

# Proposed Changes to the USMS Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules

## A. Proposals Recommended by the Long Distance Committee (LD 1, 5a, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 36, 40, 46, 50, 57, and 67):

LD 1	301.2.1		page 63	Long Distance Committee		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**301.2.1 Open Water Guide to Operations**—~~The Open Water Committee shall maintain the A-Open Water Guide to Operations shall be developed and published~~ for the use of USMS open water officials and event hosts. The guide shall contain the manner of implementation, governing policies, and management of the rules applying to open water swims shall be contained in this guide.

*Rationale #1: This proposal places the responsibility for the OWGTO with the Open Water Committee in alignment with current practice.*

*Rationale #2: Better rules language (active voice).*

LD 5a	301.5, 301.5.1, & 301.5.2		pages 63-4	Long Distance Committee		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

### 301.5 AGE DETERMINING DATE

**301.5.1** ~~In an open water and postal swims,~~ the eligibility of a swimmer shall be determined by the age of the swimmer ~~as of the last day of the event on December 31 of the year of competition,~~ except for 18-year-olds, who must be 18 on the day that they swim.

**301.5.2** ~~In a postal swim, the eligibility of a swimmer shall be determined by the age of the swimmer as of the day of the swim.~~

*Rationale: Age determining dates are always somewhat arbitrary, with some swimmers apparently gaining and others apparently losing. To sidestep that endless debate, this proposal to move the age determining date to December 31 focuses on several other benefits for open water and long distance swims, which include...*

1. *Aligning the USMS rule with the FINA rule;*
2. *Aligning the USMS rule with the rule for USA-Triathlon, reducing confusion for crossover participants;*
3. *Eliminating the possibility of double-participation (and double-scoring) from the postal swims; and*
4. *Simplifying and speeding up the annual compiling of the USMS Long Distance All-Star Team list.*

*Note: If LD 5a passes, 307.2.3G will be struck as unnecessary.*



<b>LD 14</b>	<b>303 title</b>		page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**ARTICLE 303:  
CONDUCT OF COMPETITIVE AND SOLO OPEN WATER EVENTS**

*Rationale: Now that USMS does not sanction solo swims, we should drop reference to them from the rules. See also LD 12 and LD 32.*

<b>LD 16</b>	<b>303.1.1C</b>		page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.1.1** Scoring divisions shall be subject to the following:

- A Scoring divisions shall be the same for men and women.
- B For competitive swims, separate scoring divisions may be contested at the same time, with results tabulated separately.
- C If awards are given for competitive swims, they shall be of equal value for men and women and for all age groups.

*Rationale: Align with long distance rules in 305.7.*

<b>LD 21</b>	<b>303.6.4</b>		page 69	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.6.4 Backup timing and judging**—In open water swims in which electronic chip timing is used, an independently operating backup timing and judging system is required.

*Rationale: To ensure that all swimmer performances are registered, backup timing and judging should be required if the chip timing fails.*

<b>LD 22</b>	<b>303.7.2B</b>		page 69	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.7.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events**

- B The swimmer shall wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials, and not contain clasps or zippers. For both men and women, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck and shall not extend past the shoulder nor below the ankles.

*Rationale: This proposal aligns the USMS Category I swimwear rule with the FINA rule. All Category I swimwear would bear the FINA swimwear stamp, helping officials at USMS events sort swimmers into appropriate swimwear categories quickly and accurately.*

<b>LD 24</b>	<b>303.8</b>		page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.8 OFFICIALS AND STAFF**

*Rationale: This is a more inclusive heading, as all personnel at an event are not technically officials who are responsible to the referee. See also LD 27.*

<b>LD 26</b>	<b>303.8.2</b>		page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.8.2** There shall be additional officials and staff in numbers sufficient to operate the event in accordance with USMS open water rules and administrative regulations ~~and may include scorer, announcer, clerk of course, starter, judges, inspectors, timers, safety and medical personnel.~~

*Rationale #1: Adding “and staff” is a more inclusive heading, as all personnel at an event are not technically officials who are overseen by the referee. See also LD 26.*

