

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2008 Convention.

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

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

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

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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Bulkhead – moveable end wall of a course.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

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Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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

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

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

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled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

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

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

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

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

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

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rationale: Original sentence is grammatically incorrect.

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

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

101.34.2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rationale: Correspond with USA Swimming language.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rationale: Clarify awkward sentence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Recommended for all other championship meets when possible)

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

R 18 104.1	page 27	Pacific	Add				
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Meet Categories

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

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

R 19 104.3.1A	page 27	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

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

Rationale: Clarify the process.

R 20 104.3.1C	page 28	Rules Committee	Add				
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

C Bid information—The Championship Committee shall provide a bidder with the appropriate bid documents, financial statements, meet contract, and meet reports from previous championships, and all other information pertaining to the policies and procedures of running a national championship meet.

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

R 21 104.3.1D	page 28	Championship Committee	Modify				
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

D Bid deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be returned to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than ~~30~~ 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R 30	104.5.6	page 35	Ohio	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Club Scoring

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R 31	104.5.6	page 35	Pacific	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Club Scoring

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Section A is unchanged)

B Officials –

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

~~One meet referee~~

~~One deck referee for each course~~

~~One administrative referee~~

~~One starter for each course~~

~~Two stroke and turn judges for each course.~~

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

The following positions shall be assigned for each session:

one deck referee for each course

one starter for each course,

one chief judge for each course.

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

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

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

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

Two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button and at least one timer using a stopwatch

One recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used

One safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

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

D Availability of Officials

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

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

R 36	105.1.4	page 38	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

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

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

R 37	105.1.7A	page 38	Records and Tabulation Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Pool Measurement

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

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

R 38	105.1.7B	page 38	Records and Tabulation Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Pool Measurement

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

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

R 39	105.1.7C	page 38	Records and Tabulation Committee	Modify and add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Pool Measurement

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

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

R 40	105.1.8	page 39	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

USMS national records shall be published annually in the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*.

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

R 41	105.2.2E	page 39	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Top 10 Times (split times)

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

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

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

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

USMS National Records

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

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

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

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

USMS National Records

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

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

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

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

USMS National Records

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

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

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

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

USMS National Records

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

Rationale: List the timing quality in order of preference.

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

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

- ~~A Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment,~~
- ~~B In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet,~~
- ~~C In a relay event or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the swim and~~
- ~~D The swimmer(s) completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.~~
- ~~E The swimmer's relay leadoff split time shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

.10 When a record is claimed, an official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials and transmitted immediately following performance with all supporting data, including official meet results, the primary printout tape and/or copy of the entry card

with timers' signatures to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized. Responsibility for this lies with either the LMSC records chair or the official scorer of the meet. The LMSC records and tabulation chair shall send the supporting data to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee for verification. Upon verification, the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee shall promptly publish the new record on the USMS website.

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

R 49	105.3.11	page 40	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

USMS National Records

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

Rationale: Add clarifying language.

R 50	105.5	page 41	Rules Committee	Modify and add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

World Records

Applications and documentation for world records (25-meter and 50-meter courses only) shall be ~~supplied~~ submitted to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee as detailed in Appendix B (see also articles 103.13.3 and 103.13.4).

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

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

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

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

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

Modifications

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

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

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

Modifications

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

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

R 54	108.5.1D	page 49	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Start

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

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

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1	101.2.2	page 2	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Separate into four paragraphs as follows:

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

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

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

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

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 2 101.2.3	page 2	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Separate into two paragraphs as follows:

Kick—After the start and after each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

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

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 3 102.15.4	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

A swimmer must start and finish the race in ~~their~~ the assigned lane.

Rationale: Maintain singular throughout the sentence.

HK 4 103.2	page 16	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Certification of Officials

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

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

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

Rationale: Add a missing word.
