

# Proposed Amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition

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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 2002 Convention.

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**R1 103.9.** P.29 **Pacific** Delete.

## **103.9 Recall Rope Operator**

~~The duty of the recall rope operator shall be to immediately, upon sounding of the false start signal, activate the quick release mechanism of the recall rope so that the recall ropes drips across the course before any swimmer has swum approximately 11 meters (36 feet) from the starting end in short course and 15 meters (49 feet) in long course.~~

*Rationale:* a) USA Swimming does not provide for a Recall Rope Operator anymore at levels below National Championship since they (and we) work with the new “no-recall” procedure; and b) A meet moves quicker, and a swimmer who is in compliance with a proper start is not penalized by having to swim again after being gaffed by the rope.

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**R2 104.3.1** P.37 **Pacific** Delete, Add and Renumber

## **104.3.1—Bidding Procedures**

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

**B Eligible bidders**—Any club, LMSC, or organization that meets the sanction requirements of Article 202.1.1 may bid. ~~The facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards. The Championship Committee shall strongly consider LMSC endorsement as a selection criterion.~~

~~**C Bid information**—The Championship Committee shall provide a bidder with the appropriate bid documents, financial statements from previous championships, and all other information pertaining to the policies and procedures of running a National Championship Meet.~~

~~**DC Bid deadline**—All bids for a National Championship Meet shall be returned to the Chair and all members of the Championship Committee no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.~~

~~**E Certification of bids**—Prior to the annual meeting, the Championship Committee shall certify each bid for compliance with its policies and procedures, including facilities standards (Article 107).~~

~~**D Bid requirements**—Suitable bids shall comply with all applicable USMS swimming rules, policies, and procedures.~~

~~**FE Awarding of bids**—At the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, those bids that are certified shall be presented. The awarding of the bid shall be made by majority vote of the House of Delegates. The Championship Committee shall award the championships at the annual meeting held more than one year prior to the meet being contested.~~

*Rationale:* a) The Championship Committee should be responsible for the awarding of national championships because it has members experienced in overseeing a national championship meet; b) The Long Distance Committee also awards Long Distance Championships this way; and c) The bid information that the Championship Committee provides to a bidder should part of the policy and not part of the rulebook, because this information has and will change over time.

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**R3 104.5.1C** p 38 **Championship Committee**

**104.5.1C—Heat sheets**—~~For pre-seeded events, heat sheets listing the name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments for pre-seeded events and entry lists listing the name, age, club, and seed time by time for deck seeded events, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time~~

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registration.

For deck seeded events, entry lists listing the name, age, club, and seed time by time or age group, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. However, if the host chooses to make heat sheets available for deck seeded events, the heat sheets for each day, except relays, shall be made available in the morning before those events are swum.

*Rationale:* The Meet Management Program now allows us to list deck-seeded events by age group and time, which we have been doing. We need to up date the Rule Book to reflect this better way of listing swimmers. We are also allowing a meet host the option of providing heat sheets for deck-seeded events.

**R4 104.5.2A P.38** Championship Committee

Pursuant to 104.5.2 B (4), the Championship presents these alternative schedules from which the House of Delegates will choose three by sequentially voting to remove a proposed schedule until three remain.

SCHEDULE 1	SCHEDULE 2	SCHEDULE 3	SCHEDULE 4	SCHEDULE 5
<b>Day 1</b>				
800/1000 free	800/1000 free	800/1000 free	800/1000 free	800/1000 free
1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free
<b>Day 2</b>				
100 fly	400/500 free-men	400/500 free-women	400 IM	400 IM
50 breast	50 breast	100 breast	50 breast	50 fly
100 back	100 fly	200 fly	200 free	200 free
200 free	200 back	50 back	100 back	100 back
200 mixed medley relay	50 free	200 IM	200 fly	200 breast
200 free relay	200 IM	100 free	200 mixed free relay	200 mixed medley relay
400 IM	200 mixed free relay	200 mixed medley relay	200 medley relay	200 free relay
<b>Day 3</b>				
100 IM*	400/500 free-women	400/500 free-men	400/500 free-men	400/500 free-women
200 fly	100 IM*	100 fly	50 fly	200 back
50 back	200 breast	50 free	200 back	50 free
100 free	100 free	200 back	100 breast	100 breast
200 breast	50 back	50 breast	50 free	200 IM
200 medley relay	200 fly	100 IM*	200 IM	100 fly
400/500 free-women	200 medley relay	200 free relay	200 free relay	200 medley relay
<b>Day 4</b>				
200 back	100 back	400 IM	400/500 free-women	400/500 free-men
50 free	50 fly	50 fly	100 IM*	50 breast
200 IM	200 free	200 breast	100 fly	100 IM*
50 fly	100 breast	100 back	50 back	200 fly
100 breast	200 mixed medley relay	200 free	200 breast	100 free

