

PROPOSED CHANGES 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 2008 Convention.

Please note that many of the proposed changes are from review work done by the Rules Committee and are a matter of clarifying, reorganizing, maintaining consistency, and updating rules.

The real substantive proposals are R 11, R 18, R 21, R 30, R 31, R 35, R 51, R 52, and R 53.

Others of some substance are R 4, R 6, R 12, R 16, R 22, R 27, R 29, R 32, R 33, R 34, R 37, R 38, R 39, R 47, R 50, and R 54.

R 1	Glossary	page x	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Bulkhead – moveable end wall of a course.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 2	Glossary	page x	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Competition – an athletic performance by an athlete, either individually or as a part of a relay team or a club.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 3	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Leadoff – the first part of the relay event that is swum by a single team member.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 4	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Modify and Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Recognized Events Recognition – the written authorization of an LMSC for a designated competition conducted in conformance with relevant USMS rules, a demonstration, clinic or exhibition conducted by USMS member clubs, individual members or organizations other than USMS in which both members and non-members may participate. Times or distances achieved by members at recognized competitions may be accepted for recording purposes by USMS.

Rationale: Clarify the definition and match the definition of sanction. Recognized events are defined in 202.2

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R 5 **101.1.2B** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke Start

B All courses – The swimmers shall line up...or on the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, ~~or~~ placing the toes ~~over~~ above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited.

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 6 **101.1.2B** page 2 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke Start

B All courses – The swimmers shall line up...or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited. ~~A backstroke starting block may not be used.~~

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 7 **101.2.2** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Breaststroke

Stroke – After the start...on the breast. ~~It~~ The swimmer is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. (Rest is unchanged.)

Rationale: Makes it clearer that “It” refers to the swimmer.

R 8 **101.2.3** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Breaststroke

Kick – After the start...at the completion of the first arm pull. ~~Following which,~~ After the completion of the first arm pull, all movements of the legs...without alternating movement. The feet must...downward butterfly (dolphin) kick

Rationale: Original sentence is grammatically incorrect.

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R 9 101.4.2 page 3 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke

101.34.2

Stroke – Standing in or on the gutter, ~~or placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or curling~~ bending the toes over the lip of the gutter immediately after the start is not permitted. The swimmer shall push off on the back...head must have broken the surface of the water.

Rationale: To match the language of 101.1.2B and the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 10 101.6.3B(2) page 4 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Individual Medley Turns

(2) Backstroke to breaststroke – The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but ~~the shoulders must be at or past vertical toward the breast~~ when the swimmer leaves the wall the body shall be kept on the breast and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.

Rationale: To match the language of 101.2.2 and the FINA language.

R 11 102.13.2 page 13 **Rules Committee** Add new .2 and renumber the rest

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Change of Program and Postponement

.2 At the meet referee's discretion, events may be combined by distance and/or stroke provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events.

Rationale: Correspond with USA Swimming language.

R 12 102.15.1 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Disqualifications

A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Except for ~~the relay takeoff judges when dual confirmation of relay takeoffs judging is used as provided in article (103.10.5B) is used~~ and false starts (103.8.6A and B), the referee, stroke, turn or relay takeoff judge, upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.

Rationale: Add dual confirmation for false starts as an exception to the requirement for raising one hand overhead.

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R 13 102.15.8 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Disqualifications

Should a foul endanger...reswim the event. In the case of collusion to foul another swimmer, at the referee's discretion, the swimmer for whom the foul was committed may be disqualified as well as the swimmer doing the fouling.

Rationale: Clarify awkward sentence.

R 14 103.8.8B page 19 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Deliberate Delay or Misconduct

~~B Swimmers who fail~~ The Referee shall disqualify a swimmer who fails to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of their the heat. ~~shall be disqualified by the referee.~~

Rationale: Change to singular and more closely match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 15 103.13.1 page 25 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Official Time

An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules. It may be achieved in:

Rationale: Clarify that "USMS" modifies "recognized event" as well as "sanctioned event".

R 16 103.13.2 page 26 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Official Time – An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved...(e.g., a backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event, or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

Rationale: To clarify that the first one-fourth of the individual medley is also the initial distance of that event.

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R 17 104 page 27 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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ARTICLE 104: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

(Recommended for all other championship meets when possible)

Rationale: Clarifies the original intent that Article 104 is mandatory for national championship meets but recommended for other championship meets.

R 18 104.1 page 27 **Pacific** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Meet Categories

USMS national championship meets shall be awarded in the following categories and held during the following dates, at venues located within the boundaries of USMS:

Rationale: To assure that USMS National Championship Meets are held at venues within USMS.

R 19 104.3.1A page 27 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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A Solicitation of bids—The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of bids ~~and for each short and long course championship with emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country.~~ The committee shall present a list of all certified bidders for each short and long course championships to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting held more than one year prior to the meet being contested, ~~with emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country.~~

Rationale: Clarify the process.

R 20 104.3.1C page 28 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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C Bid information—The Championship Committee shall provide a bidder with the appropriate bid documents, financial statements, meet contract, and meet reports from previous championships, and all other information pertaining to the policies and procedures of running a national championship meet.

Rationale: Update the list of information provided to a bidder.

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R 21 104.3.1D page 28 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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D Bid deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be returned to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than ~~30~~ 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

Rationale: This will allow the Championship Committee time to solicit other bids if there are no qualified bids for either long course or short course national championship meets.

R 22 104.4.2 page 28 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Payments—An amount per entrant to be determined by the Championship Committee and stipulated in the contract ~~The amount of ten dollars per entrant~~ shall be withheld in the payment from USMS to the national meet host prior to the meet. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the meet contract, an amount the sum of \$3 per entrant shall be returned as stipulated in the contract. Noncompliance with said conditions, as determined by the meet evaluation committee within 30 days of the receipt of the final meet report, shall result in forfeiture of part or all of ~~this amount~~ the final payment.

Rationale: Clarify awkward language and remove set dollar amounts, allowing the Championship Committee to set those amounts as policy.

R 23 104.4.4 page 28 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Meet Evaluation Committee—A five-member meet evaluation committee shall be composed of at least three Championship Committee members, ~~plus~~ and two additional USMS members who are knowledgeable in championship procedures. No member of the protest committee, host club or host LMSC ~~may~~ shall serve on the meet evaluation committee. A written evaluation shall be submitted to the meet host.

Rationale: Change “plus” to “and” and “may” to “shall” (it’s mandatory).

R 24 104.5.1B page 29 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Warm-up schedule—A list of times when the competition pool and other facilities will be available for warm-up shall be provided in the ~~premeet~~ official meet information.

Rationale: Use the same term for meet information as in 104.5.1A(1).

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R 25 104.5.4A(1) page 32 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(1) USMS membership—USMS individual membership numbers and club names and abbreviations must be submitted on all entry forms together with entry times. “Pending” (except for 18-year-olds) for membership number ~~will~~ shall not be permitted. An 18-year-old must enter the meet by the entry deadline and must register for USMS membership prior to the first day of the meet. An 18-year-old may register for USMS membership at the championship venue on the day prior to the beginning of competition and must be 18 by that date.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall” because it’s mandatory.

R 26 104.5.4A(3) page 32-33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(3) Affiliation—A swimmer’s affiliation as stated on the entry form ~~will~~ shall apply throughout the meet. If the club on the entry form and the club listed in the USMS membership database do not match, the swimmer shall, prior to the first day of competition, submit a new USMS membership card showing the new affiliation. If there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer ~~will~~ shall be switched to unattached status for the duration of the meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall” because it’s mandatory.

