

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 2012 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 substantive proposals are R 1-15 (Glossary), R 16, R 19, R 25, R 29, R 31-34, R 38, R 41-43, R 46, R 48, R 49-51, R 53-57, R 59-65, R 68, R 70, R 73-79, R 81-89, R 91, and R 93.

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R 1	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Add
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Action: Adopted

Arm—that part of the body that extends from the shoulder to the wrist.

Rationale: Define “arm” for purposes of interpretation of the over-the-water recovery in butterfly.

R 2	Glossary	page xi-xii	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted as Amended

FINA—Federation International de Natation ~~Amateur~~ (International Federation of ~~Amateur~~ Swimming).

Rationale: Correct the FINA name.

R 3	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Add
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Action: Withdrawn

Finish—the instant that a swimmer touches the wall at the end of the prescribed distance.

Rationale: “Turn” is defined in the Glossary but “finish” was not; consistent with USA-S language.

R 4	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Add
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Action: Adopted

Forward Start—an entry made while facing the course or a start made while in the water either facing the course or not facing the course.

Rationale: Clarify that a swimmer can face any direction during an in-the-water start.

R 5	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Add
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Action: Adopted as Amended

Medical Identification Item—an item worn by a swimmer that identifies medical conditions, emergency contacts or other information necessary to protect the health of the swimmer. Medical identification items are not considered part of swimwear.

Rationale: Clarify that medical alert bracelets are permissible under USMS rules.

R 6	104.5.4B	page 33	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted as Amended	Pulled
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B Entry form

(2) Distribution of entry form—The entry form for individual events and all meet information shall be published in ~~an~~ the official USMS ~~publication~~ magazine and on the USMS website at no cost to the meet host. Short course nationals information shall be published in the January-February issue and long course nationals information shall be published in the May-June issue. The individual and relay entry forms and any Championship Committee–approved additional information the host desires shall be posted on the USMS website after the entry form and information are available.

Rationale: Clarify that the intent of “an official USMS publication” (104.5.4B[2]) was the USMS magazine.

R 7	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

Scissors Kick—use of the top of the instep of one foot and the bottom of the other foot in the propulsive part of the kick.

Rationale: More accurate term as used in the rules.

R 8	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Delete
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Action: Adopted

~~**SCN**—Swimming Canada Natation.~~

Rationale: There is no longer any reference to Canadian Masters Swimming in the rule book.

R 9	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add
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Action: Adopted

Soft Touch—a swimmer’s touch that does not register a time at the point of contact with the touchpad.

Rationale: The term is not defined in the rules.

R 10	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Add
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Action:	Withdrawn
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Team—members of the same club who are participating on a relay (i.e., relay team).

Rationale: Define the term “team” in relation to “club” for purposes of the rules.

R 11 Glossary page xiv **Rules Committee** Add

Action:	Withdrawn
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UANA—Union Americana de Natacion, the FINA continental association for the Americas that oversees international aquatics competition within North and South America.

Rationale: Add definition for the FINA continental governing body/organization of the Americas for swimming.

R 12 Glossary page xiv **Rules Committee** Modify

Action:	Withdrawn
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USAS—United States Aquatic Sports Inc. affiliated to FINA as the FINA Member Federation for the United States of America and may choose to organize itself by delegations to one or more separate organizations the responsibility for particular disciplines (e.g., USMS for Masters swimming) and notifies FINA of the identity of each such organization and assumes all ultimate responsibility for the actions of such organizations.

Rationale: Clarify that USAS is the FINA member federation and has delegated responsibility for Masters swimming in the United States to USMS but assumes ultimate responsibility for the actions of USMS.

R 13 Glossary page xiv **Rules Committee** Add

Action:	Withdrawn
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USA-S—USA Swimming, Inc., the national governing body for swimming in the United States.

Rationale: Clarify that USA-S is USA Swimming and USAS is United States Aquatic Sports.

R 14 Glossary page xiv **Rules Committee** Modify

Action:	Withdrawn
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USMS—United States Masters Swimming Inc., the national governing body for Masters swimming in the United States.

Rationale: Expand the definition of USMS.

R 15 Glossary page xiv **Rules Committee** Add

Action:	Withdrawn
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Whip Kick—breaststroke kick.

Rationale: The term is not defined in the rules.

Action:	Adopted as Amended	Pulled
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101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, ~~or the edge of the pool deck or on the wall~~ before the command “Take your mark.” ~~Those Swimmers~~ starting in the water must take their positions on the wall with ~~must have~~ at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block platform and one foot in contact with the wall before the command “Take your mark”.

Rationale: “and maintain” is consistent with USA-S language and clarifies that a swimmer should not step forward between “Take your mark” and the starting signal. Use parallel language for the edge of the pool and in-the-water starts. Use “platform” as in the previous sentence and in 103.8.5A and C.

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

103.8.5 Start Commands

A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, ~~or the edge of the pool deck or on the wall~~ and remain there. Swimmers starting in the water must take their positions on the wall with at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and one foot in contact with the wall. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position (article 101.1.2).

Action:	Adopted
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101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.” Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block and may face any direction.

Rationale: Clarify that a swimmer is not required to face the course for a forward start from the water.

Action:	Withdrawn
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102.5 Events

In planning any meet, careful consideration must be given the demands to be made upon swimmers, officials and spectators, in that order. Meets should be planned to terminate within a reasonable period of time each day. Planning should provide for adequate meal and rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.

Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. Any of the following events may be conducted.

