

# Gary Stutsel

## OAM, ASM



- *Life Member MSA 1985*
- *Life Member MSNSW*
- *Honoree ISMHOF*
- *Australian Sports Medal, 2000*
- *Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 1987*

Gary has been active in Masters Swimming since its introduction to Australia in 1974. His involvement in masters swimming has included Development, Administration, Officiating, Event Management and Competition. His contribution has been recognised by the awarding of Life Membership of Masters Swimming Australia in 1985, the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1987, the Australian Sports Medal in 2000, and he was the first Australian to be inducted into the IMSHOF in 2013. Gary has continued to be an active competitor, referee and administrator. In the NSW Branch he held every position on the Committee over a period of 24 years.

Internationally he chaired the International Masters Swimming Forums in 1981 and 1983 and was a co-founder of MSI. He drafted constitutions for MSI in 1983, 86 and 1990, and was elected President of MSI, first in 1983 and then five more times, to achieve a total of 13 years in that office until 1995. In 1984 he produced the MSI blue booklet containing the rules, constitution and general Masters information. This was widely distributed to FINA opinion leaders at the Los Angeles Olympics.

In 1985 he was invited by FINA to be one of the six commissioners on FINA/MSI Masters Commission that met at Caltech University, CA to establish World Championships and World Records for Masters. He was appointed the 1st Chairman of the FINA Masters Committee 1986-88. Nationally he conceived the structure for formation of Masters Swimming in Australia in 1975 and drafted both the National and States' constitutions



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He was National Secretary from 1975-81, Magazine Editor from 1976-78 and in more recent years was Director of Membership Development 1996-2000, a consultant to the Department of Veterans Affairs/Australian Sports Commission "Never Too Late" in 1999 and first a member in 1997, then Chair, and then Secretary, of the National Technical Committee, where he divided the old Rules into the General Rules and the Swimming Rules that aligned with the FINA/SAL rules.

His technical expertise is based on a long history of competitive swimming and working in key roles such as Recorder for the 2nd Pan Pacific Masters 1983, Chair of the Jury of Appeal for Pan Pacific Masters 1981, 1983, 1989 and the FINA/MSI World Championships 1986, 1988, 1990, Judge of Strokes at the Masters World Championships Indianapolis 1992, Referee World Gay Games Swimming Sydney 2002 and FINA World Masters Championships Perth, 2008. He was also Technical Director Swimming World Masters Games in Sydney in 2009.

He organised or/and consulted to swim meets since 1976 including the 1979 National Swim Meet, the Pan Pacific Masters Championships in 1981, 83, and 89, the FINA/MSI World Masters Swimming Championships 1986, 1988, 1990, NSW Masters Games 1998- 2004, the World Gay Games, Sydney 2002 and the World Masters Games, Sydney 2009. He was also Chair of the NSW Sports Federation Masters Committee 2000-2004.