R 27 104.5.4C(2) page 33 **Rules Committee** Delete and move

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(2) Relay entry deadline—A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum. Participants therein must have entered the meet by the individual entry deadline. ~~A fee of \$12 per relay as determined by the Championship Committee shall be charged for all each relays.~~

Rationale: Move last sentence to section on entry fees (104.5.4D[1]) and remove the dollar amount, allowing the Championship Committee to set that amount as policy.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

104.5.4D(1) page 34 **Rules Committee** Modify

Entry fees

(1) The Championship Committee shall determine ~~the~~ individual and relay entry fees.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 28 104.5.4C(3) page 33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(3) Postmark deadline—The meet director may establish a U.S. Postal Service postmark deadline seven days prior to the individual entry deadline. If a postmark deadline is established, individual and relay entries postmarked by a U.S. Postal Service office in the 50 states by midnight of that date ~~will~~ shall be considered on time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall”, mandatory.

R 29 104.5.4D(3) page 34 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Entry fees

~~(3) The meet host shall not be required to refund overpayments of \$10 or less. Any payments greater than \$10 may be subject to a processing fee of up to \$10.~~

Rationale: The USMS Office rather than the meet host takes care of refunds. This should become policy.

R 30 104.5.6 page 35 **Ohio** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Club Scoring

B Categories Overall Club Scoring – Club scoring based on the total individual and relay points earned by a club will be tabulated in three categories.

1. Women’s – women’s individual events and women’s relay events.
2. Men’s – men’s individual events and men’s relay events.
3. Combined – women’s individual events, women’s relay events, men’s individual events, men’s relay events and mixed relay events.

C Quality Club Scoring – Club scoring based on the average points per swimmer scored by each club will be tabulated as follows: divide each club’s total individual and relay points by the number of swimmers entered for the club. A club must have at least four swimmers entered in the meet to be eligible for the Quality Club award. Quality club scoring will be tabulated in three categories.

1. Women’s – women’s individual events and women’s relay events.
2. Men’s – men’s individual events and men’s relay events.
3. Combined – women’s individual events, women’s relay events, men’s individual events,

men’s relay events and mixed relay events.

D Overall Point Totals – The overall point totals for each club and the quality point totals for each eligible club shall be published in all results documentation.

Rationale: This will reward clubs in two categories. Overall Club Scoring will reward clubs that bring a large number of swimmers to the National Championship. Quality Club Scoring will reward clubs based on performance only (average points per swimmer) rather than club size. The Ohio LMSC has used this club award system for the last year and a half with a 98% approval rating from coaches and swimmers in the LMSC.

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Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

Article 104.5.7C – Awards page 36 **Ohio** Modify

~~**Team Club awards**~~ – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through ~~tenth~~ fifth place winners in the women's, men's and combined categories for both the Overall Club Award and the Quality Club Award.

R 31 104.5.6 page 35 **Pacific** Modify

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Club Scoring

B Categories—Club scoring will be tabulated in ~~three~~ two categories.

- (1) ~~**Regional Clubs**~~~~**Women's**~~—~~women's individual events and women's relay events.~~ For competition at national championship meets, a "Regional Club" consists of a club made up of those swimmers who represent a club at nationals, but at competitions within their LMSC, they compete for an entity or subgroup (such as a workout group) that is different than the one they compete with at nationals.
- (2) ~~**Local Clubs**~~~~**Men's**~~—~~men's individual events and men's relay events.~~ For competition at national championship meets, a "Local Club" consists of a club that does not qualify as a Regional Club.
- (3) ~~**Combined**~~—~~women's individual events, women's relay events, men's individual events, men's relay events and mixed relay events.~~
- (3) The Championship Committee shall publish a list of Regional and Local Clubs no later than February 15 of each year. A club may contest its designation by filing an appeal with the chair of the Championship Committee at least 45 days prior to the national championship meet.

Rationale: Provide a more equitable means of scoring the National Championships by proposing two scoring divisions and giving awards for combined club scoring only (1st – 10th) in each category.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

Article 104.5.7C – Awards page 36 **Pacific** Modify

~~**Team Club awards**~~ – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through tenth place clubs winners in the women's, men's and combined categories for two categories: the Regional Club category and the Local Club category. Points scored for a club will be the sum of all points scored by members competing for that club in events for men, women, and relays.

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R 32 104.5.7C page 36 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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C Team Club awards – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through tenth place winners in the women's, men's and combined categories.

Rationale: Change “Team” to “Club” since all other references to scoring at nationals are for a “club” (104.5.6).

R 33 104.5.8B page 36 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Publication of meet results–Meet results...hard copies and electronic files shall be sent to the chair and liaison for the Championship Committee and the USMS Records and Tabulation Chair or designee.

Rationale: The Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for Top 10 and records to someone else.

R 34 104.5.9B page 36 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Protest Procedure

B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual, ~~or~~ a relay team, or a club to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host ~~team~~ club by the protest panel chair or Championship Committee liaison. This panel shall be chaired by the representative from the Championship Committee. Protests shall be submitted in writing, heard by the panel and decisions rendered no later than the last day of competition. Both the party lodging the protest and the party charged shall be afforded a chance to be heard. The decision of the panel shall be final.

Rationale: More accurate description of eligibility protests. Part 1 deals with relay teams or clubs.

R 35 104.5.10 page 37 **Officials Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Personnel

(Section A is unchanged)

B Officials –

~~The minimum number of officials at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:~~

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~~One meet referee
One deck referee for each course
One administrative referee
One starter for each course
Two stroke and turn judges for each course.~~

The meet host shall appoint a meet referee and an administrative referee subject to qualification standards established by the USMS officials committee. A head starter shall also be assigned.

The following positions shall be assigned for each session:
one deck referee for each course
one starter for each course,
one chief judge for each course.

A sufficient number of stroke and turn judges shall be assigned in order to provide fair and equitable jurisdictions per 103.10.4.

In addition to the officials listed above, additional officials may be assigned in order to provide adequate relief for all officials during each session.

All officials shall be certified by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body in the capacity in which they are assigned. ~~An official may serve in only one officiating position during any event, except that during freestyle events 400 meters and longer, the referee and starter may double as stroke and turn judges.~~

C Other personnel - The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

Two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button and at least one timer using a stopwatch
One recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used
One safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed.

D Availability of Officials

In the event of insufficient personnel, the meet referee may modify or combine assignments, except that the deck referee and starter may not be the same person and lane timers may not operate two similar timing devices simultaneously.

Rationale: The current rule does not adequately describe the number of officials needed to run a National Championship meet.

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R 36 105.1.4 page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Required Information— To be considered for national Top 10 times or for USMS national records, ~~all relay times must include the name of the club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and, for mixed relays, the gender of each swimmer~~ eligibility For all individual ~~events, times and relay leadoff times~~ eligibility is are based on current USMS membership as noted on the entry card, and the results must contain the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card) and age of each swimmer. All relay times must include the name of the club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and, for mixed relays, the gender of each swimmer.

Rationale: List the individual information first followed by the relay information and include relay leadoffs in individual information since that is also for an individual.

R 37 105.1.7A page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

A The exact length of the course, measured for all lanes using a steel tape or other acceptable measuring device in ~~feet and inches and fractions of an inch, or in meters and centimeters~~ English or metric units, must be attested to by the person performing the measurements.