Rationale: Clarify that groups in USMS are age groups.

R 19	102.9.4	page 9	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest
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Action:	Adopted as Amended
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102.9.4 Swimmers who will be competing only in relays must be entered in accordance with the procedures in the official meet entry information.

Rationale: Clarify that relay swimmers must be entered in the meet and consistent with USA-S language.

R 20	102.10.1B	page 8	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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102.10.1 Seeding Principles for Masters Competition

B Age groups, and/or genders ~~and~~ as well as events of the same distance 200 yards or longer may be combined so that no swimmer has to swim alone and lanes may be filled.

Rationale: Clarify that combining age groups and genders applies to events of all distances, not just events of 200 yards or longer. Without the comma before the conjunction (i.e., age groups, genders and events), it appears that genders can only be combined for distances of 200 yards or more. Modify the language since the USMS Style Guide prohibits use of a comma before the conjunction.

R 21	102.10.2B	page 9	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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B Minimum number of swimmers per heat—When there are two or more heats there shall be a minimum of three swimmers or relay teams seeded into the ~~first~~ slowest heat. The fastest heat shall be filled first, then the next fastest heat, etc.

Rationale: Change “first heat” to “slowest heat” since seeding can be either fast-to-slow or slow-to-fast (not the intent to put 3 swimmers in the fast heat of fast-to-slow seeding).

R 22	102.10.4	page 9	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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102.10.4 Two-to-a-Lane Seeding in Individual Distance Freestyle Events

Rationale: Clarify that two-to-a-lane seeding does not apply to relay events.

R 23	102.11.3	page 12	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement (except as permitted in .4 below) and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may and should file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 24 102.11.3 page 12 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may ~~and should~~ file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 25 102.11.3 page 12 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

102.11.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. Electronic notice must be sent no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may and should file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: To allow for electronic notice.

R 26 102.11.4E&F page 12 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

102.11.4 Postponement or Cancellation

~~E Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet committee, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet committee on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee~~

~~(national championship meets). Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with article 103.17 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.~~

~~F Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with article 103.17 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official. Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet committee, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet committee on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee (national championship meets).~~

Rationale: Switch the text of E and F; consistent with USA-S language.

R 27 102.12.1A page 12 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap(s), and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.

Rationale: Clarify that more than one cap is allowed (USMS, USA-S, and FINA). Place a comma after “cap(s)” to clarify that a cap and goggles are separate items (FINA did not approve a cap with built-in goggles).

R 28 102.12 pages 12-13 **Rules Committee** Reorganize

Action: Adopted

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

A The swimsuits worn for competition shall be nontransparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

~~**AB** Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.~~

BC In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor extend below the knees.

~~**C** Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition.~~

D(1) Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

(12) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the U.S. Masters Swimming website.

(23) No exemption to these restrictions will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

(34) The decision of the Rules Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

~~**D** Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition.~~

E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil

applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Clarify that exemptions apply only to swimsuits and not to armbands, legbands, or other devices and to more closely match USA-S organization.

R 29 102.12.1E page 13 **Long Distance Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

102.12.1 E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, snorkels, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Both the Rules and Long Distance Committees have consistently interpreted the current rule to prohibit snorkels in pool competition. Snorkels are specifically prohibited in the parallel language of open water rules 303.7.2D and 303.7.3C. As postal swims are governed by Part 1 with exceptions as noted in article 306, 102.12.1E needs to clarify that snorkels are on the list of prohibited gear.

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

(R) 102.13.9 page 14

102.13.9 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, snorkels, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 30 102.12.1E page 13 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). ~~Goggles may be worn, and r~~Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Unnecessary language since goggles are specifically permitted in 102.12.1A.

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

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). ~~Goggles may be worn, and r~~Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 31 102.12.1E page 13 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: “Flippers” is redundant (with “fins”) and clarify that the interpretation prohibits neoprene caps.

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

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 32	102.12.1E	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted as Amended
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E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: A medic alert bracelet is a doctor’s note providing necessary information about life-threatening medical issues, and it must not be removed for competition.

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

102.13.9 No swimmers are permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medic identification items may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 33	102.12.2	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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102.12.2 Advertising—Products involving tobacco, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing ~~drugs~~ substances banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser’s name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 34	102.13.3	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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102.13.3 Any swimmer, coach or spectator who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue may be considered for appropriate action or penalty by the referee.

Rationale: Extend referee's authority to coaches and spectators.

R 35	102.13.8	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

102.13.8 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer(s), the referee may allow the affected competitor(s) to reswim the event. In the case of collusion to foul another swimmer, at the referee's discretion, the swimmer for whose aid the foul was committed may be disqualified, as well as the swimmer ~~doing~~ committing the fouling.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 36	102.13.10	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Withdrawn

102.13.10 Grasping the floating lane line/divider or side wall to assist forward motion is not permitted.

Rationale: More accurate terminology.

R 37	102.13.15	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

102.13.15 Approved ~~Underwater~~ video replay may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck. The official(s) reviewing the video may only confirm the call made on deck, overrule the call, or advise the referee that the review proved inconclusive.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 38	102.14.2	pages 14-15	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Withdrawn

102.14.2 Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization in any race shall be made in writing to the meet director or referee before the race is held, and if the meet committee deems it advisable, the swimmer may compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race. The meet committee shall immediately refer such protest to the sanctioning LMSC's officers (local meets) or championship meet protest committee (national championship meets; see article 104.5.9B) having jurisdiction for adjudication at the earliest possible time.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

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

102.14.5 Any other protest arising from the competition itself shall be made within 30 minutes after the race in which the alleged infraction took place. If the protest is not resolved immediately, the protester shall at that time file a written protest with the chair of the sanctioning LMSC or the chair's representative having jurisdiction

over the event. If the sanctioning LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest within 10 days, the protester may appeal in writing to the USMS Rules Committee chair within the next five days for final adjudication, whose decision shall then be binding on all parties.

