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## Legislation

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### Committee Members

Kristóf Kertész, Chair; Maddie Sibilia, Vice Chair

Chris Campbell, Rob Copeland, Ahren Lehnert, Alison Moore, Teddy Palmer, Meg Smath

Ex-Officio: Mollie Grover, Dawson Hughes, Katie Kenyon, Jessica Reilly

### Introduction

The Legislation Committee met to review proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations and provide recommendations for consideration by the House of Delegates. The committee's work focused on ensuring proposed legislation was clear, consistent with existing governance structures, responsive to organizational needs, and appropriately balanced transparency, flexibility, and risk management. The committee reviewed six legislative proposals, including revisions developed through follow-up discussions with proposing committees and organizational leadership.

### Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Membership Policy and Eligibility (L1): Reviewed and amended proposed changes to USMS membership provisions, restoring eligibility language while supporting the movement of detailed membership categories and requirements from the rulebook to Board policy to provide greater organizational flexibility.
2. Zone Realignment (L2): Recommended adoption of the proposal moving the Southern LMSC from the Southeast Zone to the South Central Zone to improve geographic alignment, member access to zone events, and opportunities for regional event promotion.
3. Records and Tabulation Committee Responsibilities (L3): Conducted an extended review of proposed changes to the Records and Tabulation Committee's responsibilities. The committee initially raised concerns regarding potential overlap with other committees and ambiguity surrounding sanctioning authority. Following consultation and revised language, the committee approved a version clarifying that the Records and Tabulation Committee supports sanctioning processes without assuming enforcement authority or LMSC sanctioning responsibilities.
4. Legislative Proposal Reporting (L4): Reviewed and amended procedures for reporting legislative proposals recommended for rejection. The committee supported continued transparency by requiring rejected proposals to be reported to the House of Delegates while specifying that such proposals would be presented without debate, vote, or action.
5. Officer Titles and Rulebook Consistency (L5): Recommended adoption of updated officer position titles to improve clarity and consistency throughout USMS governance documents, with associated editorial and housekeeping changes to be incorporated into the rulebook.
6. Authority to Decline High-Risk Amendments (L6): Reviewed language addressing amendments that could create credible and material organizational risks. After

considering legal guidance and discussing discretionary versus mandatory authority, the committee amended the proposal to provide that the chair “shall decline” consideration of amendments meeting the established risk standard.

### **Action Items**

1. Finalize and submit the committee’s recommended legislative proposals and accompanying rationales for consideration by the House of Delegates.
2. Incorporate approved revisions and editorial housekeeping changes into the legislative package and associated governance documents.

### **Agenda**

1. Chair’s Welcome
2. L-1 to L-6
  - L-1 Membership of Individuals
  - L-2 Zone Names and Boundaries
  - L-3 R&T Committee Modification
  - L-4 Adoption of Proposed Amendments
  - L-5 Officer Positions
  - L-6 Submission of Proposed Amendments

### **Legislation Committee Open Forum and Meeting**

**[Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:00pm - 9:30pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)**