Rationale: To allow measurement in fractions or decimals (e.g., tenths and hundredths of a foot) in a short phrase.

R 38 105.1.7B page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

B A statement of the conditions under which the course was measured must be included as stipulated on the USMS Pool Length Certification Form (Appendix B).

Rationale: Add a phrase that directs one to the description of “conditions”.

R 39 105.1.7C page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

C Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved. **Note:** It is recommended that the ~~bulkhead placement~~ pool length be confirmed prior to the start of the meet.

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Rationale: Clarify that the initial measurement of a bulkhead pool must be for all lanes and that it is recommended to check the length of the pool rather than just the placement of the bulkhead.

R 40 105.1.8 page 39 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS national records shall be published annually in the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*.

Rationale: Clarify the frequency and match 105.2.1 which also uses “annually”.

R 41 105.2.2E page 39 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Top 10 Times (split times)

~~E The swimmer's~~ For a relay leadoff split time, ~~shall not count if~~ the second swimmer does not starts in the water.

Rationale: Parallel sentence structure with A, B, C, and D.

R 42 105.3.1 page 39 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.1 The fastest certified official time by a USMS member in each event in a USMS-sanctioned ~~competition~~ or USMS-recognized event competition shall be designated as a USMS national record. For Open Water Long Distance records, see Article 306.

Rationale: Add clarifying language and direct open water long distance swimmers to record information.

R 43 105.3.2 page 39 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.2 Records shall be achieved only in ~~recognized~~ distances and strokes as listed in article 102.5.

Rationale: To avoid confusion with recognized events as described in 202.2, pages 54-55.

R 44 105.3.4 page 39 **Rules Committee** Delete and renumber the rest

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

USMS National Records

~~.4 Times may be submitted for Masters records only.~~

Rationale: It is not within USMS's control whether a time is submitted or accepted by another swimming governing body.

R 45 105.3.6 pages 39-40 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

~~.6 The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 103.11, 103.12 and 103.13. Records shall require automatic timing, semiautomatic timing with three buttons or manual timing with three watches, ~~semiautomatic timing with three buttons or automatic timing.~~~~

Rationale: List the timing quality in order of preference.

R 46 105.3.7 page 40 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

~~.7 Split times shall be considered for USMS national records if: they meet the requirements of 105.2.2A-E.~~

~~**A** Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment,~~

~~**B** In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet,~~

~~**C** In a relay event or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the swim and~~

~~**D** The swimmer(s) completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.~~

~~**E** The swimmer's relay leadoff split time shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.~~

Such split times shall be included separately in the summary of results prepared by the meet director and submitted to the LMSC Top 10 recorder.

Rationale: Not necessary to repeat the rules from the previous page but keep the last paragraph.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 47 105.3.8 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.8 Records must be achieved in the relevant stroke/event (e.g., a backstroke record must be set in a backstroke event; or a butterfly record can be set in an individual medley event etc.). Records set in freestyle events can be submitted only as freestyle records, regardless of the stroke or strokes used.

Rationale: To clarify that the first one-fourth of the individual medley is also an initial distance of that event which could be an official split time (as in 103.13.2).

R 48 105.3.10 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.10 When a record is claimed, an official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials and transmitted immediately following performance with all supporting data, including official meet results, the primary printout tape and/or copy of the entry card with timers' signatures to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized. Responsibility for this lies with either the LMSC records chair or the official scorer of the meet. The LMSC records and tabulation chair shall send the supporting data to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee for verification. Upon verification, the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee shall promptly publish the new record on the USMS website.

Rationale: Add clarifying language, and the Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for records to someone else.

R 49 105.3.11 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.11 Records set outside the United States shall be applied for on official USMS record application forms (Appendix B) and are subject to all pertinent requirements.

Rationale: Add clarifying language.

R 50 105.5 page 41 **Rules Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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World Records

Applications and documentation for world records (25-meter and 50-meter courses only) shall be

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

~~supplied~~ submitted to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee as detailed in Appendix B (see also articles 103.13.3 and 103.13.4).

Rationale: Use more accurate language, and the Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for records to someone else.

R 51 108	page 47	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

ARTICLE 108: GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH ~~A DISABILITY~~ SPECIAL NEEDS IN USMS MEETS

Rationale: To align our organization with the current ADA language. If this is adopted, “Disability” will need to be replaced by “Special Needs” throughout Article 108.

R 52 108.1.2B(3)(c)	page 48	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Modifications

(c) Allowing the athlete’s assistant(s) on the deck, in the pool, or in open water ~~or in the water~~ to assist with a start- and/or a finish.

Rationale: Athletes with physical special needs may need help getting from the water to the start and or finish in an open water event, especially those with a running start or finish.

R 53 108.1.2B(3)(d)	page 48	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Modifications

(d) In an Open Water event, allowing the referee to assess the severity of the special need of a swimmer and to allow them to wear adaptive equipment they currently use in everyday life, such as a leg brace to stabilize a paralyzed leg.

Rationale: Swimmers with special needs may need to use their same adaptive equipment when competing in open water events in order to maintain body position, as long as such equipment does not provide them with speed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 54 108.5.1D page 49 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Start

D May need to assume a modified starting position on the blocks, deck, gutter or in the water to maintain balance.

Rationale: The added phrase appears in the USA-S rules upon which USMS Article 108 is based.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1 101.2.2 page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Separate into four paragraphs as follows:

Stroke—After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.

All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.

During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 2 101.2.3 page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Separate into two paragraphs as follows:

Kick—After the start and after each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. Following which, all

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or downward butterfly (dolphin) kick is not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly (dolphin) kick.

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 3 102.15.4 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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A swimmer must start and finish the race in ~~their~~ the assigned lane.

Rationale: Maintain singular throughout the sentence.

HK 4 103.2 page 16 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Certification of Officials

The referee shall be certified as a stroke and turn judge, starter or referee by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B).

Rationale: To help readers find the complete list of USMS-approved certifying bodies.

HK 5 105.1.6C page 38 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since the original certification.

Rationale: Add a missing word.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE 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 2008 Convention.

LD1 301.2.2 p. 57 OWLDC Modify

Membership, Representation, and Sanctions

301.2.2 Open water and long distance meets may include both USMS and USA Swimming events, with the USMS events sanctioned by USMS and the USA Swimming events sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming. Under no circumstances shall a USMS athlete and a USA Swimming athlete be considered part of the same event but they may swim at the same time on the same course. Athletes holding both USMS and USA Swimming memberships must declare their race affiliation, in writing, prior to the start of the ~~meet~~event.

Rationale: By holding simultaneous races, both organizations are able to utilize and offer their athletes the best resources of each. Since the rules are aligned, members of both organizations will be officiated in the same manner.

LD2 301.3 p. 57 OWLDC Modify

LIABILITY RELEASE

Entry forms shall contain the exact language of the liability release according to article 203.1. The following statement shall be added to the end of the release for all open water meets: “*Finally, I specifically acknowledge that I am aware of all the risks inherent in open water swimming and agree to assume those risks.*” The language ~~may~~must only be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC, sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or additional insured(s) following “UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC.” The liability release must be signed by each person prior to participation on race day.

Rationale: Due to the increase of online registrations, participants need to sign the liability release when they check in for the event to insure coverage.

LD3 302.3.1 p. 58 OWLDC Modify

OPEN WATER Straightaway Events

The course shall be a straight, measured distance, within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer. ~~The ends of the course shall be delineated by two fixed and stationary markers in the water.~~ Floats on the course shall be a maximum of 10 meters apart.

