Michigan Swimming Athlete Protection Committee Proposal

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Effective Date: Upon approval of the MS Board of Directors (next meeting – 3/20/2011). A committee can be established at any time by the General Chair and only requires the advice and consent of the BOD. Establishing the committee as a permanent Standing Committee will require an amendment to the bylaws and therefore approval by the MS House of Delegates next regularly scheduled meeting which would be in May.

On May 1, 2010 the USA Swimming Board of Directors approved the creation of an Athlete Protection Committee (APC) as well as new staff position(s) to support the organization's enhanced efforts to provide as safe, healthy and positive environment as possible for its member swimmers. The APC is recommending that each LSC establish its own Athlete Protection Committee to assist in facilitating the goals established by USA Swimming. Outlined below is a proposal for the establishment and framework of the committee.

Framework

1. The purpose of the Athlete Protection Committee (APC) shall be to insure implementation of the USA Swimming's athlete protection policies, guidelines, educational programs, reporting and adjudication procedures that are intended to help provide as safe, healthy and positive environment as possible for USA Swimming members.
2. The APC shall be a permanent Standing Committee of Michigan Swimming, Inc. The APC shall consist of a minimum of five (5) registered members of Michigan Swimming, Inc. with two (2) athlete members, one (1) coach member and two (2) at-large members.
3. The Committee Chair shall be appointed by and under the supervision of the General Chair of Michigan Swimming, Inc. with the advice and consent of the Michigan Swimming, Inc. Board of Directors.

Educational Programs & Resources

1. The APC shall coordinate and oversee the implementation of effective educational programs for all member athletes, their parents, coaches and clubs as provided by USA Swimming.
2. Be a primary contact for Michigan Swimming Clubs to share information about what USA Swimming and other LSC's are doing locally for athlete protection and to collect, develop and disseminate information on LSC best practices.
3. Serve as an information resource for clubs, including helping to identify and connect them with local educational partners and resources.

Other

1. Perform other functions as necessary in the fulfillment of USA Swimming's continuing efforts to foster safe, healthy and positive environments for its members.
2. Be available to work on special projects and assignments as time allows

Committee Chairman and Committee Members Appointment Process from the Michigan Swimming, Inc. Bylaws

Approval of the proposal would be accomplished under the following guidelines. The Athlete Protection Committee would be added to the bylaws as a permanent standing committee.

7.2 NON-OFFICER CHAIRS AND THEIR COMMITTEES; COORDINATORS
.1 ELECTED, EX-OFFICIO AND APPOINTED NON-OFFICER CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS -
A. Elected Chairs and Coordinators – (This Section is reserved for future use.)
B. Ex-officio Chairs - Pursuant to Section 7.3, certain other committee chairs are designated ex-officio by virtue of an office currently held.
C. Appointed Chairs and Coordinators - The chairs of all other standing committees and all other coordinators shall be appointed by the General Chair with the advice of the Board of Directors and the respective division Vice Chair. The appointed standing committee chairs or coordinators shall assume office upon appointment or the date designated by the General Chair and shall serve until sixty (60) days after the next election of a General Chair or until a successor is appointed and assumes office.

7.3 MEMBERS AND EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES - Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by the Board of Directors, members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the General Chair with the advice of the respective division Vice Chairs and the chairs of the committee. The division Vice Chair shall be an ex-officio member (with voice and vote) of each standing committee within the respective division. The General Chair or the respective division Vice Chair may appoint the specified additional members and any other members deemed appropriate or necessary for any of the standing committees. Committee members appointed pursuant to the preceding sentence shall hold their appointments at the pleasure of the appointing officer or successor.