

Underwater Society of America

2024 Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

5 October 2024

9am CST-10:30am CST

The Sports Commission is composed of the Executive Committee and Elected Sport Directors (USOA By-laws Section 3.4.1).

1. Call to Order and Attendance: (5 minutes) am CST
 - a. Officers: Karen Thullner, Bill VanDeman, Wendy Okafuji
 - b. Directors: Diego Rodrigues, Shawn Joy
2. Approval of the Agenda. MSA
3. Approval of the Minutes from 7 October 2023. MSA
4. Director Reports (Complete Director Reports can be found at www.underwater-society.org in the Documents/Annual Reports 2024 tab.
 - a. Apnea - Diego Rodriguez
 - i. KT has had some inquiries about apnea; she directed them to Diego.
 - ii. Team USA had some participation in Serbia. Currently in Greece for the World Championships. Nationals are in Tampa in December 2024.
 - iii. Apnea currently does not fall under the USOA umbrella of sports.
 - b. Fin Swimming – Diego Rodriguez (10 minutes)
 - i. Report is posted on the USOA site (see link in #4). Report includes competitions, participation, records.
 - ii. 5 senior national records, 7 junior national records, 9 masters national records.
 - iii. Next year: World Cup in Coral Springs in May. PanAm somewhere around August; waiting for confirmation. Masters is Greece June 13-15.
 - c. Mermaiding - Anatoliy Pak
 - i. Status of CMAS picking up mermaiding as an official sport is unknown at this time.
 - d. Skin Spearfishing – Scott Turgeon (10 minutes)
 - i. Lake Geneva Freshwater Nationals. Not a USOA sanctioned tournament (NFSA sponsors), although AOY trophy was presented at the tournament.
 - ii. NFSA is hosting USOA Nationals in 2025.
 - iii. PanAm: Starting later this month. There are 6 countries including the US. Status of the US team is still unclear; USOA has not done any paperwork yet.
 1. For Worlds: if the US does not participate in PanAm US can send a letter to the CMAS spearfishing commission asking for permission to participate.
 - e. Underwater Hockey –Beven McWilliams (10 minutes)
 - i. Beven is not present; participating in regional championship. UWH report is posted on the USOA site.
 - f. Underwater Rugby – Shawn Joy for Timmy Burke (10 minutes)

- i. Timmy submitted report; posted on the USOA site.
 - ii. Rebuilding year. Committee has come up with ideas to help build the sport by additional tournaments added to the schedule. Trying to have a tournaments more frequently throughout the year with Nationals in June. Committee has been putting out calls for bids to host.
 - iii. Creating a Steering Committee for Worlds 2026. Timmy sent a letter out to all the team reps.
 - iv. Committee terms are up in December - need nominations and vote. Committee continues to meet each month.
 - v. One new team in Connecticut. Timmy has been helping provide equipment.
 - g. Visual - Evan Frost (10 minutes)
 - i. Photo contest early in 2024. Not sure if we will do it again.
5. Approval of USOA Competitive Sports Commission Changes. No changes.
6. Social Media accounts: Melody has been handling.
 - a. All sport directors should have the PWs to their individual sports accounts
 - b. USOA has created a generic social media email account.
 - i. socialmedia@uwsociety.org
 - ii. Please ask for a password.
 - c. USOA can use some assistance with the Facebook account. Please let me know if you have knowledge in this area.
7. Live-Streaming /YouTube Channel
 - a. USOA has a YouTube Channel set up. No one has used it so far.
8. Fundraising
 - a. KT discussed year round fundraising for USOA (instead of just the sports) with Andrew. Need to create a USOA marketing brand.
9. Adjournment 9:38 am CST

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7 October 2023

9am CST-10:30am CST

The Sports Commission is composed of the Executive Committee and Elected Sport Directors (USOA By-laws Section 3.4.1).