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200 mixed free relay	200 free relay	200 medley relay	100 free	50 back
400/500 free-men	400 IM	200 mixed free relay	200 mixed medley relay	200 mixed free relay

\*100 IM only for SC; Days 1 & 4 can be interchanged

**R5 104.5.2C** p40 Championship Committee Insert subsection and renumber

**104.5.2C Rotation of 800/1500 and 1000/1650**—The order of two distance events may be changed by agreement of the meet director and the Championship Committee.

*Rationale:* Allows the longer distance event to be swum first at some nationals where it would not cause the distance day to run too long

**R6 104.5.4C(2)** p41 Championship committee

**104.5.4C(2)—Relay entry deadline**—A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum. Participants herein must have entered the meet ~~35 days in advance by the individual entry deadline.~~ A fee of \$12 per relay shall be charged for all relays.

*Rationale:* Housekeeping change. The individual entry deadline specified in 104.5.4C(1) is “not more than 35 days prior to the first day of competition.”

**R7 105.2** p.46 Records and Tabulations Committee

**105.2.3**—In order for a time to be valid for Top Ten times consideration, a minimum timing quality of two ~~hand-held~~ manual times, averaged per USMS rules (see article 103.12.4), shall be used.

*Rationale:* Correct term for watches is “manual” (p.32).

**R8 107.2.1** P. 48 Pacific Add new section F

## 107.2.1—Length

**F Measurement Procedures.** Prior to considering a facility for a sanctioned or approved meet, the host club shall submit certification that the pool is the specified distance using the form provided in Appendix B. This certification shall use a steel or fiberglass tape that is longer than the distance being measured. The measurement shall be made with or without touchpads in place; at water level from inside end wall to inside end wall; and for each outside lane and one of the center lanes. [M]

*Rationale:* This change would incorporate a consistent method and procedure for certifying pool length. The requirements detailed in the certification of pool length should be included in the body of the Rule Book, not only as an Appendix to the Rule Book. In addition, Pacific urges most strongly the Records and Tabulation Committee should incorporate a policy to (a) provide access to a Record of measured pools for all interested parties. Such a procedure could be coordinated with the USMS Webmaster. (b) The other bulleted items in Appendix B regarding pool measurements (and perhaps even this new subsection F) should be policy of the Records and Tabulation Committee, and provided to all potential bids for any USMS-sanctioned and/or approved meet.

~~Below are two groups of proposals that attempt to address the issue of pool length certification presented by the Records and Tabulations Committee and the Rules Committee. That two different proposals are presented should not be seen as a disagreement between the committees but rather an attempt to present two different degrees of compliance. These proposals are presented to stimulate the discussion as we contemplate a potentially significant change in our approach to this issue.~~

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~~The following proposals were submitted as a package by the Records and Tabulations Committee:~~

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- R9**    **102.5** p. 19    Records and Tabulations Committee  
         **102.5.1-Short Course (25) Yards conducted in a 25-yard course**  
         **102.5.2-Long Course (50) Meters conducted in a 50-meter course and Short Course (25) Meters conducted in a 25-meter course**

*Rationale:* State the intent that those events will be conducted in courses of those lengths if there is no positive tolerance for course measurement (e.g., rather than setting SCM times in a 50-meter pool).

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- R10**    **105.2** p.46    Records and Tabulations Committee  
         **105.2 TOP TEN TIMES**  
         **105.2.3**-In order for a time to be valid for Top Ten times consideration, a minimum timing quality of two hand-held times, averaged per USMS rules (see article 103.12.4), shall be used. Times from a course that does not meet minimum length standards shall not be considered.

