Michigan Swimming Athlete Protection Committee Proposal

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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.

Effective Date: The establishment of the Michigan Swimming Athlete Protection Committee was approved by the MS Board of Directors on March 20, 2011.

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) members being athletes, one (1) member being a coach and two (2) members being at-large members.
3. The Committee Chairman shall be appointed by and under the supervision of the General Chairman 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 ongoing educational programs for all member athletes, their parents, coaches, volunteers and clubs as provided by USA Swimming.
2. Be the 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 by, among other things, 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.

Michigan Swimming Athlete Protection Committee Chair Position Proposal

General Description

The Athlete Protection Committee Chair shall be responsible for the implementation and coordination of the USA Swimming Athlete Protection Program as established by USA Swimming. The Chair shall serve as the LSC liaison for the USA Swimming Athlete Protection Program and work with the USA Swimming Athlete Protection Officer and Athlete Protection Committee (APC) to facilitate implementation of all aspects of the Athlete Protection Program within the LSC.

Position Appointment and Requirements

The APC Chair shall be appointed by and report to the General Chair of Michigan Swimming (MS) with the advice and consent of the MS Board of Directors. The Chair shall serve for a term of 2 years and not be subject to term limits. The APC Chair shall be a voting member of the MS Board of Directors. The APC Chair must be a current non-athlete member in good standing of USA Swimming. The APC Chair is prohibited from holding any other voting position on the LSC Board of Directors and cannot serve on the LSC Board of Review.

Responsibilities and Duties

1. The APC Chair shall be the primary contact for the LSC to coordinate and oversee the implementation of effective educational programs for all member athletes, their parents, coaches and clubs as provided by USA Swimming.
2. Understand the complaint reporting structure and refer all reports directly to USA Swimming Athlete Protection Officer.
3. Will attend workshops as required by USA Swimming, collect and share information about what USA Swimming and other LSC's are doing locally for athlete protection and disseminate information on LSC best practices.
4. Will serve as an information resource for LSC clubs and membership and will help to identify and connect them with local educational partners and resources.
5. Will solicit feedback and suggestions on the athlete protection program from the LSC clubs and membership and provide feedback to the USA Swimming APC Committee and Athlete Protection Officer.
6. Perform other functions as necessary in the fulfillment of USA Swimming's continuing efforts to foster safe, healthy and positive environments for its members.

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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.

Bylaw Amendments

Article 5 – Board of Directors
5.1 Members
Add: .15 Athlete Protection Committee Chair (appointed by the General Chair)

Authorization would also be granted to the Administrative Vice-Chair to make such corrections to the Bylaws and Rules and Procedures of Michigan Swimming as necessary to add the position and descriptions defined above.