

H. National Championship Meets

(Recommended for Regional Championships when possible)

1. USMS Championships shall be awarded in the following categories:

- (a.) Men's and women's short course swimming championships, which shall be held between April 15 and May 31.
- (b.) Men's and women's long course swimming championships, which shall be held between August 1 and September 15.

NOTE: Check national Junior and senior dates for conflict.

2. The official name shall be _____ (insert year) United States Masters Swimming National _____ (insert Short or Long) Course Championships.

3. Awarding of a Championship Meet.

(a.) The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of bids in accordance with the zone rotation system hereinafter set forth, and shall present to the Board of Governors at the annual meeting held at least two years prior to the date being awarded a list of all approved bidders for each short and long course championship.

(b.) Awarding of a Championship Meet.

(i.) A National Championship shall be awarded only to an LMSC, or a team with the endorsement of the LMSC, which is in current good standing in USMS, Inc. In either event the facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards which have been adopted by USMS, Inc.

(ii.) 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 Championship Meet.

(iii.) All bids for a Championship Meet shall be returned to the chairperson of the Championship Committee no less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

(iv.) Prior to the annual meeting, the Championship Committee shall certify each bid for compliance with its policies and procedures, including facility standards.

(v.) At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors, those bids which are certified shall be presented. The awarding of the bid shall be made by majority vote of the Board of Governors.

(vi.) In the event that suitable bids are not received from the designated zone 30 days prior to the annual meeting, then the chairperson of the Championship Committee shall notify all Zone

Chairmen that bidding is open to all zones, provided the bids comply with paragraphs (i) and (ii.) above, and are received prior to the start of the annual meeting of USMS, Inc.

(vii.) Failure of the Championship Committee to receive a suitable bid from the proper zone shall negate the rotation system for that meet only, and shall not affect the future normal rotation.

(viii.) While the procedures for awarding National Championships need to be clarified and followed whenever possible, it is in the best interest of Masters Swimming to rotate the awarding of National Championships. The Championship Committee shall have the right to override the procedures set forth above with the concurrence of the Board of Governors.

(ix.) The Championship Committee shall provide such assistance and guidance necessary to provide for uniformity in Championship Meet production. Out of pocket expenses for services shall be reimbursed by the recipient of the bid.

*Changed - see →
Championship
Committee report*

(x.) Successful bidders of National Championships will pay to United States Masters Swimming, Inc., prior to the beginning of the meet, a fee of \$1.00 per individual participant in the meet.

4. The following rotation system shall be used when awarding the National Championships:

Year	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
1983	Short Course		Long Course	
1984		Long Course		Short Course
1985	Long Course		Short Course	
1986		Short Course		Long Course

*later changed
again to
3 zone system
Rule Change
#34*

5. Conduct of National Championships will be governed under the technical rules of USMS, Inc.

(a.) A general meeting of the Board of Governors, members of the Championship Committee, organizing personnel, interested officials, coaches, and swimmers shall be held the evening prior to the first day of the meet. The meeting date, time, and location shall be included in the official meet information. The Chairman of this meeting shall be the President of USMS, Inc. or his designee, and the governing body shall be the USMS, Inc. Board of Governors. Business pertinent to the operation of the championships and the conduct of the events shall be considered and finalized at this meeting. Changes may be

effected in the conduct of the meet to fit the situation. Since changes can be made, it is the obligation of every swimmer or his representative to arrive with enough time to complete his registration and to appraise himself of any changes which have been made. It shall be the Meet Director's responsibility to post in conspicuous places at the pool, registration area, and headquarter's area notices of changes prior to the start of the first days' competition.

- (b.) Meet Director - shall follow the technical rules of USMS, Inc. and the policies and procedures established by the Championship Committee with regard to the planning for and executing the requirements of a Championship Meet.
- (c.) The entry form for both individual and relay events and meet information shall be prepared according to the direction of, and approved in advance of printing by, the Championship Committee. No other form may be used.
- (d.) Computerization - it is suggested that the organization conducting the championship shall compile entry lists, heat sheets, entry cards, and final results, by computer.
- (e.) Heat Sheets - listing heat and lane assignments for pre-seeded events and entry list by time (fastest to slowest) for deck-seeded events shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration.
- (f.) Warm-up Schedule - a list of times when the competition pool, and other facilities which will be available for warm-up, will be provided in the pre-meet information.
- (g.) Protest Procedure
 - (i.) Protests against judgement decisions of starters, stroke, turn, and relay takeoff judges, may only be considered by the referee of the meet.
 - (ii.) Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual or a team 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, Registration Committee, and Rules Committee, plus two swimmers selected from other than the host team by the other three panel members. 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. Opportunity shall be afforded both the party lodging the protest and the party charged a chance to be heard. The decision of the panel shall be final.
 - (iii.) Any protests made following the close of competition shall be directed to the chairperson of the Championship Committee for resolution.
- (h.) The deadline for receipt of entries for National Championship Meets shall be not more than 30 days prior to the first day of competition.