*Rationale #2: The last phrase “and may include...” is redundant, and perhaps dangerous as it might be interpreted to imply that safety and medical personnel are optional.*

<b>LD 27</b>	<b>303.8.3</b>		page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**~~303.8.3 Independent Safety Monitor~~**

- ~~A An Independent Safety Monitor shall be approved by the LMSC sanctioning officer and shall be independent of the event organizing body.~~
- ~~B The Independent Safety Monitor shall be present at the event to assure that the approved safety plan is implemented and that adequate safety precautions are in place for existing conditions.~~
- ~~C The Independent Safety Monitor shall have the authority to revoke the sanction on the day of the swim if adequate safety precautions are not in place, and shall notify all participants of the — revocation before the beginning of the swim if the event organizer proceeds with the swim.~~

*Rationale: The Independent Safety Monitor rule was intended to enhance the safety of USMS sanctioned open water events. In theory this rule seems reasonable, but in practice it has been problematic, requiring an extra required official, challenging LMSCs to find & train them, and creating extra expense—sometimes substantial—for travel and lodging. Since the rule was passed in 2014, factors have changed or are in process that makes the ISM unnecessary and will provide a more streamlined path to the same end. Those factors include: 1) increased awareness and responsiveness to safety needs by LMSCs and event hosts through the sanction process; 2) improvement in safety training for Safety Directors, Referees, and other event officials; and 3) proposed upgrades to the OWGTO to provide more clarity and information for running events. Point #1 is clearly evident in the reports from our 2015 & 2016 ISMs. Points #2 and #3 are being developed and will be in place for the 2017 open water season.*



**LD 46**      **307.2.3G**      page 76      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**G** A swimmer who ages up during the duration of an postal event and swims the individual event twice may swim on one same-gender and one mixed-gender relay ~~in each~~ on separate age group relay teams.

*Rationale 1: This clarifies that this rule applies only to postal events, as it is impossible for a swimmer to 'age up' in an open water event according to 301.5.1. [BB]*

*Rationale 2: This clarifies the original intent of the rule not to allow one swimmer to swim twice on the same relay team.*

*Note: If LD5a passes, 307.2.3G will be struck as unnecessary.*

**LD 50**      **307.5.1C**      page 77      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**307.5.1 C** A fee per individual entrant in the championship swim event (or a fee per individual entrant in each championship swim in an event with multiple championship swims) and a performance bond shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee and paid to USMS. All or a portion of the performance bond shall be returned to the host organization, based upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the event contract.

*Rationale 1: Events with championships swims often have other swims too. This clarifies financial responsibilities for open water championship events that include non-championship swims.*

*Rationale 2: The original rule was written before USMS held open water events with multiple championship swims. This proposal updates and clarifies financial responsibilities for open water events with multiple championship swims.*

**LD 57**      **307.9.1B**      page 79      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**307.9.1 Scoring**

**B** Club point scoring for the 3000 and 6000-yard and 5 and 10-km postal national championships shall be calculated ~~based on~~ using a predetermined formula, approved by the Long Distance Committee, ~~to fit based on percentage of time differences~~ from the age group national record times ~~for each gender~~.

*Rationale: Better rules language (improved clarity).*

**LD 67**      **Glossary**      page xiii      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

Event Host: The organization that has been granted a sanction to conduct an open water event.

*Rationale: The terms "host", "director", and "organizer" have been used loosely throughout Part 3, often in ambiguous ways. This proposal clarifies that a "host" is an organization, not an individual. In other proposals, the LDC has made a concerted effort to clarify responsibilities consistently for the host and for specific individual positions.*

**B. Proposals Recommended as Amended by the Long Distance Committee.  
(LD 7, 25, 32, 35 and 68)**

<b>LD 7</b>	<b>302.2.1</b>		page 64	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**302.2.1 The Course**

- A The event ~~director~~ host shall determine the course and type of start and finish.
- B The event host course shall be measured and marked ~~course shall be measured and marked~~ measure and mark the course as accurately as feasible.
- C The event host should eliminate H~~hazards on the course should be eliminated or marked~~ wherever possible or mark and report them to all participants.  
*Rationale 1: Better rules language (active voice and consistent language).*  
*Rationale 2: Mandates reporting of hazards to all event participants.*

<b>LD 25</b>	<b>303.8.1</b>		page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.8.1** ~~There shall be an event director, referee, and safety director. The position of safety director shall not be combined with the duties of any other official or staff member.~~

There shall be an event director, safety director, and referee.