R 39 103.5 page 16 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed by the meet ~~sponsor~~ host. The committee consists of a minimum of the meet director, referee or starter, and a participating athlete, as appointed by the meet director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: More accurate term.

R 40 103.6.1 page 16 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.6 Referee

103.6.1 The referee shall:

A ~~H~~ave full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them;

B ~~S~~shall enforce all applicable rules, ~~and~~

C ~~S~~shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; and

D ~~C~~ean overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action that the referee has personally observed.

Rationale: Reorganize so the information is easier to read.

R 41 103.6.2 page 16 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.6.2 The referee has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the referee does not make such a signal, there shall be no ~~penalty~~ disqualification.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 42 103.6.5 page 16 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

103.6.5 The referee shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage to ensure that the appropriate racing conditions are observed.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 43	103.6	page 16	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest
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Action:	Adopted as Amended
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103.6.6 When the primary timing system is stopwatches, the referee may assign two (2) additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes or may assign three (3) additional timers per lane to record initial distances for world records. The swimmer may request such additional timers for this purpose.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language. Clarify that additional timers dedicated solely to recording splits may be assigned to each lane in addition to the timers recording the final time. Splits can only be recorded by stopwatches for official purposes if the primary timing system is stopwatches. (Splits for USMS records can only be recorded by automatic timing.)

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

103.18.1

E When the primary timing system is stopwatches, the referee may assign two (2) additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes or may assign three (3) additional timers per lane to record initial distances for world records. The swimmer may request such additional timers for this purpose.

R 44	103.6.9	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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103.6.9 The referee shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to articles 102.10.3 and .4 when conducting events from alternate ends of a 50-meter course or conducting freestyle events longer than 200 meters two-to-a-lane.

Rationale: More accurate rule references.

R 45	103.7.2E	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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103.7.2 The administrative referee shall be responsible to the referee for:

E Publication and posting of results of each event by gender and USMS age group and scores (scores optional).

Rationale: Unnecessary term.

R 46	103.8.1	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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103.8 Starter

103.8.1 Equipment—The preferred starting device shall be a loudspeaker start system conforming to article 107.14, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all ~~manual~~ timers and for forward and backstroke starts.

Rationale: Unnecessary word.

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

107.14 Loudspeaker Starting System

An electronic sound-generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light or similar visual signal located on the starter’s side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to ~~manual~~ timers and deaf and hard of hearing swimmers (also see article 108.3). The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and final-lap signal option. [NC]

R 47	103.8.3B	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted as Amended
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103.8.3 Optional Instructions—The starter may:

A Announce the event (recommended),

B Advise the heat ~~when~~ that a swimmer will be attempting to achieve a time at an initial distance,

Rationale: Better language.

R 48	103.8.5A	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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103.8.5 Start Commands

A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall and remain there. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall ~~return without undue delay to the starting~~ take their positions on the wall without undue delay (article 101.1.2).

Rationale: More accurate description.

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

101.1.2 Backstroke Start

A Starting commands—At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear. At the referee’s first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall ~~return without undue delay to the starting~~ take their positions on the wall without undue delay.

R 49 103.8.5C page 18 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

103.8.5 Start Commands

C On the starter's command "Take your mark," ~~the~~ each swimmer shall immediately assume a starting position ~~with at least one that maintains at least one foot at the front of the starting platform; or at the edge front of the pool deck or on the wall.~~ A swimmer starting in the water must have at least one foot on the wall and at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

Rationale: Clarify that the swimmer's front foot is to remain in position and the swimmer should not step forward between "Take your mark" and the starting signal. (In the "old" days, USS swimmers had to stay at the back of the blocks and couldn't step forward until "Take your mark", so a USMS exemption allowed swimmers to step forward before "Take your mark" and get in position on the block right away, avoiding difficulty getting into a good starting position in time and avoiding a possible safety issue.)

R 50 103.8.5D page 18 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

D When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "Take your mark," the starter shall immediately release all swimmers with a command, upon which the swimmers may stand up, step off the blocks or leave the wall.

Rationale: Starters give a command such as "Stand", "Stand up", or "Relax" when releasing swimmers. It could also be a hand signal for hard of hearing. Regardless, the swimmers don't "relax", etc., until the starter gives a command.

R 51 103.8.7 page 19 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

103.8.7 Warning Signal—With the exception of relays and the individual medley, in freestyle events ~~500 yards~~ 400 meters or longer the starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus 5 yards or 5 meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each lane by a lane judge or timer in that lane.

Rationale: To allow a warning signal for the 400 meter freestyle (see 102.10.6A) since counters are allowed for that event.

R 52 103.10.6 page 20 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted

103.10.6 Infraction Signal—~~Either the referee or the stroke, turn or relay takeoff judge shall immediately raise one hand overhead with open palm upon observing an infraction within that judge's jurisdiction. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.~~

~~Exception: Relay takeoff judges as outlined in article 103.10.5B and the referee as outlined in article 103.6.2.~~

Rationale: This rule appears in 102.13.1 and this deletion is consistent with USA-S rules.