Rationale: GPS is not accurate enough. If *permanent* fixed & stationary markers are used, a course only needs to be certified once. If course has no permanent stationary markers, it must be certified by a licensed surveyor annual.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD4 302.5 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

~~TEAM~~ **RELAY EVENTS**

~~Teams~~ Relays are comprised of groups of swimmers entered in the individual swim-, except at the discretion of the Event Director. A ~~team~~ relay event may be contested on a total time/distance or point system basis.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: Some marathon open water events may be done as relays without entering the individual marathon distance.

LD5 302.5.1 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

Time/Distance Basis – A specified number of contestants on each ~~team~~ relay shall be considered in the computations for team scoring. The ~~team~~ relay whose top specified number of swimmers has the lowest cumulative time or the greatest cumulative distance shall be declared the winner. A similar method will be used to determine second, third, and subsequent places. In the event of a tie, the ~~team~~ relay with an individual member who finished nearest to first place shall be declared the winner or awarded the place.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD6 302.5.2 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

Point Basis – Points are awarded on the basis of overall finishing position, with one point for first place, two points for second place, etc. The points of specified ~~team~~ relay members are added, and the lowest cumulative score determines the winning ~~team~~ relay; the second lowest score, the second place, etc. In the event that two or more ~~team~~ relay score the same number of points, the ~~team~~ relay that has the swimmer who won or finished ~~closest~~ nearest to the first place shall be declared the winning ~~team~~ relay.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

LD7 302.5.3 p. 59 OWLDC Modify, Add

Rules Pertaining to ~~Teams~~ Relays

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

A All ~~team~~ relay members shall be from the same USMS-registered club.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: To ensure that a club is currently registered with USMS.

B All ~~team~~ relay members shall also be entered in the individual event-, except at the discretion of the Event Director.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: Some marathon open water events may be done as relays without entering the individual marathon distance.

C ~~Teams~~ Relays shall be male, female and mixed gender.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

D Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same-gender and one mixed-gender team relay event per meet.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

E The age of the youngest relay member determines the age group of the relay: 18+, 25+, 35+...
95+.

Rationale 1: To clarify that Open Water and Postal Relays are determined by age group, not the cumulative sum of the ages.

~~EF~~ 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~~ relays in different age groups.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: Renumber, Housekeeping

EG Mixed-gender ~~teams~~ relays may be entered, provided at least one swimmer of each gender is represented as follows:

Rationale 1: Renumber, Housekeeping

CHANGE HEADING OF COLUMN ONE IN CHART TO:

Total number of ~~team~~ relay team members

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

LD8 302.6 p. 60 OWLDC Modify, Add

302.6 RELAY FORMAT

Rationale 1: The title clarifies the relay formats available, and describes scoring and eligibility procedures.

A. Relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form. The 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 event~~ director, with the concurrence of the chair of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee, may allow special events in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

B. Event participants may swim simultaneously a portion of the total distance of the prescribed event then combine their times with other members from the same USMS-registered club to create a cumulative relay time for the complete distance. The gender representation in 302.5.3F is to be adhered to.

Rationale 1: To allow individuals who may not be able to complete the full distance, such as the 25K, to participate, thus increasing the participation of OW swimmers in USMS events. Having swimmers complete a

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

portion of the event, such as 5K, all at once, allows these relay swimmers to watch the rest of the longer individual swim and not to be forced to wait around for their individual leg of a 5 person relay.

Rationale 2: To clear the course of relay swimmers as early as possible, to allow solo swimmers as clear of a course as possible for the remainder of their event, and to allow officials and volunteers to focus on safety and the needs of the solo swimmers for the remainder of an event.

LD9 303 p. 60 OWLDC Modify
ARTICLE 303: CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS

Rationale 1: Clarification. An Open Water Swim is an Event, not a Meet.

LD10 303.1.2 p. 60 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.2 Safety Standards

Providing accurate maps with course descriptions, course markings, and other pertinent information, including but not limited to anticipated water temperature and general water conditions, with entry forms and meet information packets.

Rationale 1: To put course markings on the swim map is very helpful for swimmers.

LD11 303.1.9 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.9 Safety Standards

303.1.9 Considering use of fluorescent ~~orange and other~~ or brightly colored caps to assist in identification and visibility of swimmers in open water events.

Rationale 1: Since race buoys are often orange, event participants get orange cap colors confused with the buoys. Therefore our committee advises that colors other than orange are best.

LD12 303.1.10 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.10 Safety Standards

303.1.10 Informing swimmers of the anticipated water temperature, specific weather and water conditions, and known hazards.

Note: LMSCs are encouraged to ~~develop their own safety~~ use USMS safety guidelines and precautions for the conduct of open water and long distance events, as well as develop their own, provided they are not in conflict with USMS rules, policies or procedures. Visit <http://www.usms.org/longdist/safety.pdf>.

Rationale 1: Why ask event directors to reinvent the wheel when we've already got great resources for them to use??!

LD13 303.3.1 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
STARTS
303.3.1 Types

A Stationary—Swimmers start from a platform or in the water behind a marked lined (real or imaginary) with no forward motion prior to the starting signal.

Rationale 1: To prevent swimmers from jumping the gun or inching up on the starting line, especially in an in-water start.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

L14 303.5.1 p. 62 OWLDC Modify

FINISHES In-the-Water

The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a ~~defined~~ specifically designated finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line.

Rationale 1: To make it perfectly clear where the race ends.

LD15 303.5.2 p. 62 OWLDC Modify

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

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 303.5.1.

LD16 303.6.3 SWIMWEAR p. 62 OWLDC Modify

303.6.3 Wetsuits may be allowed in all USMS-sanctioned open water events, at the discretion of the ~~meet~~ event director. Wetsuits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wetsuit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wetsuit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.

Rationale 1: Because the OWLDC is aware that people wearing wetsuits are no longer allowed to be treated as non-participants because they represent a major area of growth to our organization. In most cases, these neoprene-clad souls would trade their eye teeth to go without but for whatever reasons they chose to look like shark bait, they want/need/can't live without it so by allowing this new rule, they can now wear their wetsuit in our USMS races and get a prize from USMS. Also, members of the OWLDC are getting tired of extracting naked, frozen people from the bathrooms where they are attempting to warm up by splashing themselves with lukewarm water from the sink and recognize that if these folks had been offered an opportunity to wear a wetsuit in their race, they would be having a much more fun time at this USMS event than experiencing hypothermia and swearing on their mother's grave to never swim in an open water race again.

Rationale2: This rule is leading our organization down the slippery slope to *The Sanitization of Open Water Swimming*. We have regulated water temp, hot hats, buoys every so often, swim suits that help us float, and more devices to take the element of nature out of the events, sort of like rock climbing with an elevator, so are we "purists" now viewed as the extremists in our sport, the on the fringe element? But on the other hand at least people are swimming and staying healthy, which is a wonderful thing for our society.

Rationale3: As purists spend time acclimating to less warm water temps and not spending time cycling 140 miles or running 26 at a stretch, do we get a motor on our bike? How about we start a "Buffet Event", similar to the 300IM: Pick a few choices you want and we'll all compete together. This could lead to the "All Gadget Olympics."

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD17 303.6.3 SWIMWEAR

p. 62

Verne Scott, PMS

Modify

303.6.3 Wetsuits may be allowed in all USMS-sanctioned open water events, at the discretion of the ~~meet~~ event director. Wetsuits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wetsuit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wetsuit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.