**A Event Director**—The event director is responsible for the overall operation of the event.

The event director shall be responsible for:

- (1) Securing the sanction and permit(s) for the event.
- (2) Determining the course.
- (3) Recruiting and approving personnel assignments for all event staff.
- (4) Ensuring that the necessary staff for the conduct of the event are at their respective posts.
- (5) Advising the referee to modify the manner in which the swim is conducted, change the course and/or distance, delay the start, and/or stop a swim in progress if circumstances warrant.
- (6) Cancelling the swim if circumstances warrant.

**B Safety Director**—The safety director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of event safety. The position of safety director shall not be combined with the duties of any other staff member or official. The safety director shall be responsible for:

- (1) Completing and complying with the approved safety plan
- (2) Checking that the entire course, especially the start and finish areas, is safe and free of obstructions.
- (3) Arranging that sufficient suitable water craft, equipment, and safety staff are available during the swim.
- (4) Briefing and assigning safety staff.
- (5) Advising the referee to modify the manner in which the swim is conducted or change the course and/or distance.
- (6) Has the authority to delay the start or stop a swim in progress if circumstances warrant.

**C Referee**—The referee is responsible for the fair conduct of the swim. The referee...

- (1) Shall have authority over all officials, instruct and assign officials, enforce all applicable rules, decide all questions related to the conduct of the swim, and adjudicate protests.
- (2) Shall ensure that all swimmers are briefed about safety procedures, the course, site-specific rules, and other necessary information about the conduct of the swim.
- (3) Has the authority to bar, remove, or take other appropriate action with any swimmer who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue.
- (4) Has the authority to disqualify any swimmer violating event or USMS rules or safety procedures.
- (5) Has the authority to modify the manner in which the swim is conducted, change the course or distance, delay the start, or stop a swim in progress if circumstances warrant.

*Rationale: This proposal defines the responsibilities of the major officials within the rules. See also proposed 303.12.1.*

<b>LD 32</b>	<b>303.12.1</b>		page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.12.1** The event director, safety director, or referee ~~or event director~~ shall have the authority to determine if the start of a race is to be postponed or canceled, or if a ~~The referee and/or safety director shall have the authority to stop a race in progress is to be stopped.~~ Only the event director shall have the authority to cancel the event.

*Rationale: This clarifies the roles of the major staff and head official, and aligns it with proposed LD 26.*

<b>LD 35</b>	<b>304 title &amp; 304.1</b>		page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**ARTICLE 304:**

**CONDUCT OF NONCOMPETITIVE OPEN WATER ~~EVENTS~~ SWIMS**

**304.1 NONCOMPETITIVE ~~EVENTS~~ SWIMS**

Noncompetitive ~~events~~ swims are those ~~that contain swims that are not scored for in which time or placement is not may be recorded.~~ At the discretion of the event director, the an event may also include both competitive and noncompetitive swims.

*Rationale: Clearer definition, (1) referring specifically to swims rather to events, and (2) removing the ambiguity of the word “scored”, which might seem to imply team scoring and which is not the intent of this rule.*

<b>LD 68</b>	<b>302.2.2A(3)</b>		page 64	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**302.2.2 Water Conditions**

**A Water Temperature**

- (1) ...
- (2) ...
- (3) A swim of 5K or greater shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 29.45° C. (85° F.). A swim of less than 5K shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 31° C. (87.8° F.).