R 53 103.11.2A&D page 20 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.11.2 Head Lane Timer—The head lane timer shall:

A Determine whether the swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct lane, heat and event, and that relay swimmers are swimming in the order listed. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

B ...

C...

D Determine and report if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touchpad at the finish, or there is reason to believe the semiautomatic or manual times may be inaccurate. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

Rationale: To ensure that timers' duties other than timing are covered when overhead video cameras replace timers. In Omaha lane marshals and the Omega timing crew covered these duties.

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

103.11.3 Lane Timers—...

A...

B Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish to observe a touch above, at or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semiautomatic system button when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

R 54 103.17.2C page 22 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.17.2 Timing System Designation

C Tertiary system – Unless the primary system consists of stopwatches or the secondary system is a fully integrated video system or includes at least one stopwatch per lane, a tertiary system of at least one stopwatch per lane shall be provided.

Rationale: This rule change would make USMS rules consistent with USA Swimming rules regarding the use of video timing equipment. Last year at convention the HOD approved a one-time suspension to permit backup cameras, but the Rule was not changed since it was not a Rules year and this wasn't deemed an emergency. We are now proposing a permanent change to permit backup cameras.

R 55 103.17.3 page 22 **Rules Committee** Add and renumber the rest

Action: Adopted as Amended

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

D Fully integrated, overhead video system backup—If the backup system is a fully integrated, stationary overhead video system, the video camera time shall be the official time without adjustment in the event of a primary timing system malfunction.

Rationale: Provide for the timing capabilities of fully integrated, stationary overhead video cameras as a secondary timing system.

R 56 103.17.3B pages 22-23 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

A Automatic timing—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.

B Semiautomatic or manual timing—Whenever semiautomatic or manual timing is used, only valid times shall be used in calculating the official time. The times shall be determined as follows:

(1) If two of the three button times or two of the three watch times agree, ~~that~~ the time of the two buttons or two watches in agreement shall be the time for that timing system.

(2) If three valid buttons or three watches disagree, the time of the intermediate button or intermediate watch shall be the time for that timing system.

(3) If only two valid button or two valid watch times are available, ~~the time shall be~~ the average of ~~those the two buttons~~ button times or the average of the two watch times shall be the time for that timing system. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.

(4) If only one button or one watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system provided it is supported by other information.

Rationale: Clarify that buttons and watches cannot be mixed or combined to create a primary timing system (e.g., two buttons and one watch or two watches and one button cannot be combined for an official time).

R 57 103.18.1 page 25 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

103.18 Official Time

103.18.1 An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1F[1] for sanctioned meets and article 202.2.1E which lists rules that affect the validity of official times at recognized meets).

Rationale: Clarify the reasons for the two rule references, clarify the reason for the list of rules in 202.2.1E, and encourage LMSCs to read the list of rules for recognized meets.

R 58 103.18.2 pages 25-26 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

103.18 Official Time

103.18.2 Official Time—An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., 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: Delete the subtitle since it is also the title of the entire section.

R 59	103.19	pages 27	Rules Committee	Add
Action:		Adopted as Amended		Pulled

103.19.3 Other Meets

A Individual events:

four-lane pools: 5-3-2-1

five-lane pools: 6-4-3-2-1

six-lane pools: 7-5-4-3-2-1

seven-lane pools: 8-6-5-4-3-2-1

eight-lane pools: 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

nine-lane pools: 10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

ten-lane pools: 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

Individual point values shall be doubled for relays.

B LMSC Options—For non-standard meets the LMSC and/or meet host may establish the scoring point values to suit the format of the meet. These point values shall be stated in the meet announcement.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language and allows for other scoring options.

R 60	104.4.2	page 28	Championship Committee	Modify
Action:		Adopted as Amended		Pulled

104.4.2 Payments-Prior to the meet, USMS shall withhold from payments to the meet host an amount per entrant to be determined by the Championship Committee and stipulated in the contract. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the meet contract, an amount per entrant shall be returned to the meet host 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 the final payment.

Rationale: The 30-day period is misleading. USMS has 60 days to make this final payment to the Host after the host submits the Final Report. The internal deadline for the Evaluation Committee to facilitate this final payment should not be mandated by a USMS rule.

R 61	104.4.5	pages 28-29	Championship Committee	Modify
Action:		Adopted as Amended		Pulled

104.4.5 Meet Report – The meet director of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Championship Committee within 60 days of the end of competition. This report shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, final results ~~(an electronic file plus hard copy)~~ and any other information, lessons learned, suggestions ~~information~~ and any other information that may be helpful to future meet directors.

Rationale: The stricken language refers to the HY-TEK file, which we do not receive from the host (it comes from either the HY-TEK contractor from the meet or the Administrative Referee). Also, the written report needs to be better defined; for instance, it includes the “lessons learned” portion of this report.

R 62 104.5.2B(3) page 31 **Championship Committee** Delete and renumber

Action: Adopted

104.5.2 B Rotation of meet schedules

~~(3) Full days on the schedule may be interchanged so that the 400/500 freestyle and the 1500/1650 freestyle shall not be swum on consecutive days.~~

Rationale: It is policy not to end the last day with a relay or a 50, so this rule, if maintained, would need more information to stipulate that swapping days also requires not ending the last day with a relay and/or a 50. This rule impacts many other events: the 400 IM and 200 free must always be on Friday because the 500 free is on Sat/Sun which means the 100/200 IM must always be on Sat/Sun and the 50/100 free must always be Sat/Sun, etc., and many distance swimmers swim the 400 IM, so they still have “distance” events on consecutive days.