*Rationale:* Add the precedence set regarding pools that are known to be short.

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- R11**    **105.3** p. 46    Records and Tabulations Committee    Insert and renumber  
         **105.3 USMS NATIONAL RECORDS**  
         **105.3.3**-Times from a course that does not meet minimum length standards shall not be considered for records.

*Rationale:* Add the precedence set regarding pools that are known to be short.

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- R12**    **105.3** p. 47    Records and Tabulations Committee    Insert and renumber  
         **105.3 USMS NATIONAL RECORDS**  
         **105.3.11**- A record application shall be accompanied by a certification of course length unless said certification is on file with USMS. Pool length shall be reported on an official USMS pool length certification form and need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since the original certification.  
         **105.3.12**-The exact length of the course shall be determined using a measuring device with the minimum measuring quality of a steel or fiberglass tape and shall be measured in feet and inches and fractions of an inch or in meters and centimeters. Measurements shall be taken at the water level from inside wall to inside wall. When a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement shall be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the record time was achieved.

*Rationale:* Assure that national records are set in pools that meet the minimum length requirements.

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- R13**    **107.2** p.48    Records and Tabulations Committee  
         **107.2 RACING COURSE DIMENSIONS**  
         **107.2.1-Length**  
         **A Long course meters**-a minimum of 50.00 meters (164 feet, 1/2 0.5 inch). [M]  
         **B Short course meters**-a minimum of 25.00 meters (82 feet, 1/4 0.25 inch). [M]  
         **C Short course yards**-a minimum of 25.00 yards (75 feet or 22.86 meters). [M]

*Rationale:* State that there is no negative dimensional tolerance for pool length.

~~The following proposals were submitted as a package by the Rules Committee. The proposals represent close adherence to the current wording of the FINA and USA Swimming rules with some modifications to reflect current practice by USMS. The specifics may represent more than we wish to deem necessary to accomplish our goals in compiling records and Top Ten lists. The Rules~~

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~~Committee anticipates receiving input during the convention concerning how stringent we wish to be and to what degree we wish to monitor compliance at the national level. Additionally, we must determine if we are to treat Top Ten and Record results equally with respect to the certification requirements. The proposed rules below assume that they are treated equally.~~

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- R14    **105.1**    p. 45    Rules Committee    Insert and renumber.  
**105.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS AND TOP TEN TIMES**  
**105.1.5** Results from events conducted in pools that do not meet the *minimum* pool length requirement (minus 0.00M) shall not be acceptable for Record Applications or Top Ten submissions.

*Rationale:* Assure that national records and Top Ten swims are set in pools that meet the minimum pool length requirements (minus 0.00 M) while allowing swims in longer pools to remain acceptable.

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- R15    **105.1**    p.45    Rules Committee    Insert after 105.1.5 above and renumber  
**105.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS AND TOP TEN TIMES**  
**105.1.6** Pool Certification  
    A Record applications and Top Ten submissions will not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USMS  
    B Pool certification shall be reported on the USMS pool certification form.  
    C Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since original certification  
**105.1.7** Pool Measurement  
    A The exact length of the course, measured by a steel or fiberglass tape or other acceptable measuring device in feet and inches and fractions of an inch, or in meters and centimeters, must be attested to by an accredited surveyor or engineer.  
    B A statement of the conditions under which the course was measured must be included.  
    C Where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of each lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved.

*Rationale:* Specifies when and how a pool needs to be measured. Adopts USA-Swimming language with minor modification.

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- R16    **107.2**    p.48    Rules Committee    Insert  
**107.2 RACING COURSE DIMENSIONS**  
**C Dimensional Tolerance** Against the required length, a tolerance of plus 0.03 meter in each lane minus 0.00 meter on both end walls at all points from 0.3 meter above (if the wall or timing pad extends to this height or to the top of the wall or pad otherwise) to 0.8 meter below the surface of the water is allowed. These measurements shall be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official.

*Rationale:* Adopt FINA/USA-Swimming standards for course length and in doing so explicitly state a negative tolerance of 0.00 M. Does not require length of pool to be measured above water level if pads or wall do not extend above the water surface.