*Rationale: Realizing that time of exposure in warm water is the critical safety issue for heat-related illness in swimmers, this proposal seeks flexibility in the upper temperature limits for open water swims 2 miles or shorter, staying within the FINA rule limitation of 31° C.*

**Passed by 2/3 vote of the Long Distance Committee on 9/22/2016**

**C. Proposals NOT Recommended by the Long Distance Committee (NONE).**

**D. Housekeeping proposals, including corrections, reorganization, and non-substantive language improvement (LD 2, 3, 4, 5b, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 28, 30, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 69).**

<b>LD 2</b>	<b>301.2.2</b>		page 63	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**301.2.2 Postal Guide to Operations**—The Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a ~~USMS~~ Postal Guide to Operations. The guide shall contain the manner of implementation, governing policies, and management of the rules applying to postal swims ~~shall be contained in this guide.~~

*Rationale: Unnecessary word and better rules language (active voice).*

<b>LD 3</b>	<b>301.3, 301.3.1, 301.3.2, &amp; new 307.4</b>		page 63	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**301.3 MEMBERSHIP, REPRESENTATION AND SANCTIONS**

Membership, representation and sanctions for open water and long distance events shall be governed by all applicable rules under articles 202 and 203. ~~In addition, the following administrative rules apply:~~

~~**301.3.1** Swimmers with one event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status or any other USMS special awards.~~

~~**301.3.2** All swimmers in national championship postal events must be currently registered members of~~

~~USMS or a FINA member national governing body on or before the day of their swim.~~

**307.7.4 Eligibility**

A Swimmers with one-event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status or any other USMS special awards.

B All swimmers in national championship postal events must be currently registered members of USMS or a FINA-member national governing body on or before the day of their swim.

*Rationale: Reorganization (the content in this proposal has been moved verbatim to new 307.7.4 so that eligibility for national championship events is defined in the national championship section of the rules). Renumber after.*

<b>LD 4</b>	<b>301.4</b>		page 63	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**301.4 LIABILITY RELEASE**

~~Entry forms shall contain the exact language of the liability release according to article 204.~~

*Rationale: Redundant (this requirement is already listed in 204.1). Renumber after.*

<b>LD 5b</b>	<b>301.5.1 &amp; 301.5.2</b>		pages 63-4	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**301.5.1** In an open water swim, the eligibility of a swimmer shall be determined by the age of the swimmer ~~as of~~ on the last day of the event, except for 18-year-olds, who must be 18 on the day that they swim.

**301.5.2** In a postal swim, the eligibility of a swimmer shall be determined by the age of the swimmer ~~as of~~ on the day of the swim.

*Rationale: Better grammar.*

*Note: If the HOD approves LD 5a, the second proposal becomes moot.*

<b>LD 6</b>	<b>302.1.2</b>		page 64	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**302.1.2** At the discretion of the event director, open water events may include clinics or other swimming activities ~~may be included as part of open water events.~~

*Rationale: Better rules language (active voice).*

<b>LD 8</b>	<b>302.2.4B</b>		page 65	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**302.2.4B** Turn buoys shall be directional, and passed on the right or left as stated in the pre-swim instructions.

*Rationale: Housekeeping. The word "buoy"—without which this article makes no sense—was inadvertently omitted.*



**LD 17      303.1.1D      page 66      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

~~303.1.1 D~~ For the purposes of national championships, awards and recognition, only standard USMS scoring divisions used singly and in combination shall be eligible. Specific applications of scoring divisions are found in the applicable rules under articles 307.7.4 and 307.7.5.

*Rationale: Duplication of 307.7.4 and 307.7.5. Renumber after.*

**LD 18      303.3.1      page 67      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.3.1** In any event for which it has been arranged that an escort craft will accompany each swimmer throughout the event, all swimmers shall be accompanied by such an escort craft. If the escort craft becomes disabled or cannot continue to accompany the swimmer, the swimmer may stay in the water near the disabled escort craft until a replacement arrives, join another escort craft that is accompanying only one other swimmer until another escort craft arrives or exit the water.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (the word "craft" was inadvertently omitted from the text, and should be reinstated).*

**LD 19      303.3.5      page 68      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.3.5** In any swim in which individual escorts are required and motorized escorts are allowed, ~~receiving assistance by any~~ drafting is prohibited. Swimmers must attempt to remain 3 meters or more from other swimmers, except when rounding buoys, when overtaking other swimmers when space is not readily available, when unescorted at the start and finish of the swim, and when the swimmer's escort craft becomes disabled as per articles 301.3.1 and 303.3.4. Incidental or accidental incursion into the 3-meter zone of another swimmer shall not be the basis for disqualification.