R 63 104.5.3C(2) page 32 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.3 Event limit

C National Qualifying Times – There shall be qualifying times approval of the House of Delegates.

(2) Event Limit – When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying standards. The Championship Committee may limit participation in either the 800/1000 ~~-meter~~ or the 1500/1650 ~~-meter~~ freestyle to only those who meet the national qualifying time for that event. Competitors may enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying time for those events.

Rationale: The current rule only permits this restriction for long course nationals to help with the timeline, however, short course nationals faces some of the same challenges and meet directors of both nationals should get the same options.

R 64 104.5.4A(3) pages 32-33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

A Eligibility/affiliation

(3) Affiliation—A swimmer’s affiliation as stated on the entry form 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. The swimmer shall notify the meet host of a valid club transfer prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes. If at any time there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer shall be switched to unattached status for the ~~duration of the~~ entire meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status only prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes.

Rationale: Give responsibility for notification of club transfer to the swimmer(s) in case USMS does not find an error(s) in club representation prior to the first day of competition. Searching for affiliation errors is tedious and cannot be done the day before the meet, so valid transfers completed at the last minute may be missed and only the swimmer would know about the discrepancy. Once the meet starts, a swimmer's affiliation cannot be changed, not even to unattached.

R 65 104.5.4B(2) page 33 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

B Entry Form

(2) Distribution of entry form – ~~The entry form for individual events and~~ All meet information shall be published in an official USMS publication and on the USMS website at no cost to the meet host. ~~Short Course Nationals~~ championship meet information shall be published ~~in the January-February issue and long course nationals information shall be published in the May-June issue~~ according to Championship Committee policy. The individual and relay entry forms and any Championship Committee-approved additional information the host desires shall be posted on the USMS website ~~after the entry form and information are available~~.

Rationale: 95% or more of the entries are now done online; of the 1864 swimmers who entered Greensboro, 72 mailed in paper entries (96.1% entered online). Championship Committee policy would require publishing in the magazine: 1) the order of events and 2) prominently placed information for ordering a paper entry form or for downloading it on the USMS website. Deadlines for publishing meet information in the magazine will be part of Championship Committee policy, eliminating the need to suspend a rule to change publishing dates (as was done for Omaha).

R 66 104.5.4C(3) page 33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.4C(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 shall be considered on time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.

Rationale: Relay deadlines are the day before the relay is scheduled to be swum.

R 67 104.5.5B(2) page 35 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

104.5.5 Seeding

B Distance events

(2) Willing and able competitors in the freestyle events ~~over 200~~ 400 meters or longer may swim two-to-a-lane when only one course (seven, eight, nine or ten lanes) is available for the event. Heats with two swimmers to a lane shall be completed before heats with a single swimmer per lane. Competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two-to-a-lane in these events if only one course is available and the meet day is projected to last longer than 12 hours. (See article 102.10.4 for principles of seeding two-to-a-lane.)

Rationale: Use language that is parallel to 104.5.5A(3), (4), and B(3).

R 68 104.5.5B(2) pages 35 **Championship Committee** Delete and renumber

Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

B Distance Events

~~(2) Willing and able competitors in the freestyle events over 200 meters may swim two to a lane when only once course (seven, eight, nine or 10 lanes) is available for the event. Heats with two swimmers to a lane shall be completed before heats with a single swimmer per lane. Competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two to a lane in these events if only one course is available and the meet day is projected to last longer than 12 hours. (See article 102.10.4 for principles of seeding two to a lane.)~~

Rationale: Swimming two-to-a-lane has not proven to be effective when used voluntarily – the timeline is not impacted by much unless all swimmers are required to swim two-to-a-lane. When swimming two-to-a-lane, two timing systems must be used and no splits are recorded. Also, two sets of officials and timers must also be in place. These are administrative burdens on the host and we now have other seeding choices to remedy projected long days (e.g. seeding more events by time, combining genders in distance freestyle events, deck seeding).

R 69 104.5.9B pages 36-37 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.9 Protest Procedure

B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual, a relay team or a club to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons. ~~The panel shall be composed~~ comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host 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, and heard by the panel, ~~and~~ Both the party lodging the protest and the party charged shall be afforded a chance to be heard. ~~Decisions shall be 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: Incorrect use of “comprised” (see USMS Style Guide). Change the first, overly-long sentence into two sentences. Correct the order of events by changing the original third sentence into two sentences and inserting the sentence about “affording a chance to be heard”.

R 70 104.5.10C page 37 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

104.5.10 Personnel

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. Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee shall make further modifications as appropriate and shall ensure that timers' duties in 103.11.2A and D and 103.11.3B are assigned to other meet personnel.

Rationale: Make USMS rules consistent with USA Swimming rules regarding the use of video timing equipment. Last year at convention the HOD approved a one-time suspension to permit backup cameras, but the Rule was not changed since it was not a Rules year and this wasn't deemed an emergency. We are now proposing a permanent change to permit backup cameras and to ensure that timers' duties other than timing are covered.

R 71 105.1 page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS, ~~AND~~ TOP 10 TIMES AND ALL-AMERICAN

Rationale: Article 105.1 is general rules for achieving times for all three categories.