10. Call to Order and Attendance: (5 minutes) 10:00am CST
 - a. Officers: Karen Thullner, Bill Van Deman
 - b. Directors: Jenny Mohn, Scott Turgeon, Diego Rodriguez, Evan Frost, Megann Largent, Anatoliy Pak
11. Approval of the Agenda. Approved.
12. Approval of the Minutes from 1 October 2022. Approved.
13. Director Reports (Complete Director Reports can be found at www.underwater-society.org in the Documents/Annual Reports 2023 tab.
 - a. Apnea - Diego Rodriguez
 - i. New CMAS rules
 - ii. Tampa will have a national Dec 1-3. Competition is open, not a USOA event.
 - iii. Serbia will have an event as qualification for the World Games.
 - iv. WADA doping was a recent issue. Better doping controls are needed.
 - b. Fin Swimming – Diego Rodriguez (10 minutes)
 - i. There were several competitions - Juniors, Masters, PanAmericans
 - ii. Working for World Cup in Coral Springs in April
 - iii. World Championship in Serbia. This is a qualifier for World Games 2025 (China).
 - iv. University World Championship (FISU) FISU is Colombia April 28 2028
 - c. Mermaiding - Anatoliy Pak
 - i. We are waiting for CMAS to accept it as a sport prior to USOA.
 - ii. There is a China Championship.
 - iii. This is an upcoming sport.
 - iv. Chicago Area has a Mermaid Swim Club with training.
 - v. Anatoliy is a Mermaid Instructor Trainer.
 - vi. The sport is freediving with underwater figure swimming, an artistic component.
 - d. Skin Spearfishing – Scott Turgeon (10 minutes)
 - i. Nationals 2023 were in Kona, Hawaii.
 1. Over 100 competitors
 2. One of the largest Nationals ever
 3. Two new clubs were formed.
 4. A Hawaii club reactivated

5. 11 Clubs and councils registered for the year. 8 participated in Nationals.
 6. There was a 2 man masters division. Sounds like this will be growing.
 - ii. Nationals 2024 - Florida Keys (this is a new club)
 - iii. 2023 CMAS Worlds Spain
 1. USA Women's team took 3rd, out of 13 countries
 - a. Rosibel was 4th in the Women's Individual
 2. USA Men's were 17th out of 24 countries.
 - iv. Annual Committee Meeting
 1. No new rules for 2023
 - v. The Churchill Trophy is repaired.
 1. It needs a permanent home.
 - e. Underwater Hockey – Jenny Mohn (10 minutes)
 - i. There are 439 registered for UWH
 - ii. Committee made a document outlined guidelines for UWH Funds.
 - iii. 4 teams and 3 referees in CMAS 2023 World Championship
 - iv. USOA UWH Referee Training
 1. Level 1 and 2 are available virtually
 - v. Several major tournaments this year, including a women's tournament
 - vi. Proposed policy to update National Teams Composition
 - vii. Potentially 2025 or 2026 CMAS World Event
 - viii. Creating tournament hosting handbook
 - f. Underwater Rugby – Cristian Parra (10 minutes)
 - i. CMAS World's 2023 Montreal
 - ii. Nationals was in DC
 1. NJ will going to Champions Cup in Berlin - November 2023
 - iii. There was just an open tournament in Boston, similar to a UWH Potluck format
 - iv. Still discussing open tournaments for next year.
 - v. Working on referee training.
 - g. Visual - Anatoliy Pak and Evan Frost (10 minutes)
 - i. This is a new sport for USOA.
 - ii. Photography and Videography
 - iii. Will have open contest for Best of 2023
 1. Open water
 2. Confined water
 3. Wildlife
 4. Entry fee will be a USOA membership. Hope is to get new members.
 5. Submissions will open in November.
 6. Potentially livestream judging so people see submissions move through competition.
14. Approval of USOA Competitive Sports Commission Changes.
15. Social Media accounts
- a. All sport directors should have the PWs to their individual sports accounts

- b. USOA has created a generic social media email account.
 - i. socialmedia@uwsociety.org
 - ii. Please ask for a password.
 - c. USOA can use some assistance with the Facebook account. Please let me know if you have knowledge in this area.
16. Live-Streaming
- a. Boston was the first livestream event with drones
 - b. Charleston or BAA will be next.
17. Fundraising
- a. Sustainable Giving
 - i. USOA needs to do fundraising more than just teams going to worlds.
 - ii. Can we hire someone with a contract/commission based upon how much they raise?
 - b. Patreon
 - i. <https://www.patreon.com/>
 - ii. How can we best utilize this?
- 18.
19. Adjournment 11:00am CST