*Rationale: Redundant phrase. See also 303.9.6.*

**LD 20      303.5.1      page 68      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.5.1** When practical, swimmers shall be seeded by their 1500 meters/1650 yards times. The manner of seeding swimmers without times shall be at the discretion of the event director, as stated in the event ~~entry sheet~~ information.

*Rationale: More general language, acknowledging that many events now use only online entries rather than entry forms.*

**LD 23**      **303.7.2C**      page 69      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.7.2C** Exemptions to the restrictions in articles 303.7.2A-B may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the Long Distance Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

- (1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be published by the Long Distance Committee and posted on the USMS website.
- (2) No exemptions ~~to these restrictions~~ will be granted for swimwear that would give a swimmer a competitive advantage.

*Rationale: Eliminates redundant phrase, already included above in 303.7.2C).*

**LD 28**      **303.9.6**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

Swimmers shall be disqualified if they:

**303.9.6** ~~Receive assistance by~~ Drafting in swims in which drafting is prohibited.

*Rationale: Redundant phrase. See also LD 20.*

**LD 30**      **303.10.4**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.10.4** Recommendations for allowable modifications are ~~further~~ described in the Open Water Guide to Operations.

*Rationale: Redundant word.*

**LD 33**      **303.12.3**      page 72      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**303.12.2** If a race is stopped and swimmers are removed from the water for their safety, the referee shall determine if the race is to be restarted, canceled or considered official. If the referee determines the race to be official, article 303.9.2 may be waived and the referee shall determine the order of finish of the swimmers on the course ~~shall be determined by the referee~~.

*Rationale: Better rules language (active voice).*

<b>LD 34</b>	<b>303.13.1</b>		page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**303.13.1** Any protest arising from a competition (other than National Championships—refer to article 307.7) shall be made to the event director within 30 minutes after the release of results for an open water event. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing within 10 days of the swim for adjudication to the LMSC ~~officers~~. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing for adjudication to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.  
*Rationale: Redundant word.*

<b>LD 37</b>	<b>304.1.2</b>		page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

~~**304.1.2** Competitive swims included in a noncompetitive event shall be conducted according to the rules in article 303.~~  
*Rationale: Redundant with 302.1.3. Renumber after.*

<b>LD 38</b>	<b>305 title</b>		page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**ARTICLE 305:  
CONDUCT OF LONG DISTANCE POOL EVENTS**

*Rationale: Parallel wording with titles of 303, 304, and 306.*

<b>LD 39</b>	<b>305.5</b>		page 73	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**305.5 SEQUENTIAL RELAYS**

Sequential relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified ~~on~~ in the entry ~~form~~ information. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified ~~on~~ in the entry ~~form~~ information. ~~The r~~ Relay exchanges is are governed by articles 101.7.3C and 101.7.3H.

*Rationale: More general language, acknowledging that many events now use only online entries rather than entry forms).*

<b>LD 41</b>	<b>306.4.4</b>		page 74	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**306.4.4** In pools that are 50 meters or longer, the referee shall establish procedures to prevent drafting if more than two swimmers are ~~competing per~~ sharing a lane.  
*Rationale: More accurate rules language.*

**LD 42**      **306.9.1**      page 74      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

### **306.9 INTEGRITY OF RESULTS IN POSTAL EVENTS**

**306.9.1** Each entrant ~~in a postal event~~ shall be responsible for the validity of the split times and/or the time/distance submitted.

*Rationale: Redundant phrase, already in the heading for 306.9.*

**LD 43**      **306.9.2**      pages 74      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**306.9.2** Event directors ~~may~~ ~~shall have the discretion to~~ request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may request that the Long Distance Committee chair refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information.

*Rationale: More succinct rules language.*

**LD 44**      **307.2.3**      page 76      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

### **307.2.3 Rules Pertaining to Cumulative Relays**

**A** Cumulative relay competitions shall be contested in postal championships and may be contested in other championships. Recognized relays shall be three-person women and men's relays and four-person mixed gender relays with two women and two men. Exceptions for open water national championships may be granted by the Long Distance Committee chair.

