

Florida LMSC Sanctions Chair Report

January 24, 2018

Anna Lea Matysek

2018 Events in the Florida LMSC that have been issued a Sanction or Recognition number:

Date	Event	Location	Sanction/Recognition
Feb 9-11, 2018	Valentine SCY Meet	Clearwater	Sanction 148-S001
Mar 10, 2018	Good Life Games	Clearwater	Recognition 148-R001
Mar 24-25, 2018	Bob Beach Championship Meet	St Pete	Sanction 148-S002
Apr 7, 2018	Central Florida Marlins Masters Spring Splash	Ocala	Sanction 148-S004
Apr 14, 2018	Swim Around Lido Key	Sarasota (OW)	Sanction 148-W001
May 5, 2018	Hurricane Man 2.4-Mile Swim	St Pete (OW)	Sanction 148-W003
May 13, 2018	Tropical Splash Open Water Swim	Sarasota (OW)	Sanction 148-W002
July 28-Aug 4, 2018	Pan American Masters Championships	Orlando	Sanction 148-S003
Sep 15, 2018	Central Florida Marlins Masters Fall Splash	Ocala	Sanction 148-S005

2018 Events that have applied for sanction or recognition and are pending:

Date	Event	Location	Sanction/Recognition
Feb 17, 2018	Gulf Coast Games for Life	Sarasota	Recognition
Apr 14, 2018	Tampa Swimming Masters Classic	Tampa	Recognition

Senior Games Recognition Fees

On November 8, 2017, I attended a meeting in Clearwater with Joannie Campbell, FL-LMSC senior games liaison; Jim Matysek; Michael Washington, Director of Events for the Florida Sports Foundation; and Amanda Capone, Event Manager for the Florida Sports Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recognition fees that are charged by USMS for each meet that applies for a USMS recognition from the Florida LMSC. The recognition fee charged by USMS is \$100 and the Florida LMSC's policy for 2018 is to pay half of the fee (\$50) and to collect the remainder (\$50) from the event host.

There are more than 20 senior games swim meets held in the state of Florida each year. While the individual meets are usually run by local entities such as county parks & recreation districts, the Florida Sports Foundation oversees all of the events. The Foundation expressed a desire to make it as easy as possible for the local senior games meets to apply for USMS recognition and Mr. Washington stated that the Foundation might be able to pay the recognition fees for any senior games meets that wish to apply for recognition. But he requested that the Florida LMSC find a way that the Foundation could pay one fee for all of the meets, so that they would have a dollar figure that could be put into their budget.

For the past several years, six or seven senior games meets have applied for recognition through the Florida LMSC. It is not likely that many more than that would ever apply. The recognition fees for seven meets would total \$350 needed from the meet hosts (\$50 per meet).

After the meeting, Bob Jennings and I discussed a plan that would provide the Florida Sports Foundation with a fixed dollar figure for all recognition fees for senior games swim meets in 2018. We arrived at a maximum figure of \$400, to be invoiced on November 1, 2018. If fewer than eight meets are recognized in 2018, the Florida Sports Foundation would be charged \$50 for each meet. If more than eight meets are recognized in 2018, the Florida Sports Foundation would be charged \$400 total and the Florida LMSC would cover the cost of the recognition fees beyond the first eight meets. (This is unlikely since there have only been six or seven meets that have applied for recognition the past few years.)

I sent a letter to Mr. Washington and Ms. Capone on January 17, 2018. A copy of that letter appears at the end of this report. As of today (January 24), I have not received a response from them.

In the meantime, I approved the recognition for the Good Life Games under the assumption that we would be able to come to some sort of agreement with the Florida Sports Foundation. I have now received a recognition request from the Gulf Coast Games (Sarasota) that will take place on February 17. Because I have not received a response from the Florida Sports Foundation, I have written to the meet director for the Gulf Coast Games and informed her that she will have to pay the \$50 recognition fee before I can approve the recognition request. (This may be a problem because she has already indicated to me that Sarasota County is willing to pay, but they have to pay by credit card which I don't believe we have a way to accept.)

I suspect that it is going to be difficult for me to collect recognition fees from meet hosts in a timely manner. Recognized meets are still a big benefit to the members of the Florida LMSC and they provide additional opportunities for members to compete throughout the year.

In summary, I would like to request that the FL-LMSC board reconsider its policy of requiring meet hosts to pay \$50 for a USMS recognition. In 2017 the LMSC had a total of eight recognized meets (the Tampa meet was canceled so the LMSC was not charged for it). The YMCA Masters Nationals is moving back to Ft. Lauderdale so that one will not be held in the LMSC in 2018.