Rationale 1: Encourage more people to enjoy the benefits of open water swimming and especially senior folks.

Rationale 2: Provide confidence, safety and protection for swimmers and reduce the risk of hypothermia when the water has a low temperature.

Rationale 3: Provide equal and fair treatment and opportunity for all swimmers whether they do or do not wear a wet suit.

Rationale 4: The policy should include a provision that a wet suit should not be worn in competition when the water temperature exceeds a defined temperature.

Rationale 5: I believe that some of the comments against such a policy are from those who are only considering their own personal experience rather than what is good for the sport of swimming. My swimming background and experience, which serves as the basis for my recommendation spans 34 years under USMS rules, includes training and competition in pools and open water, Chairman of PMS, Vice President of USMS, and Executive Director of USA Triathlons. Your assistance in making my recommendation known to delegates of the Convention will be appreciated.

LD18 303.8.10 DISQUALIFICATIONS p. 63

OWLDC

Housekeeping

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

Rationale 1: Remove indent in 2008 Rule Book.

LD19 ARTICLE 304 CONDUCT OF POOL MEETS POSTAL EVENTS p. 63

OWLDC

Modify

CONDUCT OF POOL MEETS POSTAL EVENTS

Rationale 1: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts. Please see existing article 306.1.7 as an example of existing comprehensible wording.

LD20 304.3 OFFICIALS p. 64

OWLDC

Modify

304.3.1 There shall be at least one ~~an~~ adult acting in the capacity of a starter/~~head~~ counter/timer/referee (~~may be one person~~) who shall be present at all times, having no other responsibilities during the period of the swim.

Rationale 1: Better clarifies that only one adult on deck is needed during a postal event.

LD21 304.5 TIMING p. 65

p. 65

OWLDC

Modify

304.5 A stopwatch or electronic timing system shall be used to time the ~~meet~~ event.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 303.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD22 304.5 TIMING p. 65 OWLDC Add

304.5.2 *Splits must be recorded to the nearest second and tenth (or hundredth) of a second. Cumulative time is the primary split to record, lap split times are secondary.*

Rationale 1: Clarifies the expectation of what splits to record and the accuracy needed.

LD23 ARTICLE 305 NATIONAL OPEN WATER ~~LONG DISTANCE~~ AND POSTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 65 OWLDC Modify

Rationale 1: To clarify what events our committee presides over.

LD24 305.2.1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 65 OWLDC Modify

305.2.1 At the discretion of the Open Water Long Distance Committee, national championship ~~meets~~ events may be awarded in the following events:

Rationale 1: Housekeeping, making the language consistent with the title.

LD25 305.2.1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 66 OWLDC Add

I Other national championship events and distances may be awarded at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Chair.

Rationale 1: When excellent opportunities become available for the USMS membership, our organization can make the most of these events as national championships.

Rationale 2: Housekeeping

LD26 305.2.2 Team Events p. 66 OWLDC Modify
305.2.2 ~~Team~~ Relay events (as defined in article 302.5).

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD27 305.2.2 Team Events p. 66 OWLDC Modify

A ~~Team~~ Relay competitions shall be contested in postal championships and may be contested in other championships. Recognized ~~teams~~ relays shall be three-person male and female ~~teams~~ relays and four-person mixed ~~teams~~ relays (2 women, 2 men).

B Age groups for ~~team~~ relay events shall be the same as those listed in article 102.3.2A.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD28 305.3 SITE SELECTION p. 66 OWLDC Housekeeping
305.3.3 Events not awarded at the annual meeting may be awarded by the Open Water and Long Distance Committee chair.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

305.3.4 Suitable bids shall comply with all applicable USMS swimming and Open Water and Long Distance rules, policies and procedures.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

LD29 305.3.5 SITE SELECTION: p. 66 OWLDC Modify & Add

We would like to propose that we rewrite 305.3.5 and include this chart in Appendix D along with the site selection map and description of areas (as in the 2007 rule book, pages 159 & 160)

305.3.5 A three-area award system shall be followed for the bidding of non-postal Open Water National Championships. (See Appendix D for map and description of areas.) ~~Suitable bids from a qualifying area shall receive preference over bids from other areas.~~ Suitable bids will be evaluated on the basis of three criteria (1) in or out of a qualifying area, (2) the timing and venue of the Open Water National Championship in relation to a same year pool National Championship and (3) is the bid for a festival of Open Water National Championships or for just one Open Water National Championship. (See Appendix D for chart of the hierarchy of the criteria to be evaluated.) Postal national championships may be awarded to an organization for two consecutive years and will be awarded without regard to area.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF SUITABLE BIDS FOR OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Rank	In Area Bid	Out of Area Bid	Bid Tied to Pool NC (SCY or LCM)	Multiple OW NCs (Festival)	1 OW NC
1	x		x	x	
2	x		x		x
3		x	x	x	
4		x	x		x
5	x			x	
6		x		x	
7	x				x
8		x			x

Rationale1: We realize that we're thinking outside of the box a bit, but in continuing with the mission of growing USMS OW Swimming and utilizing tying an OW NC to a Pool NC and the festival idea as incentives and preference during the bidding process, we've designed a chart that represents a ranking system to evaluate bids for the OW NCs. Please note that the geographic rotation would continue with the in area and out of area criteria as outlined in 305.3.5 We believe that having a clearly defined criteria chart will aid the bidders in submitting their bids and in understanding the outcome of the awards of the bids.

LD30 305.3.5 SITE SELECTION: should follow p. 152 Appendix D OWLDC Modify & Add

We also recommend changing the titles of the map and the description of the areas

BIDDING AREAS FOR LONG-DISTANCE OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS

Rationale1: Clarification of what events are eligible for bidding areas.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD31 305.5.2 FINANCIAL p. 67 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.5.2 Complete financial statements shall be forwarded to the Open Water and Long Distance Committee chair after completion of the ~~meet~~ event, according to the championship forms provided.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: To clarify to event directors where their forms are located.

LD32 305.6 ENTRY FEES p. 67 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.6.1 The entry fees for open water long distance national championships shall not exceed \$30 \$50 for individual events and \$5 per ~~team~~ member in ~~team~~ relay events. Exceptions may be made to the fee limit at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping – two times

Rationale 2: To keep up with rising costs in our current economy.

Rationale 3: Until a procedure manual exists for USMS, we maximum entry costs need to be published as a source of guidance for race directors and bidders.

LD33 305.6 ENTRY FEES p. 67 OWLDC Add

305.6.2 Postal National Championships: The entry fees for the postal national championships shall not exceed the following amounts. Exceptions may be made to the fee limit at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee.

- A. One Hour Postal: \$6.00 per individual entry; \$15 per relay entry
- B. 5Km & 10Km Postals: \$12 per individual entry; \$18 per relay entry
- C. 3000-yd & 6000-yd Postals: \$12 per individual entry; \$18 per relay entry

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: Entry Fees and Host Profits are based on the number of event entrants.

Rationale 3: To avoid confusion, the entry fees for the two smaller postal events will be the same.

LD34 305.7.3 RULES OF CONDUCT p. 67 OWLDC Modify

305.7.3 Officials—In addition to the officials required by article 303.7, the following officials are required for open water national championship events:

Rationale 1: Clarification

[Comment from the Chair: Since all of Article 305 pertains to OW NCs and all of Article 304 pertains to Post NCs, I'm not sure we need this except that many event directors don't read chapter headings --it's that forest/trees thing. Adding these additional 10 characters will not create a new line, hence no additional real estate is required.]