**B** Age groups for relay swims shall be the same as those listed in article 303.1.3B.

~~**C** All team members shall be from the same USMS-registered club.~~

~~**DC**~~ All relay members shall also be entered in the individual event. Exceptions for open water events only are at the discretion of the event director and with the approval of the Long Distance Committee Chair.

~~**CD**~~ All team members shall be from the same USMS-registered club.

*Rationale: Reorganization of sections into more logical order.*

**LD 45**      **307.2.3F**      page 76      **Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

### **307.2.3 Rules Pertaining to Cumulative Relays**

~~**F** The age of the youngest relay member determines the age group of the relay: 18+, 25+, 35+... 95+.~~

*Rationale: Redundant with 303.1.3B and 307.2.3B. Renumber after.*

**LD 47      307.3.5      page 76      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

~~307.3.5~~ Postal national championships may be awarded to an organization for consecutive years.

*Rationale: Redundant with 307.3.*

**LD 48      307.3.4      page 77      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID ROTATION**

Year	Area 1: West	Area 2: Central	Area 3: East
2015	2 mile cable Open water ≥6 mile Festival	1 mile Open water > 3/<6 mile	Open water > 1/<3 mile Open Water > 9 mile
2016	Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance	2 mile cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival
2017	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance	2 mile cable Marathon Distance
2018	2 mile cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance
2019	Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance	2 mile cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival

*Rationale: Annual update.*

**LD 49      307.4      page 77      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**307.4 CONTRACT**

~~A~~ Representatives of the host organization that is the successful bidder of an open water and long distance championship event shall sign a written contract with USMS, which specifies the responsibilities of the event host and of USMS.

*Rationale: Aligns rule with current practice.*

**LD 51      307.5.2      page 77      Long Distance Committee**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**307.5.2** Complete financial statements shall be forwarded to the Long Distance Committee chair ~~after completion of the event in accordance with~~ on the championship forms provided.

*Rationale: Better rules language (unnecessary phrase).*

<b>LD 52</b>	<b>307.7.2</b>		page 78	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.7.2 Entry Forms**— A Long Distance Committee representative and an LMSC representative shall review ~~Entry forms, including paper forms and forms used in the online entry system, shall be reviewed by a Long Distance Committee representative and the LMSC for content and sanctioning before distribution in accordance with the USMS contract.~~  
*Rationale: Better rules language (active voice and elimination of redundant phrase).*

<b>LD 53</b>	<b>307.7.3B</b>	pages 65-6	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.7.3 B** For open water events, a turn judge shall be located at each change of direction in the course. The turn judge shall:  
**(1)** Be positioned ~~on shore or on the water~~ in clear view of the turn to ensure that all swimmers complete the turn as indicated in the ~~competition~~ event information ~~documents~~ and as directed at the pre-race briefing.  
*Rationale #1: Better rules language (elimination of unnecessary phrase and consistent rules language).*

<b>LD 54</b>	<b>307.7.6B</b>		page 78	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.7.6 Swimwear**  
**A** Only swimmers wearing category I swimwear as defined in articles 303.7.1 and 303.7.2 may compete in national championship swims.  
**B** At the discretion of the event director, swimmers wearing category II swimwear as defined in articles 303.7.1 and 303.7.3 may participate in ~~events containing~~ national championship swims, but shall be excluded for the purposes of articles 307.8 through 308.1. In addition, category II competitors shall have a separate start time  
*Rationale: Redundant words, clarifying intent of the rule as implied in the last sentence of the rule.*

<b>LD 55</b>	<b>307.8.2</b>		page 79	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.8.2** Relay results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women’s results shall be shown first, followed by men’s results, then mixed-gender relays last. For each relay, the following information must be reported in the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:  
**A** Age group place  
**B** Team’s full name (USMS club followed by blank, A, B, etc.)  
**C** Official time/distance for the team  
**D** Names, ages and official time/distance for each member of the team.  
**E** Special information (national records, overall place, place among gender, etc.).  
*Rationale: Aligns rule with current practice, and parallels information in 307.8.1G.*