Recognized Meets held in the Florida LMSC in 2017

- Feb 18, 2017: Gulf Coast Senior Games
- Mar 8, 2017: Capital City Senior Games

- Mar 11, 2017: Good Life Games
- Apr 26, 2017: The Villages Senior Games
- May 4, 2017: YMCA Masters Nationals
- May 18, 2017: UF Health Gainesville Senior Games
- Oct 21, 2017: Tampa Swimming Masters Classic (canceled)
- Dec 2, 2017: Florida Senior Games

If the other seven meets all apply for recognition in 2018, that would be a total of \$700 that the LMSC would pay for the recognition fees if the LMSC pays for the entire cost. Trying to collect half of that, \$350, from the meet hosts may result in some meets choosing to withdraw their recognition requests rather than deal with the hassle of paying the recognition fee.

If it is possible to find \$350 in the Florida LMSC budget to pay the full cost of these recognition fees, I feel it would be members' money that is well-spent on providing competitive events in the LMSC.

General Sanction Issues

After receiving some sanction requests that did not comply with current USMS rules, I redesigned the old "consolidated meet entry form" to a new template that contains the proper language for several required USMS items. These items include (a) the current liability waiver, (b) a statement regarding the pool measurements, and (c) a statement regarding the type of timing system that will be used in the meet. (The timing system statement is brand-new and is a result of a new USMS rule that no longer allows USMS records to be set in a meet where the primary timing system is hand-held stopwatches.)

Another issue that I have seen is that meet hosts are not aware of the USMS rule that requires them to have their event sanctioned BEFORE they begin accepting meet entries.

Anna Lea Matysek

(See next page for a copy of the letter sent to the Florida Sports Foundation)

To: Michael Washington, Director of Events, Florida Sports Foundation
Amanda Capone, Event Manager, Florida Sports Foundation

January 17, 2018

Dear Michael and Amanda,

I'm the volunteer sanctions chair for the Florida LMSC, the regional branch of U.S. Masters Swimming (USMS).

I'm writing this letter as a follow-up to the meeting we had on November 8, 2017 at the Long Center in Clearwater with Joannie Campbell, Florida Senior Games Liaison. During that meeting we discussed the long history of many Senior Games swim meets held in Florida that are granted "recognition" status by the Florida LMSC on behalf of USMS. This status is dependent upon the swim meet director running the meet per USMS rules so that swim times of participating USMS members can count for USMS records and Top 10 listings.

As we discussed, USMS has instituted a \$100 recognition fee for any meet that wishes to obtain "recognition" status from USMS. We discussed the desire to find a way for the Florida Sports Foundation to pay these recognition fees as a benefit to the local Senior Games meet directors, and also provide the Florida Sports Commission with an upper limit for the total 2018 fee.

The Florida LMSC's current policy is to pay **half** of all recognition fees. So, each Senior Games meet that is granted "recognition" status in 2018 would owe the remaining **\$50**.

FYI, in 2017 there were seven Senior Games swim meets that were granted recognitions from the Florida LMSC: Gulf Coast, Capital City, Good Life, The Villages, Palm Coast/Flagler Beaches, Gainesville, and the December Florida Senior Games.

I've discussed this with the chair of the Florida LMSC, Bob Jennings, and **here is his proposal**:

1. The Florida LMSC will grant recognition to any 2018 Senior Games swim meet that applies and meets the qualifications for "recognition" status. The Florida LMSC will cover the recognition fees until an invoice is sent to the Florida Sports Commission in November.
2. On November 1, 2018, the Florida LMSC will send an invoice to the Florida Sports Commission, payable by check, for all of the 2018 Senior Games meets that were granted recognition, **NOT TO EXCEED a total of \$400**. The invoice will list all 2018 recognized Senior Games meets, and also include upcoming meets such as the December Florida State Games.

In other words, if more than eight swim meets are granted "recognition" status, the Florida LMSC will cover the **full cost** of those recognition fees. This provides the Florida Sports Commission with an **upper limit** for the 2018 USMS recognition fees, and avoids unanticipated expenses on the off chance that more than eight meets are granted "recognition" status in 2018.

Please let me know if this arrangement would be acceptable to you. If not, the alternative is that before recognition status can be granted, each meet director must submit a check for \$50 to the Florida LMSC.

The Florida LMSC would like to continue our long relationship with the Florida Senior Games. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Anna Lea Matysek
Sanctions Chair, Florida LMSC
Email: KUgrad@yahoo.com
Phone: 941-921-2016

cc: Bob Jennings, Chair, Florida LMSC
Joannie Campbell, Senior Games Liaison, Florida LMSC