R 72 105.1.1 page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times to be considered for records, Top 10 and All-American must be achieved in USMS sanctioned meets or recognized events.

Rationale: Parallel language similar to 105.1.2, .3, and .4.

R 73 105.1.2 page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

105.1 Requirements for Records and Top 10 Times

105.1.2 Deadlines—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times ~~must~~ shall be achieved and submitted as follows: ~~on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee by June 30, October 20 and January 26, respectively.~~

<u>Course</u>	<u>Times shall be achieved on or before:</u>	<u>Times shall be forwarded to Records and Tabulation chair or designee by:</u>	<u>Season</u>
Short course yards	<u>May 31</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>June 1 – May 31</u>
Long course meters	<u>September 30</u>	<u>October 20</u>	<u>Oct 1 – Sept 30</u>
Short course meters	<u>December 31</u>	<u>January 26</u>	<u>Jan 1 – Dec 31</u>

Rationale: Emphasize that the requirements are mandatory by using “shall”, and make the deadlines easier to see by using a chart. Explain that each “season” is one year.

R 74 105.1.6A page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.1.6 Pool Certification

A Record applications and Top 10 submissions shall not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USMS, ~~or USA Swimming,~~ or FINA.

Rationale: The USMS Records Administrator, Walt Reid, maintains a list of measured foreign pools for FINA World Records, and these should be acceptable for USMS Records and Top 10 submissions.

R 75 105.1.6A&B page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.1.6 Pool Certification

A Record applications and Top 10 submissions shall not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USMS ~~or USA Swimming.~~

B Pool certification shall be reported on the USMS Pool Length Certification Form (see Appendix B). USA Swimming verification of pool length certification will be accepted if it meets the USMS requirements for pool measurement (105.1.7B).

Rationale: “On file with USA Swimming” does not mean the pool is currently certified for length with USA-S. Their list includes pools that no longer exist, pools with structural changes but no recertification, and old certification forms that are no longer acceptable. A USA-S pool length certification form would be accepted if it meets USMS requirements, and a pool that is “on file with USA Swimming” would be accepted if USA Swimming verifies that it meets USMS certification requirements.

R 76 105.1.6C page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.1.6 Pool Certification

C Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes, including resurfacing, have occurred since the original certification.

Rationale: Clarify that resurfacing may also change the length of the pool.

R 77 105.1.7C&D page 39 **Rules Committee** Modify C and delete D

Action: Adopted as Amended

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

C ~~Where~~ If a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the length of the course must be confirmed by measuring the two outside lanes and a middle lane prior to the start of the meet and at the conclusion of each session.

~~**D** 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.~~

Rationale: Clarify that “confirmed” means physically measuring the two outside lanes and a middle lane, and combine “C” and “D”.

R 78 105.1.7 page 39 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Add

Action: Adopted as Amended

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

E If a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of FINA shall be the standard for events sanctioned by a FINA Masters member federation other than USMS.

Rationale: Currently, USMS members may achieve times in international competition that are acceptable for FINA Top Ten or FINA Records but may not be valid for USMS Top 10 or USMS Records because of different measuring standards for bulkheads.

R 79 105.1.7 page 39 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Add

Action: Adopted as Amended

F If a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of USA Swimming shall be the standard for Top 10 eligibility for events sanctioned by USA-S. The measurement rules and policies of USMS shall apply for dual sanctioned events.

Rationale: Meets sanctioned by USA Swimming are automatically recognized by USMS, implying that the facilities, personnel and procedures at these meets are acceptable to USMS. The measurement standards of USA-S and USMS do not match exactly: while USA-S requires measurements only for national records, it requires a qualified person for those measurements. It can be difficult to get measurements for USMS members at USA-S-sanctioned meets. The proposed rule strikes a balance between accuracy and practicality, eliminating the bulkhead measurement at USA-S-sanctioned meets for Top 10 but requiring it for USMS records.

R 80 105.3.9 page 40 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

105.3 USMS National Records

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

Rationale: Better word choice.

R 81 105.4 pages 40-41 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify and Add

Action: Adopted

105.4 All-American and All-Star

105.4.1 Individual All-American

The USMS member with the fastest listed time for an individual event for that season shall be declared the All-American in that event for the year.

105.4.2 Relay All-American

The USMS members from each relay team with the fastest listed time for that season shall be declared the relay All-Americans in that event for the year.

105.4.3 All-Star

The USMS member with the most individual All-American finishes for all three seasons in each age group and gender shall be declared the All Star in that age group and gender for the year. If two or more swimmers have the same number of All-American finishes, then points will be assigned to all the Top 10 rankings of the tied swimmers for the year, and the swimmer with the highest sum will be declared the All-Star.

Rationale: Although the existence and criteria for pool All-Americans are currently stated in the rule book, those for pool All-Stars are not.

R 82	107.2.3	page 42	Rules Committee	Modify
Action:				Withdrawn

107.2.3 Water Depth

A Starting end—

(3) In pools with water depth 4 feet (1.22 meters) or more at the starting end, platforms may be used and shall meet the height requirements of article 107.11.1. [M]

Rationale: Clarify that platforms may be used at this water depth but swimmers may start in the water.

R 83	107.6	page 43	Rules Committee	Modify	
Action:				Adopted as Amended	Pulled

107.6 Water Temperature

Water temperature ~~between~~ from 78 and 80 25 to 28 degrees Celsius (77 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit) shall be maintained for competition. [M*, NC]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S and FINA requirements.