<b>LD 56</b>	<b>307.9.1</b>		page 79	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.9.1 Scoring**

A Club scoring for the one-hour swim postal national championships shall be calculated based on total club yardage for individual swims.  
*Rationale: Better rules language (parallel construction with 307.9.1B).*

<b>LD 58</b>	<b>307.12</b>		page 80	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.12 ALL-STAR TEAM**

A USMS All-Star Team shall be selected each calendar year from the official results of the USMS open water and ~~long distance~~ postal national championship events.  
*Rationale: More accurate rules language, reflecting the event descriptions in 307.2.2.*

<b>LD 59</b>	<b>307.12.1</b>		page 80	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.12.1** A swimmer shall earn points ~~for a top 10 finish~~ in each open water and long distance national championship event in the following manner: 1st: 22 points, 2nd: 18 points, 3rd: 16 points, 4th: 14 points, 5th: 12 points, 6th: 10 points, 7th: 8 points, 8th: 6 points, 9th: 4 points, 10th: 2 points.  
*Rationale: Redundant phrase.*

<b>LD 60</b>	<b>307.12.2</b>		page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**307.12.2** To be ~~considered~~ eligible for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three events, of which one shall be an open water event and one shall be a postal event.  
*Rationale: Improved rules language.*

<b>LD 61</b>	<b>308.1.1</b>		page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**308.1.1** Individual and relay national records will be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway swims (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (one-hour, 3000-yard, 6000-yard, and 5- and 10-kilometer postal). ~~Relay national records shall be maintained in all of these quarter-mile straightaway swims and long distance pool events.~~  
*Rationale: Simplified rules language.*

<b>LD 62</b>	<b>308.1.3</b>		page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

~~308.1.3 With the exception of the quarter-mile straightaway swims specified in article 307.2.2, no national records will be maintained in open water events due to differences in courses, currents and other physical factors.~~  
*Rationale: Redundant with 308.1.1. Renumber after.*

<b>LD 63</b>	<b>308.1.4</b>		page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

**308.1.4** Open water and long distance records shall only be permitted from events conducted in compliance with ~~articles 307.2.3, 307.7.3B and 307.7.6A of the USMS rule book~~ USMS rules.  
*Rationale: More inclusive rules language.*

<b>LD 64</b>	<b>308.1.6 &amp; 308.1.7</b>		page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

~~308.1.6 Long distance n~~National records for cable swims may not be established by using a swimmer’s split time in an individual event.  
~~308.1.7 Long distance n~~National records for postal swims may be established by using a swimmer’s split time in an individual event if:  
**A** The split is swum as an initial distance within an event,  
**B** The swimmer completes the full distance of the event,  
**C** The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and  
**D** At least two dedicated handheld watches are used to record the record split.  
*Rationale: Redundant phrases.*

<b>LD 65</b>	<b>Multiple articles #1</b>		pages 64-80	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

Replace “host” for “director” or “organizer” in 302.1.2, 302.1.3, 302.2.1A, 302.5.4, 302.6.3, 303.1, 303.2.1, 303.4.1C, 303.5.1, 303.8.3C, 303.10.3, 304.1.1, 304.1.3, 305.3.1, 306.9.2, 307.7.1, 307.7.3A, 307.7.6B, 307.9, 307.9.3, and 307.11.3  
*Rationale: Properly speaking, the duties and responsibilities in each of these articles belong to the event host, for whom the event director is usually (but not always) the acting agent. Therefore, this change provides more precise rules language than the previous language.*

<b>LD 66</b>	<b>Multiple Articles #2</b>		pages 64-73	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	

Replace “composed” for “comprised” in 302.1, 302.1.1, 302.5.1, and 305.4.  
*Rationale: According to our style book, “comprised” is incorrect usage; “composed” is correct usage.*

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn
---------	---------	----------	-----------------	--------	-----------

**[Formerly HK-1] Passed by 2/3 vote of the Long Distance Committee on 9/23/2016**

**303.9.11**      Act in an ~~unsportsmanlike~~ unsporting or unsafe manner within the swimming venue.  
*Rationale: Consistent rules language with 402.3, 402.4, 403.1 and proposed amended 102.13.3.*