

USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee Minutes

May 18, 2023 - Virtual Meeting

Present: Dan McCarthy, USA Swimming; Nate Chessey, USA Swimming; Mike Seip, Chair; Starre Haney; Lynne Shine; Doug Wharam; Marco Greico, Athlete; Davis Shelton, Athlete; Stacy Smith; T.J. Walsh, Athlete; Melissa Millerick-May; Branden Burns; Connie Harvey, ARC; Lindsay Mondick, YMCA

Absent: Garret Sims, Athlete; Jack Yetter; John Wallum, IOA

Guests: Michelle Steinfeld, USA Swimming; Eric Skufca, USA Swimming; Rachel Olson, USA Swimming; Kenneth Chung, USA Swimming; Tim Husson, EZ

Call to Order: Mike Seip, Committee Chairman, called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee at 12:05 PM EDT on Thursday, May 18, 2023, via Zoom videoconference.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Agenda:

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. NGB updates – Nate
3. Hypoxic Blackout Statement
4. Working Groups Reports
5. LSC Contacts
6. Future Meetings
7. Other

Goals/Working Groups for 2023-24

1. Meet Marshal Program Development
2. Water Temperature
3. Communications
4. Racing Start Certifications
5. Certifications
6. Hypoxic Blackout

Future Meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month via Zoom at 12:00 PM EST: May 18, 2023, June 15, 2023, July 20, 2023, August 17, 2023, September 21, 2023

Adjournment

Announcements & Welcome (Mike)

- Mike welcomed our guests.

May 2023 Agenda

- Motion to approve Agenda: Branden Burns, Second: Davis Shelton

April 2023 Minutes

- Motion to approve April 2023 Minutes: Stacy Smith, Second: Branden Burns

NGB Updates (Eric Skufca and Rachel Olson)

- Eric Skufca, USA Swimming CFO, introduced the new USA Swimming Program Director of Risk Management, Rachel Olson. Ms. Olson is an Operational Risk Management expert with 20 years of experience in the field of claims, brokerage etc. She has been affiliated with Equifax and LexisNexis in the past.

Hypoxic Blackout Statement (Doug)

- Michelle Steinfeld, USA Swimming Secretary and General Counsel stated that she is currently reviewing the Hypoxic Blackout Statement and anticipates completing that review within two weeks.
- Doug reported that it has been challenging to get the Webinar scheduled. It was originally scheduled to take place in May but has been pushed back to August. The original presenter is still slated to appear, and we are working on getting a coach to add to the lineup. The date is tentative subject to confirmation from Nate.

Working Group Reports (Mike)

- Meet Marshals (Starre)
 - The legal department has reviewed the current draft of the Meet Marshal document and requested a couple edits. The edits have been made and the document is returning to Nate who will work with legal to wrap it up.
- Concussion Protocol (Starre)
 - Currently working on updating the state law list with respect to Concussion certification requirements for coaches of athletes under the age of 19.
 - Colorado – concussion training must be completed annually
 - N. Mexico – in the event of a concussion the athlete is mandated to be out of practice for a minimum of 10 days
 - Illinois – concussion training must be completed every two years for both coaches and officials
 - Many other states are “one and done”

- Communications (Branden)
 - The working group will reach out to Stacy to assist with Water Temp education information dissemination.
 - Garret developed a QR code that can be used by coaches to access the list of approved safety certification courses.
 - Will be working with the Hypoxic Blackout subcommittee to produce the Webinar in August
 - Meeting with working group soon to complete Warm-up best practices information for distribution.

- Certifications (Marco)
 - Questions have arisen as to whether Shallow Water lifeguarding should be an approved course on the Safety Certification list. Connie confirmed that neither Shallow Water nor Aquatic Attraction lifeguarding should be on the approved list. She stated that the American Red Cross is currently in the process of revising the ARC Lifeguarding Course and that the revision should be out in December 2023. At that point any changes / revisions with respect to water skills will flow downstream to Safety Training for Swim Coaches.
 - Connie also stated that she is currently reviewing an additional course exception request for a course that used to be on the list. She will be in touch with Marco regarding this decision.
 - A question was asked as to what criteria is applied to deem a course acceptable for the approved list. Marco stated that the standard that has been applied for the last four years is to use the American Red Cross and American Heart Association course requirements as the baseline. Approved courses must be deemed to be equivalent or higher in terms of skills and standards as that required by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.
 - Marco stated that the Coaching Certification reports from USA Swimming headquarters have resumed. He will circulate to the Committee shortly.

- Water Temperature (Stacy)
 - Since there was resistance to changing the wording in the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations regarding this issue, target efforts have been redirected to coach education.
 - Melissa stated that her professional expertise is in the respiratory health field and that her research has proven that the trichloramine reaction happens faster in warmer water. Coaches need to be educated regarding the adverse effects that temperature can have on the respiratory health of their athletes.

- Racing Starts (Davis)
 - The working group will have a final document for the next meeting.

LSC Contacts (Jack)

- Each Committee member is requested to reach out to their respective LSC assignments to
 - Update the roster of LSC Operational Risk Chairs

- Gather information from the LSC OR Chairs regarding Concussion certification requirements for Recreational / Age-Group Coaches in the states included within the respective LSC.

New Business / Discussions

- Kenneth Chung, Vice Chair Fiscal Oversight USA Swimming Board of Directors, stated that the BOD, as part of its Strategic Initiatives is looking at developing a Risk & Opportunity synergy between the National Operational Risk Committee and the Risk Management Department at Headquarters. One of the goals is to develop Risk Mapping tracking both severity and frequency. To that end, Rachel will be working with the Committee to leverage the skills and knowledge of the members to achieve the goal.
- Starre requested the Committee continue to receive the Report of Occurrence Summaries for analysis.

Adjournment: Mike Seip adjourned the May 18, 2023, meeting of the Operational Risk Committee at 12:55 PM.