(i.) Competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of 6 individual events in a four-day National Meet, with a maximum of 3 individual events per day. Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one freestyle relay, one medley relay, one mixed freestyle relay, and one mixed medley relay per meet. Each team shall be limited to no more than three relays in each event in each age group. All competitors including members of relay teams must fill out and sign the appropriate entry form.

(j.) Seeding

(i.) All events 200 yards/meters or less shall be pre-seeded, with fastest heats swum first within each age group.

(ii.) Events over 200 yards/meters except for the 1650 yards/1500 meters may be pre-seeded as in (i.) above, or may be deck-seeded on time only, with the fastest times in the first heat, the second fastest times in the second heat, etc.

(iii.) If, in any group, there are not enough swimmers for a complete heat, all swimmers in that age group shall be seeded in adjacent lanes for pre-seeded events.

(iv.) The 1650 yards/1500 meters freestyle shall be deck-seeded. On those occasions when only one pool is used for both men's and women's events, heats shall be apportioned and alternated by sex. Willing competitors shall be swum two to a lane when only one course (7, 8, 9, or 10 lanes) is available for the event. Such heats will be seeded by time, fastest first, and these heats completed before the heats with a single competitor per lane.

(v.) All information regarding seeding must be stated on the entry form.

(k.) If more than one course is to be used in a National Championship Meet, then each course must have its own automatic timing system. When the depth of the course(s) varies, then male and female contestants shall share equal time in the deep end of the pool. Commencing with year 1983, women's events shall be scheduled in the deeper course on days one and three in odd years, and alternate every year thereafter. In the event that both courses are the same, then it shall not affect the rotation.

(l.) Entry fees for National Championships shall be \$3.00 for individual events and \$8.00 for relays. A \$10.00 surcharge may be charged to be used by the meet sponsor to help pay meet expenses. A banquet or social event may be conducted for an additional fee. Participation in this event is optional.

(m.) Four day program for Championship Meets (Women's events shall precede Men's events).

*Wording
may be modified
as suggested
in rules changes
24 + 25*

Short Course

Long Course

1st Day

200 yd Back
 100 yd Breast
 50 yd Free
 200 yd Fly
 100 yd IM
 200 yd Med Relay
 500 yd Free

200 mtr Back
 100 mtr Breast
 50 mtr Free
 200 mtr Fly
 200 mtr Med Relay
 400 mtr Free

2nd Day

200 yd Breast
 100 yd Fly
 50 yd Back
 100 yd Free
 200 yd IM
 200 yd Free Relay
 200 yd Mixed Med
 Relay

200 mtr Breast
 100 mtr Fly
 50 mtr Back
 100 mtr Free
 200 mtr IM
 200 mtr Free Relay
 200 mtr Mixed Med
 Relay

3rd Day

200 yd Free
 50 yd Breast
 100 yd Back
 50 yd Fly
 400 yd IM
 200 yd Mixed Free
 Relay

200 mtr Free
 50 mtr Breast
 100 mtr Back
 50 mtr Fly
 400 mtr IM
 200 mtr Mixed Free
 Relay

4th Day

1650 yd Free

1500 mtr Free

(n.) All top finishers in each race will be given awards regardless of the nationality of the swimmer. Duplicate awards will NOT be given except in the case of ties. The number of awards given will be determined by the number of lanes used in the pool. Medal awards will be awarded one through six, and appropriate awards will be awarded seven and beyond.

(o.) Each individual who wins a short course or long course championship shall be awarded a USMS Championship patch. Swimmers winning more than one championship may purchase additional patches for each additional championship won.

(p.) No team trophies shall be awarded at USMS Championship Meets. Scores of women's individual events, men's individual events, and combined relay events will be compiled for recognition by USMS. Meet results and team scores shall be published within thirty days of the last day of the meet, and distributed to members of the USMS Board of Directors, representatives of participating teams, and USMS top ten national recorders.

(q.) There will be no splitting of age groups into AM and PM sessions. However, at the meet director's discretion, swimmers whose seed times will inordinately delay the progress of the meet may be seeded individually in an

*team awards
 rule change #20
 change team
 scoring -
 rule change
 23*

outside lane with mechanical timing, thus allowing the continued sequence of the regularly scheduled heats.

- (r.) USMS individual and club registration numbers must be submitted on all entry forms together with entry times. "No time" for swimming events and "Pending" for registration number will not be permitted.
- (s.) National Championship Meets will include and welcome foreign swimmers on the same basis as U.S. swimmers except that they may not qualify for USMS top ten and All-American awards.
- (t.) The Meet Director of each National Championship Meet shall submit a written evaluation to the chairperson of the Championship Committee within 90 days of the end of competition. This evaluation shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, heat sheets, and final results, and any other information which may be helpful to future Meet Directors.