

1) WHY IS THIS OPTION NOW BEING AFFORDED TO THE YMCA? / WHY THE POLICY CHANGE?

-the YMCA changed from the NCAA Rulebook to the USA Rulebook for YMCA meets beginning after Sept 1, 2006 to get this done with USA brass. {Note that all "Approved" meets must be held under USA Technical Rules only (Part One of USA Rule Book). Thus, the NCAA rulebook had to be discarded by the YMCA.}

-USA believes that athlete memberships will increase (more Y athletes into USA). Maybe or maybe not. Not much (< 1/5) of this \$ goes to the LSC anyway.

-*USA believes more Top level Y swimmers will now participate in USA National level meets. Maybe or maybe not. Most top YMCA athletes are already USA athletes and attend the USA National meets already. New policy certainly doesn't help at the LSC level. Also, ignores the fact that new option provides motivation for Y athletes not to participate at all in USA LSC Invitational meets and at the USA LSC Club level [- Y athletes can focus on their YMCA schedule if the times are USA recognized at the Y meets].

2) WHAT POTENTIAL EFFECT DOES THE APPROVAL OF SOME YMCA MEETS HAVE ON THE MS/USA PUBLISHED INVITATIONAL MEET SCHEDULE AND CHAMPIONSHIP MEET SCHEDULE?

- if Y meets get approved, athletes are motivated to attend YMCA meets rather than MS Club Invitational meets (since those Y meet times go into the SWIMS database). Note the potential financial loss to MS Clubs (fewer entries) and to MS (neither 5% fee nor \$1 surcharge).

- if Y Championship level meets are approved, they may conflict (same weekend or close) with MS Championship meets. See above comments.

3) WHAT TYPES OF YMCA MEETS MUST OR SHOULD BE "APPROVED" BY MS?

- * USA has not dictated what Y meets must be approved by an LSC. Stratton letter merely states that Y meets are now "eligible". Heath letter says "according to the Host LSC's by laws or formal policies". MS has some general approval rules but these were not originally written to include this new Y venture.

- Ryan letter and YMCA posture in general exude immediate compliance for "larger Invitationals and above". Potential for all – including Y duals.

-Seems to be less than a complete understanding between USA and the YMCA as to this basic issue.

- MS LSC needs to be deciding what's in MS's best interests as an LSC regardless of what USA or YMCA National people express as to what they think is in MS's best interest.

4) WHAT EXISTING MS PROCEDURES FOR "APPROVALS" SHOULD APPLY TO YMCA APPROVED MEETS?

- existing rules require that all requests for Approvals (whether made by a USA Club or otherwise) be made by certain dates and screened by the meet scheduling committee. Should these rules should apply to YMCA requests for approvals? Or should the YMCA requests be afforded some latitude?

5) WHAT SHOULD BE THE MS POLICY RE: NUMBER OF USA/MS OFFICIALS AT YMCA "APPROVED MEETS"?

- USA Rulebook (202.4.3) and Stratton letter are clear that LSCs cannot require that the officials be paid as part of the Y approval. MS pays its officials. Any meet that is approved (and that does not have at least 2 dually certified Y/USA Officials on deck as part of the officiating crew) will result in MS providing free officials to Y meets. Also, MS does not force any of its officials to work for free.

- Stratton letter requires a minimum of 2 USA officials at approved Y meets. I believe this to be in direct conflict with USA Rule 202.4.4 which requires that all USA Rules must be followed in a USA Approved Meet (which would mean 4 officials – Rule 102.12.3. Also, note that MS requires 4 at sanctioned meets. A question of fairness arises (all performances in the SWIMS database should be officiated on an equal basis).

6) WHAT FEES SHOULD BE CHARGED DIRECTLY TO THE YMCA FOR THE APPROVAL OF THEIR MEETS (THE INCREASED MS WORK LOAD)?

- USA Rulebook clearly states that a fee may be charged only for the "application" for approval. 202.4.3. This definition technically excludes the increased workload for the increased MS permanent office hours and database issues –which will be significant. Also, Prog Ops, Meet Scheduling Committees, NTV Chair volunteer hours will be increased. As such, actual costs beyond the application process and volunteer hours are not absorbed by the YMCA but by MS.

- Y Approved meets are not subject to the MS 5% sanction fee nor \$1 athlete surcharge. No \$ to MS here as in MS Sanctioned Meets.

- Ryan YMCA letter curiously refers to "nominal" charges. Stratton letter is void of an answer but his form notes "an applicable fee". Heath guidelines clearly states that an LSC may establish a fee for processing an application. (That's in the USA rulebook). Again, a lack of an understanding regarding a basic issue.

7) WHAT EFFECT DOES THE APPROVAL OF YMCA MEETS HAVE ON USA SWIMS AND MS TMO DATABASES?

- times achieved in MS Approved Meets are generally presumed to be eligible for inclusion in SWIMS and TMO. Thus, if they are "official times", the MS Office will have to process these meets like any of the Sanctioned and Observed meets.

8) WHAT PROCEDURES SHOULD MS REQUIRE OF YMCA MEET HOSTS REGARDING SWIMS AND TMO DATABASES ISSUES?

- This question is too voluminous to be answered here. See Heaths 2 page "Mutual Guidelines" as a primer. Jan Cartmill is the expert in this area.

9) WHAT EFFECT DOES THE APPROVAL OF YMCA MEETS HAVE ON MS TOP 16 PROCEDURES?

- Times from approved Y meets would be presumed to be routinely included in MS Top 16 since the times are USA "official". Unclear whether an LSC can exclude times from Y meets from LSC T16 list since times are USA "official".

10) WHAT AFFECT DOES THE APPROVAL OF YMCA MEETS HAVE ON MS RECORDS PROCEDURES?

- LSCs have the option of recognizing times achieved by MS members in approved meets. Rule 104.2.6 A (2).

-MS recognizes records achieved in USA approved meets – however, has specifically excluded times from YMCA meets other than the YMCA National Meets (SCY and LCM's) (same rule for MHSAA meets – has to be in MHSAA State meets to be recognized). The reasoning behind this is that YMCA and MHSAA Championship meets were the only "Observed" meets which created official USA times and, thus, eligible for Records.

- The MS Rules on Records may need to be revisited for new Y option of Approved meets since "official" times can now being created by the approval process.