USMS Events**

Sep 13-15, 2024	USMS Annual Meeting Virtual
Oct 18-20, 2024	USMS Relay and USMS National Coaches Clinic, Houston Marriott IAH Airport

**2025 Competitions:**

Apr 24 – 27, 2025	2025 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals San Antonio, TX
July 24 – Aug 4, 2025	2025 Senior Games (specific swim days unknown at this time) Des Moines, IA
Aug 6 – 10, 2025	2025 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals Federal Way, WA