

## 2012 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES & USA-S RULE CHANGES IN RULE BOOK ORDER

Rules with multiple changes are shown once with all changes incorporated and all “R” numbers noted.

### GLOSSARY

**R 1 Arm**—that part of the body that extends from the shoulder to the wrist.

**R 2 FINA**—Federation International de Natation ~~Amateur~~ (International Federation of ~~Amateur~~ Swimming).

**R 4 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.

**R 5 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.

**R 7 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.

**R 8 SCN**—~~Swimming Canada Natation.~~

**R 9 Soft Touch**—a swimmer’s touch that does not register a time at the point of contact with the touchpad.

### ARTICLE 101

#### R 16, R 17, R 48

**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.”. ~~These 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” and may face any direction.

#### R 48

##### 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.

### ARTICLE 102

#### R 19 102.9.4

**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.**

**R 20 102.10.1B**

**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.

**R 21 102.10.2B**

**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.

**R 24, R 25 102.11.3**

**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

**R 26 102.11.4E&F**

**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).~~

**R 27, R 28, R 29, R 31, R 32, HK 1, HK 2 102.12**

**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(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.

**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~~ USMS 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, snorkels, neoprene caps, 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.

### **R 33 102.12.2**

**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.

### **U 5 102.13.2**

**102.13.2** The referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or the swimmer's coach and inform one or both as to the reason for the disqualification.

Failure to notify does not negate the disqualification.

### **R 35 102.13.8**

**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.

### **R 29, R 31, R 32 102.13.9**

**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, neoprene caps, 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.

### **R 37 102.13.15**

**102.13.15** Approved ~~U~~nderwater 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.

## **ARTICLE 103**

### **R 39, HK 3 103.5**

### **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.

### **R 40 103.6.1**

#### **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~~hall enforce all applicable rules, ~~and~~

C ~~S~~hall 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~~an 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.

### **R 41 103.6.2**

**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.

### **R 43 103.6.6** Add and renumber the rest

**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.

### **R 44 103.6.9** (will be 103.6.10 because of R 43)

**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.

### **R 45 103.7.2E**

**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).

### **R 47 103.8.3B**

**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,

### **R 16, R 48**

#### **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~~ take their positions on the wall without undue delay (article 101.1.2).

**R 49 103.8.5C**

**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.

**HK 5 103.8.6B**

**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.

**R 52 103.10.6**

**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.~~

**R 53 103.11.2A&D**

**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.

**R 53 103.11.3**

**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**

**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.

**R 55, R 56 103.17.3**

**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.

Add and renumber the rest

**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.

**R 43**

**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 58 103.18.2**

**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.

**R 59 103.19**

**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.

## **ARTICLE 104**

### **R 94 104.3.4**

**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.

### **R 60 104.4.2**

**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

### **R 61 104.4.5**

**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.

### **HK 6 104.5.1C**

**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.

### **R 62 104.5.2B(3)**

Delete and renumber

#### **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.~~

**R 63 104.5.3C(2)**

**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.

**R 64 104.5.4A(3)**

**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.

**R 6, R 65 104.5.4B(2)**

**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~~ championship meet information shall be published ~~in the January-February issue and~~ according to Championship Committee policy. ~~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.~~

**R 66 104.5.4C(3)**

**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.

**HK 8, HK 9, HK 10 104.5.5A(2), (3), (4), & (5)**

**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.

(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.

(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]).

**R 68 104.5.5B(2)**

Delete and renumber

**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 one 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.)~~

**R 69 104.5.9B**

**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.

**R 70 104.5.10C**

**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.

**ARTICLE 105**

**R 71 105.1**

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

**R 72 105.1.1**

**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.

**R 73 105.1.2**

**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>
<u>Short course yards</u>	<u>May 31</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>June 1 – May 31</u>
<u>Long course meters</u>	<u>September 30</u>	<u>October 20</u>	<u>Oct 1 – Sept 30</u>
<u>Short course meters</u>	<u>December 31</u>	<u>January 26</u>	<u>Jan 1 – Dec 31</u>

**R 74, R 75, R 76 105.1.6**

**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.~~

**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).

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

**R 77, R 78, R 79 105.1.7**

**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.~~

**D** 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.

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 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.

**HK 12 105.2.2B&C**

**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.

**HK 13 105.3.5**

**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.

**R 80 105.3.9**

**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.

**R 81 105.4**

**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.

**ARTICLE 107**

**R 83 107.6**

**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]

**HK 14 107.9.1**

**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]

**R 85 107.11.3**

**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]

**R 87 107.11.6**

**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]

**R 90 107.13.3**

**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]

**HK 15 107.15**

**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\*]

**R 91 107.17.1**

**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]

**ARTICLE 108**

**HK 16 108.1.2**

**108.1.2 Responsibilities**

**A Athlete Swimmer**—The ~~athlete swimmer~~ swimmer (or the ~~athlete's swimmer's~~ swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the ~~athlete swimmer~~ 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).

## U 6 108.3 and 108.5

### 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 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.

**108.3.2 Strobe Light Location**—The starter shall advise the swimmers about the location of the strobe light and the light shall be located where the swimmers

*See Attachments for revised illustrations*

**Figure 1.** Standard starter’s arm signals for deaf swimmers.

- 1A. Twist hand at chin level—short whistles
- 2B. Arm overhead—swimmer steps onto starting block
- 3C. Arm moves to shoulder level—signal to “take your mark”
- 4D. Arm moves to side of body—starting signal

*Add a new Figure 2 to include two additional backstroke hand signals as detailed in the attached with the following verbiage; renumber remaining figures and put the microphone to the starter’s mouth in figure E.*

### **FIGURE 2 (new) Signals for Backstroke**

- A Twist hand at chin level – short whistles
- B Arm overhead — swimmer enters water
- C Drop arm to side—while swimmer enters water
- D Arm overhead—swimmer returns to backstroke start position
- E Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to “take your mark”
- F Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

## 108.5 PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

*Revise Figure 2(now will be Figure 3) by using the swimmer’s kneeling position on the block in the third illustration for the illustration on the deck as swimmers cannot put their feet in the gutter. The Figure for “Assisted on block or deck forward start” will be included with Figure 3 in the order it currently appears in the USMS Rule Book. (The language in those illustrations is USA-S language. USMS does not include that language in its illustrations.)*