R 84	107.10	pages 43-44	Rules Committee	Modify
Action:				Withdrawn

107.10 No Smoking Signs

No smoking shall be permitted in any indoors or outdoors ~~shall be permitted in any~~ area designated for swimmers, including spectator seating, standing and eating areas, and “No Smoking” signs shall be so posted. [M*]

Rationale: More concise language and change “[M]” to “[M*]”.

R 85	107.11.3	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify
Action:				Adopted as Amended

107.11.3 Size and Slope of Platform— The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than .50 by .50 meters (~~1-foot, 8~~ 20 inches by 20 inches square) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It

may have an adjustable setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent nonslip material. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 86	107.11.4	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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107.11.4 Backstroke Starting Grips—Starting platforms shall be equipped with firm starting grips located between .3 meter (~~42~~ 11.88 inches) and .6 meter (~~24~~ 23.76 inches) above the water surface. The front edge of the grips shall be parallel to and flush with the face of the end wall. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 87	107.11.6	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Adopted
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107.11.6 Stability of Platforms—Starting platforms shall be anchored to the deck or bulkhead to remain stable at all times ~~without human aid~~. [M]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

R 88	107.12.2	page 44	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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107.12.2 Size, Color and Safety—Dividers shall consist of contiguous floats having a minimum diameter of 5 centimeters (2 inches) to a maximum diameter of 15 centimeters (6 inches). The color of the floats extending from the walls the distance of 5 meters (16 feet, ~~5~~ 6 inches) for long course and short course meters, and 15 feet for short course yards, shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. Distinctive colored floats, or markers extending around the full circumference of the floats, shall be placed at 15 meters (49 feet, 2½ inches) from each end wall in both short course and long course pools. Damaged or broken floats shall be removed and/or replaced to the extent possible. [M]

Rationale: More accurate conversion.

R 89	107.13.1	page 45	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action:	Withdrawn
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107.13 Backstroke Flags and Lines

107.13.1 Design—At least three triangular pennants 6 to 12 inches in width at the base and 12 to 18 inches in vertical length, of two or more alternating and contrasting colors, shall be suspended on a firmly stretched line over each lane during all warm-up periods and during competition for all backstroke, individual medley and medley relay events. [M]

Rationale: State the expectation, particularly for warm-up periods.

R 90 107.13.3 page 45 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted

107.13.3 Marking at Midpoint of Course—~~For long course backstroke, individual medley and medley relay events a firmly stretched ¼ inch (7 millimeter) line without flags or pennants shall be suspended at the midpoint of the course. [M]~~

Rationale: No longer required by either USA-S or FINA.

R 91 107.17.1 pages 45-46 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted as Amended

107.17 Automatic Timing Equipment

107.17.1 Installation and Safety

Equipment shall be installed so that it will not interfere with swimmers' starts, turns or finishes or the normal overflow functions of the pool water recirculation system. All deck-level wiring shall ~~carry~~ be no more than 12 volts ~~of current.~~ [M]

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language and current is measured in amps not volts.

R 92 108.3.1 page 48 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

108.3 Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

108.3.1 Visual Starting Signal—Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal (i.e., a strobe light and/or starter's arm signals). The referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat (i.e., exchanging one lane for another) so that the strobe light or starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard starter's arm signals are shown in Figure 1. A recall rope (107.15) is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.

Rationale: List the reference so a reader will know where to look for information about a recall rope.

R 93 108.5.2 page 49 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

108.5 Physical Disabilities

108.5.2 Stroke/Kick—In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the referee and stroke and turn judge should follow the general rule that if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be in accordance with the USMS rules.

Judgments should be made based on the actual rule—not on the swimmer's technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other may have a nonsymmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule. No flotation devices should be permitted.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

PROPOSED CHANGES SUBMITTED AFTER JULY 1

The following proposals have been submitted after the July 10 submission deadline and will be considered in accordance with section 601.2.3 and 601.4.6 or 601.4.1:

601.2.3—....The Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or standing committees of the House of Delegates, may propose changes to the USMS code after July 10. Such proposed changes shall be considered by the committee of jurisdiction as emergency amendments as described in article 601.4.6, unless the committee of jurisdiction determines by two-thirds vote that the proposed changes should not be considered as emergency amendments. Such proposed changes will be amended in accordance with the voting requirements in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2, or 601.4.3, as applicable.

601.4.6—Emergency amendments (amendments not submitted in conformity with articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2 and 601.4.3) may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if they are properly submitted to, deemed an emergency by and recommended by the appropriate governing committee as defined in article 601.1.

601.4.1—In even-numbered years, Part 1 and the Glossary may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the Rules Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the Rules Committee.

R 94 104.3.4	page 28	Championship Committee	Modify
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Committee Action:	Adopted as Amended
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104.3.4 Bid Deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be ~~returned~~ submitted to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than July 1 (or the next business day if July 1 falls on a Sunday or holiday) ~~60 days prior to the annual meeting~~. If no timely certifiable bid is received, the Championship Committee shall continue to solicit bids.

Rationale: The Championship Committee now makes the selection typically 30 days prior to convention to allow winning bidders ample time to make travel arrangements to convention. This year there were 7 bids for the two courses. If the committee is encouraged to solicit competitive bids, it needs more time to evaluate the bids and interview the bidders. Rather than placing a deadline that is contingent upon convention, which fluctuates year to year, a firm calendar deadline will be easier to remember and not subject to interpretation. It is not clear if “60 days prior to the annual meeting” means 60 days prior to the first day of convention, the last day of convention, the first day the Championship committee convenes, etc.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1 102.12.1D	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

D Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case-by-case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

Rationale: Hyphenate “case by case”.

