

PROPOSED Athlete Division

The Athlete Division consists of all the currently registered MS athletes. The Athlete Division is *represented by* three athletes - the Senior, Junior and At Large Athlete Representatives. The Athlete Representatives are full voting members of the MS Board of Directors and the MS House of Delegates. They are responsible for presenting the Athletes perspectives and representing Athletes' views on all issues considered at those meetings. In essence, the Athlete Representatives serve as a liaison between the MS athletes and various USA/LSC entities as needed. In addition, the Senior and Junior Athlete Representatives, if able to attend, are part of the MS delegation to the annual USA Swimming HOD convention. In his or her discretion the Senior Athlete Representative may create committees to address issues of importance to MS athletes.

JUNIOR ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION

One new athlete representative is elected each year to serve an approximate two-year term on the MS Board of Directors. The newly-elected swimmer becomes the Junior Athlete Representative and the *currently serving* Junior Athlete Representative [beginning his/her second year on the Board of Directors] automatically becomes the Senior Athlete Representative. This election takes place at the annual 13 and Over SCY State Championships (March of each year).

AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT

In addition, in even numbered years, the General Chair appoints an At Large Representative. This appointment should take place as soon as possible following the Junior Athlete Representatives election at the 13 and Over SCY State Championships. Similarly, this athlete is appointed for an approximate two year term.

REQUIREMENTS

Nominees for election and the at-large appointment by the General Chair must be: (a) a year round athlete member of MS in good standing (i.e. seasonal athlete members are not eligible); (b) at least 16 years of age when elected or at the time of appointment (c) be currently competing and expects to compete within the Michigan LSC for the next year; and (d) currently resides in Michigan and expects to reside in Michigan for the next year. If vacancies in any Athlete Representative position occur as a result of a resignation, etc, any vacancy filled by an appointment of the General Chair must also meet these requirements.

NOTICE OF JUNIOR ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION

The current Senior Athlete Representative is responsible for noticing the election process shortly before the annual 13 and Over SCY State Championships (which is in March) and carrying out the election process with the assistance of the MS Office and the Administrative Vice Chair. Notice of the election of the Junior Athlete Representative will be communicated by e-mail by the MS Office to interested parties and/or by posting on the MS website no later than 30 days prior to the date of the March 13 and Over SCY State Championships. General instructions on the conduct of the election will be included in the communication. Any currently certified MS athlete is eligible to be nominated; however, no athlete shall be placed on the ballot without his or her consent. Athletes may place their own name on the ballot. You do not have to be swimming at the State Championships nor be present during the election to run. The deadline for nominations is one week before the meet and this deadline date shall be included in the communication.

THE ELECTION AND VOTING PROCESS

The Junior Athlete Representative election is conducted on the first two days of the meet with the polls open for a 90-minute period at the beginning of warm ups for the morning session. All MS registered athletes aged 13 and older on the date of the election are eligible to vote. Candidates are encouraged to post a description of their qualifications at the voting location. The printed ballot includes the names and club affiliations of all announced candidates as well as space for write-in candidates. The voting area is staffed by the Chair of the Administrative Division or their designees and the current athlete reps or their designees. To prevent voting irregularities, as each athlete votes, his/her name is lined-out on a list of currently registered MS swimmers. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

RESULTS AND TERM OF OFFICE

After the election closes and the ballots are counted, the name of the new Junior Athlete Representative is announced at the SCY 13-and-older state championship meet. His/her term of office begins immediately and he/she should attend the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors and House of Delegates meetings.

The At Large Athlete Representatives' term of office begins when he/she is appointed by the General Chair. The term continues for approximately two years until the next At Large Athlete Representative is appointed.

The intent of the above election/appointment process and related statements as to term of office is to insure that there are always three (3) currently serving athlete representatives.