

# Proposed Amendments to the USMS Long Distance Rules of Competition

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## Housekeeping: Directly to Meg Smath

301.1 p 61 Long Distance Committee

301.1.1—Governing Bodies

The conduct and organization of long distance swimming for Masters shall be governed by USMS through its Long Distance Committee and LMSCs. The chair and committee members shall be appointed as provided in articles 507.3 and 507.3.1140.

**Rationale:** *HOUSEKEEPING correct reference.*

305.9. Club Scoring p 71 Long Distance Committee

305.9.1—Scoring

B Club scoring for the other national championships shall be point value for placing in individual swims. Points shall be determined as if the meet were swum in a ten-lane pool (~~11, 9, 8, 4~~ 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1) .

**Rationale:** *Lists all points to make it consistent with pool rules.*

305.11. All-American Recognition p 71 Long Distance Committee

305.11.1—The highest ranking USMS registered swimmer in each age group of each individual national long distance championship event shall qualify as a member of the USMS All-American Long Distance Swimming Team for the calendar year in which the event was conducted.

305.11.24—The meet director shall submit the name, age, club affiliation, time or distance, and USMS registration number for each competitor achieving All-American status to the Long Distance Committee chair in accordance with the USMS meet contract..

**Rationale:** *Makes the numbering more consistent.*

## **Rule changes requiring vote of LDC and HOD but approved by email:**

LD1 301.2.Registration And Sanctions p 61 Long Distance Committee

301.2.1—~~All swimmers competing in long distance meets sanctioned by USMS must be registered with USMS or their nation's recognized Masters swimming governing organization..~~

**Rationale:** *Delete 301.2.1 – this is already spelled out in Article 201 and referenced in Article 301.2.*

LD2 301.2.Registration And Sanctions p 61 Long Distance Committee

301.2.2—LMSCs are responsible for issuing Long Distance sanctions ~~or recognitions~~ for meets involving USMS athletes. If any meets are to be swum in more than one LMSC, the LMSC where the meet will originate will have jurisdiction in issuing the sanction ~~or recognition~~. This does not prohibit the other LMSC from also issuing a sanction ~~or recognition~~ for the meet.

301.2.3—A long distance meet may include both USMS and USA Swimming events, with the USMS events sanctioned ~~or recognized~~ by USMS and the USA Swimming events sanctioned or approved ~~recognized~~ by USA Swimming. Under no circumstances shall a USMS athlete and a USA Swimming athlete be considered part of the same event. Athletes holding both USMS and USA Swimming registrations must declare their race affiliation, in writing, prior to the start of the meet.

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**Rationale:** *There is no real value to recognizing a long distance event since times do not count for other USMS awards. The only possible benefit for swimmers is potentially liability coverage (and the implied USMS corporate liability exposure). In addition, the LMSC handbook only provides Long Distance Sanction forms. And, secondly USA-Swimming has Sanctioned and Approved events not Recognized events, however in USA-S Part 7 – Open Water, they only address Sanctions.*

LD3 302.6 p 63 Long Distance Committee

## 302.6. RELAY

Relay ~~teams~~ shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form. The ~~team~~ relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified on the entry form. The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made as soon as practical after the completion of the previous swimmer's leg. In the exchange in open water events, physical contact must be made between the two swimmers. In pool events, the exchange is governed by articles 101.7.3C and 101.7.3H. The meet director, with the concurrence of the chair of the Long Distance Committee, may allow special events in which members of an open water relay ~~team~~ need not be from the same club.

**Rationale:** *Team events are described in 302.5 and are different from relay events.*

LD4 303.1 p 64 Long Distance Committee

## 303.1. SAFETY STANDARDS

As conditions and courses vary, it is the responsibility of each swimmer to know and follow the safety standards necessary for protection from all foreseeable ~~as many~~ dangers ~~as possible~~.

**Rationale:** *Expands and clarifies the responsibility of the swimmer, as it deals with their personal safety.*

LD7 303.5.Finishes p 65 Long Distance Committee

## 303.5.1—In-the-Water

The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a defined finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. ~~Swimmers shall touch a vertical surface or swim across a defined finish line.~~ Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined by as the swimmer whose hand ~~whose hand~~ touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line first.

## 303.5.2—Out-of-the-Water

Swimmers shall leave the water, as defined by the course, and run up the beach to a marked finish line. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined by as the swimmer's ~~whose~~ chest crosses the finish line first.

**Rationale:** *Makes the language consistent with pool rules for in the water finishes and between the in and out of water finishes. Also, the order of finish language has been cleaned-up to allow the place judges to determine the order of finish, NOT "by the swimmer whose chest crosses the finish line first."*

LD8 303.8. Disqualifications p 66 Long Distance Committee

A disqualification can be made only by the referee, the starter or a judge within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Swimmers shall be disqualified if they:

**Rationale:** *State who is empowered to disqualify a swimmer, similar to pool rules (Disqualifications 102.15). We currently define what are the grounds for disqualifications, but we don't define who makes the call.*

LD9 303.8. Disqualifications p 66 Long Distance Committee

303.8.10— Acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue.

