

# Underwater Society of America

## 2022 Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

1 October 2022

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: 10:01 a.m. CT (5 minutes)
  - a. Officers: Karen Thullner, Wendy Okafuji, Diana Madden
  - b. Directors: Timmy Burke, Scott Turgeon, Megann Largent
2. Approval of the Agenda. MS Approved
3. Approval of the Minutes from 20 March 2021. MS Approved
4. Director Reports (Complete Director Reports can be found at [www.underwater-society.org](http://www.underwater-society.org) in the Documents/Annual Reports 2022 tab.
  - a. Fin Swimming – Mike Gower (10 minutes)
  - b. Skin Spearfishing – Scott Turgeon (10 minutes)
  - c. Underwater Hockey – Megann Largent (10 minutes)
  - d. Underwater Rugby – Timmy Burke (10 minutes)
5. Approval of USOA Competitive Sports Commission Changes.
  - a. Major changes: cleaning up repetitive language, making Nationals a sanctioned event, defining a sanctioned event.
  - b. Changes (minor/cosmetic)
    - i. Take out editing
    - ii. Update formatting
    - iii. 5.4.2 “All USOA members” instead of designating the separate sports.
  - c. MS Approved
6. USOA Uniforms
  - a. USOA Provided the Finswimming team with jackets and shorts for World Games.
  - b. USOA has a discount arrangement with Finis
  - c. USOA also worked with Podium to get the Finswimming uniforms (jacket & shorts)
    - i. Design is intended to be standardized across all sports.
    - ii. Athletes can purchase extra jackets if desired
    - iii. USOA will ask athletes to use the uniforms for 2 cycles.
  - d. USOA would like to provide all National teams apparel depending on budget
    - i. The goal is jackets at a minimum.
    - ii. USOA would like to ask the sports dev funds to help fund a portion.
    - iii. Swimsuits. Working on a design.
      1. USOA probably cannot fund the swimsuits in addition to the jackets/shorts.
      2. Suggestion that National Director of each sport appoint a person(s) to the design team. Megann & Timmy will submit names to KT for the design team.



# Underwater Society of America

## 2021 Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

20 March 2021

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)
  - a. Officers: Karen Thullner, Wendy Okafuji, Ray Tucker, Mike Gower
  - b. Directors: Scott Turgeon, Kurt Allen
  - c. Other: Carol Rose
11. Approval of the Agenda. Amended agenda was approved.
12. Approval of the Minutes from October 2020. Minutes approved with spelling and grammatical corrections.
13. Director Reports (Complete Director Reports can be found in the 2021 Annual Meeting Google Drive or on the website.)
  - a. Fin Swimming – Mike Gower (10 minutes)
    - i. Little pooltime due to covid.
    - ii. Coach John Hoskins retired as Head coach.
    - iii. Leon Valderama appointed as new National Head coach
    - iv. John Hoskins taking on a new challenge heading up a committee to promote finswimming in the 2028 Olympic Games in L.A.
    - v. Leon working on organizing a team for the 2022 World Games
    - vi. Vicky Perez appointed Secretary and is helping advance the sport.
    - vii. Pres. KT giving lots of help with promotions and CMAS interface.
    - viii. 2021 looking to be a busy year.
    - ix. US Swim allows people to join and get athlete insurance for \$60 per year, if a US Swim Coach is on the deck.
  - b. Skin Spearfishing – Scott Turgeon (10 minutes)
    - i. Membership, including new clubs
      1. Maybe getting a club in the NY area. They have a number of members and are interested in hosting nationals. More information will be forthcoming.
    - ii. Palm Beach Freedivers will host Nationals in Martin County, FL.
      1. Insurance will be needed through USOA.
      2. August 12, 2021
    - iii. Rule changes: Approved.
      1. Eliminate the \$600 Churchill Trophy shipping costs to the hosting council.
      2. Eliminate the \$400 travel stipend to hosting council to fly the director to nationals.

- iv. Competitions Calendar: Most 2020 events were canceled or postponed. There were several small club tournaments. The 2020 CMAS World Championship was postponed to September 2021 in Italy.
- v. Athlete of the Year
  - 1. Altered to allow the Freshwater Spearfisherman to win. Mike VanHaele.
- vi. Development: An Atlantic Coast Championship (ACCs) will be added and run as an official USOA tournament. Considering the first or second weekend in May.
- vii. Misc. - Churchill Trophy Status
  - 1. The Trophy was damaged while in the possession of an athlete. The athlete is accepting responsibility, but the Spearfishing Committee would like to see disciplinary action from the Sports Commission and USOA.

