

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2004 Convention.

R1 101.3.3 P.17 Oregon Modify

101.3.3 – Kick

All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs and feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. However, when the breaststroke or whip kick is used, the arms must be recovered over the top of the water ~~with each~~ prior to the next breaststroke or whip kick, except after the last such kick before the turn or finish. After the start and after each turn, if the breaststroke or whip kick is used, only one kick is allowed prior to the arm pull that brings the swimmer to the surface. A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rationale: The problem is the association of the recovery with each kick. A strict literal reading would lead one to conclude that two breaststroke kicks could be made in-between recoveries because the first kick could be associated with the preceding stroke and the second kick with the subsequent stroke. This rule has been interpreted this way at a local USMS meet, thus it is believed that this is necessary as emergency clarification.

Current wording leaves the sequencing to misinterpretation. Clarifying the sequence as proposed would eliminate the potential for misinterpretation. Specifying a sequence is done in breaststroke so doing so in butterfly would not be a unique solution nor precedent setting.

R2 101.3.3 P.17 Virginia Modify

101.3.3 – Kick

All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs and feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. ~~However, when the breaststroke or whip kick is used, the arms must be recovered over the top of the water with each breaststroke or whip kick, except after the last such kick before the turn or finish.~~ Only one breaststroke or whip kick is permitted per arm pull, except that a single breaststroke or whip kick is permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull. After the start and after each turn, a single breaststroke or whip kick is permitted prior to the first arm pull. A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rational: Several problems with interpretation of this rule have been noted at USMS meets and the wording has left the door open to some unintended interpretations by meet officials. Some scenarios have included the following:

1. The rule has been interpreted at several meets as allowing multiple breaststroke kicks off the wall after the start and turn.
2. The phrase “with each breaststroke or whip kick” has created some confusion. Some meet officials have interpreted this wording to mean that a breaststroke kick following by a downward butterfly kick would be illegal since the arms did not recover “with” the kick before the dolphin kick was initiated. Others have interpreted this phrase as allowing two breaststroke kick in succession since the first kick could be associated with the previous pull and the next kick could be associated with the following pull. Neither interpretation is consistent with the intent of the rule.
3. The phrase “except after the last such kick...” could be interpreted as permitting an underwater recovery on the last stroke into the wall when the breaststroke kick is used.

The proposed wording does not change the application of the rule, but attempts to clarify the intent.

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R3 102 P.20 New England Modify and add

102.1.1 – To be eligible for competition, swimmers must be ~~49~~ 18 year of age or over as determined by article 102.2.

102.2.3 – For swimmers that are younger than 19 years of age as determined by sections 102.2.1 or 102.2.2 they must be at least 18 years of age as of the first day of the meet.

Rationale: The change will help USMS reach out more effectively to incoming college students.

R4 102.1 P.20 Michigan Modify

102.1.1 – To be eligible for competition, swimmers must be ~~49~~ 18 year of age or over as determined by article 102.2

Rationale: A lot more people that are 18 years old are swimming in USMS on college campuses. Some of them can swim meets that are meters because of the FINA rule and can swim some recognized events. It does not make sense to send them to USA swimming for spring championships when they have been members working out with their masters clubs for the whole season.

R5 102.17 p 28 Pacific Modify

102.17. TOBACCO

Smoking and use of other tobacco products is prohibited on the pool deck, in locker rooms, in spectator seating ~~or~~ and standing areas, and in all areas used by swimmers, during the meet ~~or~~ and during the warm-up periods in connection with the meet.

Rationale: The current provision allows some ambiguity regarding the limitations of smoking and use of tobacco products. This modification removes any doubt about the intention of this rule. It is possible this modification may be considered as “housekeeping”.

R6 104.5.2 p.43 Championship Modify

104.5.2B Rotation of Meet Schedules

(4) The three basic schedules shall be chosen every 4 years, starting in 1990, by a vote of the House of Delegates, from at least four alternatives presented by the Championship Committee. The selected schedules will apply to the national championship meets starting with the winning bids the year the new schedules are chosen.

Other Articles that Require Changing: 104.5.2A Page 42:

A Meet schedules (~~2004-2006~~ 2005-2007)

Add 2007 Short Course to Schedule 3 and 2007 Long Course to Schedule 1

Rational: Currently, the host of the National Short Course Championship for the year following the selection of new schedules does not know the schedule of events until after the meet information is due for review by the Championship Committee. This often results in problems about deciding the best way to run the meet.

R7 104.5.3 P. 44 Championship Modify

104.5.3 – Event Limit

C National qualifying times

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- (2) **Event Limit**—When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying standards. When the Championship Committee deems it necessary, the exception will be that in a long course championship meet when the 1500 meters and 800 meters are swum on the same day, competitors may not enter the 1500-meter freestyle unless they meet the NQT for that event. Competitors may ...

Rationale: The Championship Committee need “a whole bag of tricks” upon which they can call when a long course meet is held in a suspected impacted area (high number of entries expected). This rule would allow non-NQT swimmers to enter a distance event, but will save time as these slower swimmers will be swimming 800 rather than 1500 meters.

R8 104.5.4 p.45 **Championship** Modify

104.5.4C Entry Deadline

- (2) **Relay entry deadline**—~~A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum.~~ The relay entry deadline is the day before the first relay is scheduled. Participants therein must have entered the meet by the individual entry deadline.

Rationale: Currently, the Host must enter relays into the Meet Management System the night before the relays are scheduled to be swum. This often requires the Host to work late into the night to enter all the relays. This rule change would ease the burden on the Host during the meet and also allow the team coach or team representative to set up relays by checking the meet program to see who on their team entered the meet.

R9 104.5.5 P.46 **Championship** Modify

104.5.5 B Distance Events

- (3) For any event 800 meters or longer, men and women may be seeded together by time only at the discretion of the Championship Committee. The exception will be that the final two heats of each of these events shall be one heat of the fastest women and one heat of the fastest men. Two-to-a-lane seeding shall not be used.

Rationale: The fastest men usually get to race each other, but the fastest female distance swimmers have expressed a strong desire to be able to compete against each other. These women are the only group that generally did not express support for swimming men and women together in the distance events.

R10 105.1.5 P.49 **Oregon** Modify

105.1.5 – Publication of Records

Results from events conducted in pools that do not meet the minimum pool length requirement (minus 0.00 meter) in all lanes used in competition shall not be acceptable for record applications or Top Ten submissions.

Rationale: If a pool has a lane that is known to be short and is therefore not used for competition, e.g. used for warm-up/warm-down only, it should be acceptable to accept times from these pools (and in fact, is being done).

R11 105.1.7C P.49 **Oregon** Modify

105.1.7 – Pool Measurement

- C** Where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed after the bulkhead is placed and prior to the start of competition and at the conclusion of the each session during which the time was achieved.

Other sections affected: Appendix B.

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Rationale: Once a bulkhead is placed for the competition, it is prudent to measure the lanes prior to the start of competition so that any problems will be recognized and rectified prior to swims being done. It is also necessary to measure the course length at the end of each day's session to ensure continued proper placement and adding the word 'each' clarifies that this must be done each day.