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**Rationale:** *Add language similar to pool competitions for out of the water unsportsmanlike acts .*

LD10 303.10. Incomplete Race p 67 Long Distance Committee

303.10.2—If a race is stopped and swimmers are removed from the water for their safety, the referee shall determine if the race is to be restarted, canceled, or considered official. If the referee determines the race to be official, then Article 303.8.2 may be waived and the order of finish of the swimmers on the course shall be determined by the referee.

**Rationale:** *Removes a possible conflict of incomplete race and disqualifications. As it stands now, if an incomplete race is considered official, all swimmers still on the course are disqualified. This allows the referee some discretion in allowing or disallowing the swimmers on the course.*

LD11 304.4. Seeding p 67 Long Distance Committee

304.4. ~~SEEDING~~-Multiple swimmers per lane:

**Rationale:** *304.4 deals only with multiple swimmers per lane not seeding .*

LD13 305.7. Rules Of Conduct p 70 Long Distance Committee

305.7.3—Officials

The Long Distance Committee shall appoint a meet evaluator to aid the meet director, to ensure that the event is conducted in accordance with the contract, and to ensure that all rules are observed.

**Rationale:** *This gives the evaluator the authority to evaluate the event for the clauses in the championship contract as well as what is defined in code.*

D14 305.9. Club Scoring p 71 Long Distance Committee

305.9.3—Divisions

Up to four divisions may be recognized for purposes of club scoring based on the number of swimmers entered in the meet from each club. The number of entrants from a club that shall constitute division I (~~extra very~~ large), division II (large), division III (medium), and division IV (small) shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair and the meet director after the meet entry deadline.

**Rationale:** *Extra large seems more like a shirt size, instead of a division size.*

LD15 305.10. Awards p 71 Long Distance Committee

305.10.1—National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded at least to the first ~~three~~ six place winners of individual championships in each age group.

**Rationale:** *We should mandate at least six awards per age group for our national championships.*

LD 17 302.5 TEAM p 63 Long Distance Committee

302.5.3E A swimmer who ages up during the duration of an event and swims the individual event twice may swim on two additional same gender and mixed gender teams in different age groups.

**Rationale:** *A swimmer who ages up and swims twice is allowed to enter twice and place in two different age groups. The same swimmer should be able to be on teams in different age groups. Renumber the subsequent section.*

LD18 305.2 EVENTS p 68 Long Distance Committee

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305.2.2A Team competitions shall be ~~recognized for quarter mile straightaway and~~ contested in postal championships and may be ~~recognized for~~ contested in other championships.

**Rationale:** *Team competitions have rarely been contested in the quarter-mile-straightaway events and they shouldn't be required. Additionally, recognized is inappropriate wording.*

LD 19 305.5 FINANCIAL p 69 Long Distance Committee  
305.5.1C A fee of \$1 per individual event in the meet, ~~which shall be paid within 7 days of the last day of acceptance of entries.~~ and a performance bond of \$200 shall be paid to USMS. ~~40 days prior to the start of the meet.~~

305.5.2 Complete financial statements shall be forwarded to the Long Distance Committee chair ~~within 60 days of the~~ after completion of the meet.

**Rationale:** *Deadlines are contract details that are best left to the Long Distance Committee. There are currently 13 such due dates in a typical championship time line, of which only these three are in the rulebook. A rule change is required every time one of them is changed in any way.*

LD 20 305.12 All-Star Team p. 71 Long Distance Committee  
305.12.1 - A swimmer shall earn points for a top ten finish in each long distance national championship event in the following manner: ~~1st 22 points, 2nd 19 points, 3rd: 17 points, 4th: 16 points, 5th: 15 points, 6th: 14 points, 7th: 13 points, 8th: 12 points, 9th: 11 points, 10th: 10 points.~~ 1st 22 points, 2nd 18 points, 3rd: 16 points, 4th: 14 points, 5th: 12 points, 6th: 10 points, 7th: 8 points, 8th: 6 points, 9th: 4 points, 10th: 2 points.

**Rationale:** *Provides greater spreads between finishes but still gives points down to 10<sup>th</sup> place.*

LD 21 305.12 All-Star Team p. 71 Long Distance Committee  
305.12.3 - If a swimmer scores points in one age group and ages up to another age group in the course of a year, the points earned shall be transferred up to the new age group. If a swimmer swims the same event in two different age groups, only the higher finish will be counted.

**Rationale:** *This rewards an individual for the higher finish but prohibits "double-dipping."*

**Approved by email as modified.**

LD 12 305.6 Entry Fees p70 Long Distance Committee

305.6 The entry fees for long distance national championships shall not exceed ~~\$25~~ \$30 for individual events and \$5 per team member in team events. Exceptions may be made to the fee limit at the discretion of the Long Distance Committee.

**Rationale:** *Some organizers are facing losses at the previous limit.*

**Email voting mixed:**

LD5 303.1 Safety Standards p 64 Long Distance Committee

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303.1.2—Providing accurate maps with course descriptions and other pertinent information, such as anticipated water temperature, general water conditions, and hazards with entry forms and meet information packets..

**Rationale:** *Provide more guidance on important information to include with the entry forms.*

**Email voting negative:**

LD6 303.1 Safety Standards p 64 Long Distance Committee

303.1.10—Gathering meteorological information and Informing swimmers of the anticipated water temperature, specific general water conditions, and hazards.

**Rationale:** *Provide more on-site information, to better inform the swimmers as to additional risks and other foreseeable dangers.*