*From USOA Bylaws:*

*Section 2.5 - Termination of Membership - The Membership of an Individual, Club, Council or Group shall be terminated: 1) by voluntary withdrawal, 2) by disbandment of Club, Council, or group, 3) for nonpayment of dues, or 4) by a four/fifths votes of the Board of Governors and Membership at the Annual Meetings.*

*From Standardized Competitive Rules:*

*5.1 All competitors in the Society National Championships shall meet the following requirements:*

*5.1.1 All competitors shall be Society members in good standing prior to their date of competition.*

**The Sports Committee recommends to the Board of Governors and General Membership Meetings that Ryan Myers be denied membership until the costs of the Churchill Duplicate Trophy repaired have been recovered by the USOA from Ryan Myers and is validated by USOA National Spearfishing Director.**

- c. Underwater Hockey – Kurt Allen (10 minutes)
  - i. As of Feb 5, 2021 USOA has 25 registrations for people who have indicated they play Underwater Hockey.
    - 1. Given the lack of USOA sanctioned events because of Covid, membership is lower this year.
  - ii. As of Feb 5, 2021 USOA has 7 UWH clubs who have registered for the current year.. In years past 24 clubs have registered, and in general those clubs still exist, but because of covid have not been active and have not registered with USOA.
  - iii. When Covid lifts I expect member and club numbers to increase back, to previous levels.
  - iv. Competitions Calendar
    - 1. At this point there have been no competitions since the start of Covid, and there are no firm plans for any competitions in 2021.

- a. Nationals. The Denver UWH team and the UWH Committee are still evaluating the possibility of US Nationals in 2021. This depends on lowering of the Covid restrictions for travel and congregation by mid summer of 2021. **Nationals 2021 has been canceled.**
  - b. PCC's. The LA UWH Team and the UWH committee are also evaluating the possibility of PCC's occurring in Oct-Nov time frame. This also depends on COVID outcomes, but has a greater chance of occurring than Nationals because it occurs later, giving more time for Covid remediation efforts to bear fruit.
  - c. The UWH committee is largely dependent on CDC travel and congregation suggestions for when we can restart Hockey in the US. We hope this occurs later this year, but have little surety of that.
- v. Development
  - 1. UWH Development Director Dan Fox has started working on a plan to spruce up the UWH web section of the USOA web site, and also development of a UWH promo video to promote Underwater Hockey.
  - 2. Inquiries have come in for possible help with creating new UWH teams, but no development has occurred, largely as people wait out Covid.
- vi. Playing
  - 1. Some teams are playing some (Seattle, Sturgeon Bay, Tampa, Florida Keys), but most are shut down. Most community pools are shut down and hockey could not play even if teams felt comfortable doing so.
- d. Underwater Rugby – Timmy Burke (10 minutes)
  - i. Hammerheads hosted a UWR Tournament in Feb 8/9, 2020
    - 1. 12 Teams/approx 70 athletes
    - 2. Clubs from Canada, Florida, California, DC, NJ, CT, MA completed
    - 3. HammerHeads A Team won the event
  - ii. USA Nationals were scheduled for April 2020 but cancelled due to COVID.
  - iii. USA UWR National Team Coaches selection process started
    - 1. UWR World Championship held every 4 years (2023)
  - iv. Boston Narwhals were voted 2020 National Champions by UWR Club reps
  - v. Due to Tournament in February, most UWR players were USOA members for 2020
    - 1. Since COVID restrictions, most UWR clubs prevented from playing
    - 2. Boston Narwhals have been scrimmaging/playing since August 2020.
  - vi. New rules approved for UWR at USOA general meeting
    - 1. Development Fund approved
    - 2. USA UWR Director election process changed

14. Uniform Committee (Each sport is to contribute one member. The purpose is to create an overall uniform for the world competitors.)
  - a. Fin Swimming: Victoria Perez [aperezus2000@gmail.com](mailto:aperezus2000@gmail.com)
  - b. Skin Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon [aquaticaddict@gmail.com](mailto:aquaticaddict@gmail.com)
  - c. UWH:
  - d. UWR: Michael McCallister [mccallister.m@gmail.com](mailto:mccallister.m@gmail.com)
15. Adjournment 10:17am CST