LD35 305.7.5 Wetsuits p. 67-68 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.7.5 Wetsuits—Wetsuit competitors shall be ~~excluded~~ included for the purposes of articles 305.8 through 306.1, except where noted. ~~In addition, wetsuit competitors shall have a separate start time and a separate finish line.~~ At the discretion of the event director, wetsuit

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competitors may have the same start and finish line as all non-wetsuit competitors but may be started in their own separate wave. Wetsuit competitors shall not be eligible for All-American or All-Star status or any USMS individual or relay records.

Rationale 1: To grow OW Swimming in USMS and allow all USMS participants to earn an award. See 303.6.3 for further rationale.

Rationale 2: To clarify exactly what honors wetsuit swimmers are eligible for.

A The temperature parameters observed by USA Triathlon will be observed by USMS for wetsuit use in USMS-sanctioned races.

Rationale 1: From a safety perspective, just as hypothermia is a potentially serious outcome for some OW naked swimmers, heat-related illnesses ie: heat exhaustion or it's more serious continuum heatstroke, are potentially serious outcomes for wetsuit wearers in warmer temperatures. If we align ourselves with the current USA Triathlon temperature rules for wetsuit use, many of the wetsuited swimmers will already be versed in the rules and not be surprised if the water temperature dictated 'No Wetsuit Use' at a particular event. The current USA Triathlon rules are below for reference:

4.4 Wet suits. Each age group participant shall be permitted to wear a wet suit without penalty in any event sanctioned by USA Triathlon up to and including a water temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water temperature is greater than 78 degrees, but less than 84 degrees Fahrenheit, age group participants may wear a wet suit at their own discretion, provided however that participants who wear a wet suit within this temperature range shall not be eligible for prizes or awards. Age group participants shall not wear wet suits in water temperatures equal to or greater than 84 degrees Fahrenheit. The wetsuit policy for elite athletes shall be determined by the USAT Athletes Advisory Council.

LD36 305.8.1 RESULTS p. 68 OWLDC Modify

Individual results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women's results shall be shown first, followed by Men's results. For each swimmer, the following information must be reported in ~~this~~ the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:

A Age group place

B Swimmer's name (~~last name first~~, as it appears on the USMS membership card)

Rationale 1: Due to variation of individual USMS registrars, all USMS cards are not consistent

C Age on day of event

Rationale 1: Add and renumber subsequent letters D&E. Item 'C' was inadvertently omitted.

Rationale 2: With postal events, an individual's DOB may indicate an aged-up age, instead of their actual age on the day he/she swam the event.

D ADD DOB

Rationale 1: To have for historical purposes for USMS Archives, to be able to cross-reference for confirmation of identification (two people with the same name.)

Rationale 2: Renumber

DE Club (official USMS team abbreviation)

Rationale 1: Renumber

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E F USMS Number

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

(Ann is checking with Patty Miller to determine the need for this info; confidentiality issue)

FG Official time/distance

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

GH Special information (national records, overall place, place among men, Quality Points, etc.)

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

LD37 305.8.2 RESULTS p. 68 OWLDC Modify

305.8.2 ~~Team Relay~~ results shall be ~~tabulated~~ tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women's results shall be shown first, followed by Men's results, then Mixed teams last. Only non-wetsuited swimmers may contribute to relays. For each team, the following information must be reported in ~~this~~ the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: Housekeeping: typo

A Age group place

B ~~Club (official USMS team abbreviation)~~ Full name of Club and official USMS team club abbreviation

Team's full name (USMS club followed by blank, A, B, etc.)

Rationale 1: To clarify.

Rationale 2: To make the language consistent with Article 305.8.1C

C Official time/distance for the ~~team~~ relay.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

D For each member of the ~~team~~ relay, include:

1. Name, as it appears on USMS registration card,
2. Age on date of swim,
3. Official time/distance,
4. USMS number,
5. DOB.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: To have for historical purposes for USMS Archives, to be able to cross-reference for confirmation of identification (two people with the same name.)

E Names, ages, ~~and~~ official time/distance, USMS number, and DOB for each member of the ~~team~~ relay.

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LD38 305.9 CLUB SCORING p. 68-9 OWLDC Modify

305.9 CLUB SCORING

Club scores shall be officially tallied for national open water long distance championship postal events. At the discretion of the ~~meet host~~ event director, club scoring may be tallied for open water events.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

LD39 305.9.1 CLUB SCORING p. 69 OWLDC Modify

305.9.1 Scoring A Club scoring for the one-hour swim shall be based on total club yardage for individual swims.

B Club point scoring for the 3000/6000 yard and 5K/10K postal national championships may be calculated based on a predetermined formula, approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee, to fit the age group national record times for each gender. A preformatted spreadsheet containing this formula will be supplied to the meet directors, and is available at www.websitebobbruce.org

- 1. Description of club scoring in the entry information:** “Club Scoring: Club point scoring will be calculated based on Quality Points, which are ratios of each individual time to the corresponding USMS Record for the gender & age group. The faster the swim the more Quality Points a swimmer earns. Club totals will be the sum of the quality points of its swimmers. Since every swimmer will receive quality points, every swimmer counts!”

Process for determining Quality Points:

1. Include the swimmer’s personal data in the spreadsheet/database.
2. Include the following columns for each swimmer:
 - a. Time: The swimmer’s time expressed in hours, minutes, seconds, and hundredths of a second.
 - b. TimeSecs: The swimmer’s time expressed in seconds and hundredths of a second by formula.
 - c. Record: The USMS Record for the swimmer’s sex and age group expressed in hours, minutes, seconds, and hundredths of a second.
 - d. RecSecs: The USMS Record expressed in seconds and hundredths of a second by formula.
 - e. QPoints: Quality points are determined by dividing RecSecs by TimeSecs then multiplying by 1000, rounded to the whole number. Quality points are typically three digit numbers, but will be four digits if the swimmer ties or breaks the USMS Record.
3. See the attached sample spreadsheet (with examples) for cell formatting and formulae.

Individual Placement: Rank order of swimmers is determined strictly by time without reference to quality points.

Club Scoring: The sum of the quality points earned by each club (in individual events only) will determine ranking in the Club Scoring.

Results: The results MUST include both the swimmer’s time and quality points.

Rationale 1: To clarify to Quality Points for Postal Championships.

C 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 10-lane pool (11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

D Only non-wetsuit swimmers will be allowed to contribute to relay events.

Rationale 1: To keep the purity of open water swimming.

LD40 305.10 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.1 National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded at least to the first six place non-wetsuit winners of individual championships in each age group, and at least to the first three place wetsuit winners of individual championships in each age group.

Rationale 1: We are clarifying the number of wetsuit award places for which an event director will need to provide.

Rationale 2: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

A National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first ten place winners of individual championships in each age group of the One Hour Postal Swim.

Rationale 1: Since this event is the largest of any USMS national championship, we are keeping consistent with 104.5.7A, in reference to individuals. (See Rationale 2 of 305.10.2 for more info.)

Rationale 2: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

LD41 305.10.2 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.2 National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the members of at least the first three place winners of ~~team~~ relay championships in each age group.

B National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first ten (or six???) place winners of relay championships in each age group of the One Hour Postal Swim.

Rationale 1: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

Rationale 2: Since this event is the largest of any USMS national championship, we are keeping consistent with 104.5.7A.