HK 2 102.12.1D(1)	page 13	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

(1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the ~~U.S. Masters Swimming~~ USMS website.

Rationale: Consistent with style of the rule book.

HK 3 103.5	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed by the meet sponsor. The committee consists of a minimum of the meet director, referee or starter, and a participating athlete, as appointed by the meet director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: Insert a colon, “...but are not limited to: ordering awards;...”.

HK 4 103.8.5D	page 18	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Withdrawn

D When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command “Take your mark;”, the starter shall immediately release all swimmers, upon which the swimmers may stand up, step off the blocks or leave the wall.

Rationale: Move the comma or period from inside the quotation marks to outside the quotation marks.

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

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall before the command “Take your mark;”. Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block.

103.8.5C

C On the starter’s command “Take your mark;”, the swimmer shall immediately assume a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall. A swimmer starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

HK 5 103.8.6B page 18 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

B If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter’s observation that a violation occurred, the ~~swimmer or swimmers~~ swimmer(s) who have false started shall be disqualified upon completion of the race in accordance with article 102.13.2.

Rationale: Delete unnecessary words.

HK 6 104.5.1C page 29 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.1C Heat sheets—For preseeded events, heat sheets listing the name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. For deck-seeded events, entry lists ~~listing with~~ the name, age, club and time by time or age group, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. If instead the host chooses to make heat sheets available for deck-seeded events, then the heat sheets for each day, except relays, shall be made available in the morning before those events are swum.

Rationale: Avoid “lists listing”.

HK 7 104.5.3C(1) page 32 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Withdrawn

104.5.3C(1) Altitude adjustment

	3,000-4,249 ft	4,250-6,499 ft	6,500+ ft
200 yards /meters/ <u>200 yards</u>	0.5	1.2	1.6
400 yards /meters/ <u>500 yards</u>	2.5	5.0	7.0
800 yards /meters/ <u>1000 yards</u>	5.0	10.0	15.0
1650 yards /1500 meters/ <u>1650 yards</u>	11.0	23.0	32.5

Rationale: Match meters and yards to the correct distances in the table.

HK 8 104.5.5A(2)&(3) page 34 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(2) Preseeded events shall be seeded, with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

(3) Events 100 yards/meters or less shall be seeded, with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

Rationale: Delete first comma in each paragraph.

HK 9	104.5.5A(4)	page 34	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(4) Events 200 yards/meters and longer shall be seeded by one of the following methods:

(a) by entry time only,

(b) by age group, the oldest age group first, slowest heats seeded first within each age group, then by time or

(c) by a combination of (a) and (b).

The ~~USMS~~ Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.

Rationale: Unnecessary word (“USMS”) and consistent with the style of this section.

HK 10	104.5.5A(5)	page 34	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(5) The last heat shall be composed of the swimmers with the fastest submitted times, the next to last heat composed of the next fastest swimmers, etc. (Note exception provided in article 104.5.5A{9}).

Rationale: Enclose the parenthetical phrase correctly at the end of (5).

HK 11	105.1.1	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Withdrawn

105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times must be achieved in USMS-sanctioned meets or USMS-recognized events.

Rationale: Hyphenate the modifier, “USMS-sanctioned”, and add “USMS-” to “recognized” as a modifier.

HK 12	105.2.2B&C	page 39	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

105.2 Top 10 Times

105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:

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 in writing 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 in writing 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.

Rationale: Move the phrase “in writing”.

HK 13	105.3.5	page 40	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

105.3 USMS National Records

105.3.5 The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 103.11, ~~103.12~~ 103.17 and 103.18. Records shall require automatic timing, semiautomatic timing with three buttons or manual timing with three watches.

Rationale: Correct error in reference number.

HK 14	107.9.1	page 43	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

107.9 Lighting

107.9.1 Illumination—For indoor pools, 100 foot-candle illumination level is required at the water surface over the entire course. Overhead light fixtures shall be located to avoid the casting of shadows by the pool walls over the racing course. [M*, NC]

Rationale: “footcandle” needs to be hyphenated (“foot-candle”).

HK 15	107.15	page 45	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

107.15 Recall Device

A device to recall swimmers shall be provided. If a recall rope is used, it shall be placed at the midpoint of the course in long course facilities and at the turn end backstroke flags in short course facilities. The rope shall be attached to vertical stanchions with a quick-release mechanism and shall be suspended at least 4 feet (1.22 meters) above the water surface at the lowest point. [M*]

Rationale: Add “a” to “quick-release mechanism”.

HK 16	108.1.2	page 47	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted

108.1.2 Responsibilities

A Athlete Swimmer—The ~~athlete~~ swimmer (or the ~~athlete's~~ swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the ~~athlete~~ swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

B Referee—The referee's responsibilities include:

(1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and can be met.

(2) Instructing the starter and stroke and turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

(3) **Modifications**—Aids to buoyancy and speed are not allowed (see article 102.12.1E and 102.13.9). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the ~~athlete~~ swimmer with a disability are:

(a) A change in starting position.

(b) Reassignment of lanes within a heat (e.g., exchanging lanes two and seven).

(c) Allowing the ~~athlete~~ swimmer to have a personal assistant(s).

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

Rationale: Change “athlete” to “swimmer”; consistent with the rest of article 108 and with USA-S language.