

ILMSA CONFERENCE CALL MEETING, 1/7/13

Heather Howland, ILMSA Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Heather Howland, ILMSA Chair; Ruth Giles-Ott, Secretary; Phil Dodson, Treasurer; Michael McDonnell, Communications Chair and Webmaster; A.J. Block, Fitness/Health Chair; Robert Zeitner, Awards Chair; Barbara Delanois, Finance Chair; Mark Mattson, Sanctions Chair; and Fred Pigott, Safety Chair.

Not present were: Heidi Kafka, ILMSA Vice-Chair; Erik VanEtten, Registrar; Laurel Liberty, Coaches Chair, and Rich Mueller, Officials Chair.

Agenda Items:

- I. Website Development. Mike McDonnell, Communications Chair, made a call for volunteers to work on redesigning the website, which at present is used mostly for checking upcoming meets and meet results. Robert Zeitner and Fred Pigott volunteered to assist. Heather Howland will include a call for volunteers for this project in the next email blast. Phil Dodson said a more tailored message should be sent to the club representatives of the 40 ILMSA swim teams, with a request that they spread the word to their teams.
- II. Insurance and Open Water Events.
 - A. Phil Dodson reported that USMS lost their insurance carrier after an incident that occurred about a year ago. USMS found another insurance carrier, who is going to charge three times as much. USMS is now seeking \$1800 for open water events. They propose that \$400 come from the meet hose, \$600 from the LMSC, and USMS will cover the remaining \$800. See Attachment A, in which Phil proposes that in February we consider ILMSA covering the meet host portion of the fees, given that we have just two: the Central Illinois open water swim, and Big Shoulders.
 - B. Boats for hire will have to provide a \$1 million certificate of insurance made out to USMS. Volunteer boats might also have to do so. The Chicago Park District provides the boats for Big Shoulders, and they are covered as a government entity, and thus are not required to have the certificate of insurance.
 - C. Phil proposed that the Sanctions Chair have an additional volunteer to review the sanctions for open water events, as there will be new requirements that have to be met for sanctioned events. Heather

Howland reached out to Marcia Cleveland, an ILMSA member who is an open water expert, to see if she would be interested in serving. Mark Mattson is going to be stepping down as Sanctions Chair once a replacement has been found.

III. Elections. The positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary expire in April, 2013. Heather Howland will run again. Phil Dodson cannot run again as Treasurer.

IV. No New Business

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:55 PM

ATTACHMENT A

Status of USMS OW Sanctions for further discussion tonight Board meeting

From: "MYFAVCPA@aol.com" <MYFAVCPA@aol.com>
[View Contact](#)
To: bod@ilmsa.com

To: ILMSA Board
RE: Status of USMS Open Water Sanctions
1/7/2013

Back ground:

Due to claims made against USMS's policy in the recent past, USMS is faced with a liability insurance premium that is significantly higher than in previous years. The insurance carrier sets specific insurance costs of \$1,800 for each sanctioned open water event. The insurance carrier also requires several compliance procedures in exchange for offering insurance coverage. Failure to meet these compliance standards will negate insurance. As a result, USMS will have procedures to ensure compliance and withdraw sanctions and their related insurance coverage for OW events that do not comply. USMS has placed a moratorium on issuing sanctions for OW events until the compliance standards are reviewed and accepted by the USMS Board in early February.

New OW sanction fees are being recommended and under consideration. Currently they are:

- 1) All solo events shall be required to pay the full \$1,800 cost of insurance to USMS.
- 2) All events that allow or require motorized escort craft shall be required to pay the full \$1,800 cost of insurance to USMS.
- 3) Sanction fees shall be shared by the respective stakeholders in Open Water events. Flat fees,

regardless of event size are recommended to be \$400 to the meet host, \$600 to the respective LMSC issuing the sanction and the remaining cost of \$800 will be absorbed by USMS. The event host fee is to be billed and collected by the sanctioning LMSC. USMS shall bill the LMSC \$1,000 for each sanctioned OW event.

Impact on ILMSA:

With respect to the compliance standards, there will be no option other than comply 100% or no sanction will be granted or it will be withdrawn. It will be incumbent upon the ILMSA Sanction Chair to become fully knowledgeable in the compliance standards and processes to ensure they are met. We should seek another volunteer versed in OW procedures to assist and function as backup for our Sanction Chair.

With respect to OW sanction fees:

Fees 1 & 2 won't impact ILMSA. The \$1,000 flat fee obviously impacts ILMSA. It is my recommendation that we be prepared for adoption of this or a similar flat fee by USMS and plan to vote on a new ILMSA OW sanction fee during our February meeting.

It is my recommendation that we change our OW sanction fee from \$50 per event to the following:

- ILMSA to charge the event host a sanction fee of \$2 to \$2.5 per participant.
- Fees to be assessed and collected during the events registration process if practical, with final accounting and collection after the event.
- Maximum fee for CIOWS to be \$200 and maximum fee for Big Shoulders to be \$1,800 if only 2 OW events are sanctioned in ILMSA , otherwise
- Maximum fee for CIOWS to be \$250 and maximum fee for Big Shoulders to be \$2,500 and \$250 maximum for

event #3, if 3 OW events are sanctioned in ILMSA.

ILMSA has the financial resources to pay the \$1,000 flat fee upon sanctioning each OW event and collect our sanction fees from the meet hosts later. We also have a well established history with the two OW events, CIOWS and BS and accounting and collection issues should not be a problem for ILMSA.

Rationale:

It is an economic burden for smaller events like CIOWS to pay the \$400 + \$600 flat fee. The per participant fee has the benefit of spreading the USMS cost of insurance evenly among all ILMSA OW participants regardless of event size.

Phil