CURRENTLY NO AWARD DETERMINATION EXISTS IN USMS POOL CHAMPS FOR RELAYS. I CROSS-REF'D 104.5.7, 104.5.6, AND 102.12.3. ARTICLE 102.12.3 ONLY REFERS TO SCORING, NOT AWARDS GIVEN. COMMITTEE CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED TO GET THIS CONSISTENT.

LD42 305.10.3 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.3 A USMS championship patch shall be awarded to each individual non-wetsuit champion and each scoring member of a non-wetsuit championship relay ~~team~~. An individual shall receive only one patch per ~~meet~~ event.

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Rationale 1: Wetsuit swimmers may only earn individual awards; we cannot mix and match relay teams with WS and Naked swimmers. At this point, it's a stretch for USMS to extend our OW boundaries to include ANY wetsuited swimmers.

305.10.4 Appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair may ~~shall~~ be awarded to the first, second and third place club winners in each non-wetsuit division.

Rationale 1: I sense a nightmare of scoring for already stressed event directors and wish to make this optional.

LD43 305.11.1 ALL-AMERICAN RECOGNITION p. 69 OWLDC Modify
305.11.1 The highest ranking non-wetsuit USMS member in each age group of each individual national open water long distance championship event shall qualify as a USMS Open Water Long Distance All-American for the calendar year in which the event was conducted.

Rationale 1: This will keep the playing field level and allow wetsuit swimmers to shed their skins if they want AA Recognition.

LD44 305.11.2 ALL-AMERICAN RECOGNITION p. 69 OWLDC Modify
305.11.2— The members of the highest ranking non-wetsuit USMS ~~team~~ relay in each age group of each national Open Water Long Distance Championship event shall qualify as USMS Open Water Long Distance ~~Team~~ Relay All-Americans.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping: separate onto its own line in the Rule Book.

Rationale 2: This will keep the playing field level and allow wetsuit swimmers to shed their skins if they want AA Recognition; to be consistent with 305.11.1.

LD45 305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM p. 70 OWLDC Modify
305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM
A USMS All-Star Team shall be selected each calendar year from the official non-wetsuit results of the USMS open water and postal ~~long distance~~ national championship events.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

305.12.1 A swimmer shall earn points for a top 10 non-wetsuit finish in each open water ~~long distance~~ and postal national championship event in the following manner: 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 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

305.12.2 To be considered for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three non-wetsuit events, of which one shall be an open water event and one shall be a postal event.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

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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. Only non-wetsuit results will be tabulated.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible.

LD46	305.12.5	ALL-STAR TEAM	p. 70	OWLDC	Add
<u>305.12.5 If a swimmer begins an open water event but does not complete it due to an individual DNF, his participation will still not count towards 305.12.2</u>					

Rationale 1: Only events that are completed count towards All-Star status. However, in the case of an event being stopped due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, safety issues, etc.), such an event would be counted.

LD47	306	RECORDS	p. 70	OWLDC	Modify
306.1.1 Individual <u>and relay</u> national records for <u>non-wetsuit</u> swimmers will be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway events (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (one-hour, 3000yard, 6000-yard, and 5- and 10-kilometer postal). Team <u>Relay</u> national records shall be maintained in all long-distance pool postal events. The records shall be for three-person male and female teams <u>relays</u> and four-person mixed teams <u>relays</u> .					

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible to set records.

Rationale 2: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts.

Rationale 3: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

306.1.2 Record times shall be swum in a sanctioned meet and shall be routed through the ~~meet event~~ host to the Open Water ~~Long-Distance~~ Postal Committee chair.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts.

306.1.6 ~~Long-distance~~ Postal national records may be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event if:

- A** The split is swum as an initial distance within a scheduled event,
- B** The swimmer completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and
- C** The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event ~~host~~ director at the time of entry in the longer event.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

D At least two dedicated handheld watches are used to ~~recored~~ document the record split.

Rationale 1: Better wording, more clear.

306.1.7 Split times from individual postal events may not be used as part of a relay entry

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

into a separate relay postal event of a shorter distance or for entry into a separate individual postal event of a shorter distance.

LD48 Glossary - Drafting/Slipstreaming **p. x** **OWLDC** **Modify**

Drafting/Slipstreaming—In an open water event, an individual swimming behind or next to ~~a single~~ another swimmer or support craft for the purpose of taking advantage of the reduced water resistance created by the former's wake.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD49 Glossary – Electronic Timing Chip **p. x** **OWLDC** **Modify**

Electronic timing chip is a miniature transponder in a specially designed housing, marked with a unique identification number. The transponder is a waterproof glass capsule that contains a silicon chip and an energizing coil. The chip, worn on an ankle strap, triggers the timing system when the swimmer steps on a timing sensor pad when exiting the water and records finish times and race numbers. It can be used in a wide variety of sports but may not be used an audible pacing device in swimming.

Rationale 1: To educate those who are not aware of this new device and how to use it.

LD50 Glossary –Escort Craft **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Escort Craft — Boats or paddle boards used for the swimmers' safety and logistical support.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

Rationale 2: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

LD51 Glossary – Event (Meet Director) **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Event (Meet) Director - The person responsible for the administration and conduct of the event.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD52 Glossary – Finish Point **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Finish Point — The physical location where the race terminates.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD53 Glossary – Grease **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Grease — A substance used by the swimmers to reduce friction or reduce the loss of body heat during a swim.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD54 Glossary – Open Water Swimming	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Open Water Swimming — any competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or oceans.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD55 Glossary – Medical Evacuation Plans	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Safety/Medical Evacuation Plans — Written plans for the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency or need for medical intervention.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD56 Glossary – Paddler	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Paddler — A person on a paddle board or manually propelled craft who supports a swimmer or group of swimmers.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD57 Glossary – Straightaway Swim (a.k.a Cable Swim)	p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Straightaway Swim (a.k.a Cable Swim) is any swim of any length that is set on a straight course.
(see 302.3.1)

Cable Swim is a straightaway swim on a ¼ mile cable, measured within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD58 Glossary – Turn	p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Turn— A point on the course where the swimmers reverse or change direction of the swim.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD59 Glossary – Venue	p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Venue — Geographical area and environs where ~~the~~ a swim event is conducted.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD60 Glossary – Wave p. xii OWLDC Add

Wave — The second or subsequent start used if the start area cannot accommodate all contestants at the same time.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD61 507.2.10 Definition of Standing Committees p. 87 SALLY DILLON PNA Modify

I just noticed this past weekend that the committee description for the OWLD committee doesn't seem to be what was approved last year. The "new" wording (which is also in the title for Part 3) does not give a true picture of the committee's responsibility IMO. The term "Open Water Long Distance" does not indicate well that there are other long distance activities that the committee governs (i.e. Postal swims).

I discussed this with Kathy Casey and she looked back through convention notes and says this: "I couldn't find "Open Water/Long Distance" anywhere in writing, but the final copy of legislation that came to the House for a final vote says "Open Water and Long Distance" for the title and the first sentence and that was approved. However, the "and" was left out of both in the rule book. The sentence about selecting sites for championship events did not have the words "open water" in it, only long distance and that's what passed the House yet "open water" is in that sentence in the rule book. So that's what I found. It would be a legislation change (emergency this year) to straighten out the description (pg 87)." I also believe a rule change will be needed to change the title in Part 3 (pg 57). The rest of Part 3 appears to use the correct wording.

**LD62 Articles 108: GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY
SPECIAL NEEDS IN USMS MEETS
p. 47 OWLDC Modify**

Rationale 1: To align our organization with the current ADA language.

If this is adopted, "Disability" will need to be replaced by "Special Needs" throughout Article 108.

LD63 108.1.2B3(c) Officiating Swimmers with Special Needs p. 46 OWLDC Modify
108.1.2B3(c) Allowing the athlete's assistant(s) on the deck, in the pool, or in open water ~~or in the water~~ to assist with a start- and/or a finish.

Rationale 1: Athletes with physical special needs may need help getting from the water to the start and or finish in an open water event, especially those with a running start or finish.

LD64 108.1.2B3(d) Officiating Swimmers with Special Needs p. 46 OWLDC Add
108.1.2B3(d) In an Open Water event, allowing the referee to assess the severity of the special need of a swimmer and to allow them to wear adaptive equipment they currently use in everyday life, such as a leg brace to stabilize a paralyzed leg.

Rationale 1: Swimmers with special needs may need to use their same adaptive equipment when competing in open water events in order to maintain body position, as long as such equipment does not provide them with speed.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD65 507.2.10 Definition of Standing Committees p. 87 OWLDC Modify
507.2.10 Open Water Long Distance Committee—The Open Water Long Distance (or Open Water & Postal) Committee shall oversee and administrate the USMS Open Water Long Distance (or Open Water & Postal) national championships. The Open Water Long Distance Committee shall solicit and review bid proposals and select the sites for the open water ~~long distance and postal national~~ championship events. The committee shall work in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and make recommendations to enhance the quality of open water ~~long distance and postal national~~ championship events. The committee shall maintain records and select the All-American Open Water Long Distance and Open Water Long Distance All-Star Teams. The committee may initiate and shall consider proposed amendments, and shall report them, with the committee's recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. ~~The committee shall maintain records and select the All American Open Water Long Distance and Open Water Long Distance All Star Teams.~~ The committee may interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee's jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1.2. The committee ~~shall~~ may consist of ~~the two~~ committee co-chairs and no more than 16 additional members, with at least one member from each zone. The Rule Book Coordinator shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The co-chairs chair shall serve as the USMS liaison to the USA Swimming Open Water Committee.

Rationale 1: We have clarified early in the definition what the primary function of our committee is, before all the many many other facets come into play.

Rationale 2: Moving the "records" sentence up one sentence earlier is more logical and does not split up the two sentences that deal with proposing amendments and interpreting rules, similar to the format of the descriptions for the Rules and Legislation Committees.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS LEGISLATION

ARTICLE 201

L 1 201.2.1 Zone Committee page 52

201.2.1 Annual Membership—Annual membership for clubs is from the date of registration through December 31 of that year; however, a club applying for membership on or after November 1 will receive membership valid through December 31 of the following year. An LMSC shall not place any restrictions on the formation of clubs.

Rationale: We have several LMSCs that have only one club, and have no provisions for registering additional clubs. This is going to be an issue when we allow online registration of clubs, and we need to make it very clear that LMSCs must allow the registration of independent clubs, and not force all to become workout groups of a single LMSC-wide club. This is not intended to affect any rules put forth by an LMSC to determine whether or not a club is eligible for a vote on the LSMC committee or can host events. For example, an LMSC may require a club to have 8 members to have representation at LMSC committee meetings, and that is not affected by this proposed rule change. We consider this emergency legislation because of the plans to allow club registrations online.

The club registration issue is emergency because of the desire to provide the capability for clubs to register online this year. We have had several LMSCs that we have had to push really hard to allow anything other than the megaclub to register. We want to make it clear that they can't restrict club registration.

ARTICLE 601

L 2 601.1.3 Zone Committee page 93

601.1.3 Legislation Committee—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2: Administrative Regulations of Competition, Part 4: Athletes' Rights, Hearings and Appeals, Part 5: United States Masters Swimming Inc. Organization and Bylaws, and Part 6: Amendment Procedures ~~and Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries~~) shall be considered by the Legislation Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.

add new section and renumber:

601.1.4 Zone Committee-Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries) shall be considered by the Zone Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.

Rationale: The Zone Committee is the logical body to gather information from all affected parties and provide a recommendation to the HOD regarding changed to Zone and LMSC boundaries. The Zone Committee is already working closely with LMSCs, and is in a position to research and advise the HOD on issues relating to boundaries. Zigzag boundaries create many problems, especially for online registration. We don't want a repeat of what happened last year, and the next opportunity for boundary changes would be next year.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS LEGISLATION

LD65	507.2.10	Name Change of Standing Committees	p. 87
	OWLDC	Modify	

507.2.10 **Open Water ~~Long Distance~~ & Postal Committee**— ~~The Open Water Long Distance & Postal Committee shall oversee and administrate the USMS Open Water Long Distance & Postal national championships. The Open Water Long Distance & Postal Committee shall solicit and review bid proposals and select the sites for the open water Long Distance and postal national championship events. The committee shall work in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and make recommendations to enhance the quality of open water Long Distance postal national championship events. The committee shall maintain records and select the All-American Open Water Long Distance & Postal recipients and Open Water Long Distance & Postal All-Star Teams. The committee may initiate and shall consider proposed amendments, and shall report them, with the committee’s recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. The committee shall maintain records and select the All American Open Water Long Distance and Open Water Long Distance All Star Teams.~~ The committee may interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee’s jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1.2. The committee ~~shall~~ may consist of ~~the two~~ committee co-chairs and no more than 16 additional members, with at least one member from each zone. The Rule Book Coordinator shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The co-chairs ~~chair~~ shall serve as the USMS liaison to the USA Swimming Open Water Committee.

Rationale 1: The name of this committee needs to reflect which areas of USMS events it presides over. The current name, “Open Water and Long Distance” does not readily address the national championship postal events, and where interested parties may find easily find information about them.

Rationale 2: If anyone reading this has useable ideas, we welcome your suggestions.

LD65	507.2.10	Name Co-Chairs for a Standing Committees	p. 87
	OWLDC	Modify	

507.2.10 **Open Water ~~Long Distance~~ & Postal Committee**— ~~The Open Water Long Distance & Postal Committee shall oversee and administrate the USMS Open Water Long Distance & Postal national championships. The Open Water Long Distance & Postal Committee shall solicit and review bid proposals and select the sites for the open water Long Distance and postal national championship events. The committee shall work in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and make recommendations to enhance the quality of open water Long Distance postal national championship events. The committee shall maintain records and select the All-American Open Water Long Distance & Postal recipients and Open Water Long Distance & Postal All-Star Teams. The committee may initiate and shall consider proposed amendments, and shall report them, with the committee’s recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. The committee shall maintain records and select the All American Open Water Long Distance and Open~~

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS LEGISLATION

~~Water Long Distance All Star Teams.~~ The committee may interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee's jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1.2. The committee ~~shall~~ may consist of ~~the two~~ committee co-chairs and no more than 16 additional members, with at least one member from each zone. The Rule Book Coordinator shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The co-chairs ~~chair~~ shall serve as the USMS liaison to the USA Swimming Open Water Committee.

Rationale 1: Due to the nature of the work load of this committee, in order to function properly, two co-chairs are necessary. One covers the open water portion of responsibilities and the other covers the postal events. In 2008, our committee oversaw 11 national championships from end-to-end. No additional budget or committee members are necessary.

Rationale 2: If anyone reading this has useable ideas, we welcome your suggestions.