

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 2014 Convention.

Please note that some 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 substantive proposals are R 1-3, R 5-6, R 13-22, R 24-30, R 32-34, and R 36-48.

R 19 was submitted as an indivisible package and must also be considered by the Long Distance Committee for recommendation to the House of Delegates in accordance with 601.4.5.

This version shows the actions of the Rules Committee through 09/18/14. Recommendations are highlighted in yellow in the title bar of each proposed change (recommended, recommended as amended, not recommended, or withdrawn). Any amendments made to these proposals by the Rules Committee are shown in the text of each proposed change with double underlining or ~~double strikeouts~~ and are also highlighted in yellow (if you're looking at a color copy). Those "not recommended" will require a two-thirds vote of the HOD to pass.

R 1	Glossary	pages xi & xiv	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Chapter Workout Group—a subordinate organization (subgroup) of a USMS-registered club. ~~that is a member of USMS registered through an LMSC. Individual members of a chapter are also members of the parent club.~~

Rationale: The term "chapter" does not appear in the rule book, but "workout group" does.

R 2	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Not Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Heat—~~a division of an event in which there are too many swimmers to compete at one time.~~ A set or a subset of the total number of swimmers in one event.

Rationale: More accurate definition.

R 3	101.1.1	page 1	Rules Committee	Recommended as Amended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.1 Starts

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck, or a push from the wall. At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they ~~should~~ may take and maintain their positions with at least one foot at the front of ~~on~~ the starting platform or the deck, ~~or in~~

the water. ~~before~~ On the starter's command, "Take your mark," each swimmer shall immediately assume the starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck. ~~Each swimmer's starting~~ in the water must take ~~their~~ the positions on the wall with at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and one foot in contact with the wall. ~~before the command, "Take your mark," and~~ **A swimmer starting in the water** may face any direction.

Rationale: Since USA-S swimmers no longer have to stand at the back of the block when they first take their positions on the block, the USMS start rule can now be consistent with USA-S language. USMS swimmers can still place one foot at the front of the block before the command, "Take your mark," just as USA-S swimmers now do.

R 4	101.1.3	page 2	Rules Committee	Recommended	Add		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.1.3 Starter—See article 103.8 for starter equipment, preparation, optional instructions, start commands, false starts, warning signal, and deliberate delay or misconduct.

Rationale: Cross references starter information in article 103.8.

R 5	101.3.3	page 3	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.3 Butterfly

101.3.3 Kick—All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. The breaststroke ~~or whip~~ kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. Only one breaststroke ~~or whip~~ kick is permitted per arm pull, except that a single breaststroke ~~or whip~~ kick is permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull. After the start and after each turn, a single breaststroke ~~or whip~~ kick is permitted prior to the first arm pull. A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rationale: Delete the term "whip kick", because the term "breaststroke kick" is accurate. (This change will also be reflected in the Differences documents in Appendix B.)

R 6	101.4.2	page 3	Rules Committee	Not Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.4 Backstroke

101.4.2 Stroke—~~Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter immediately after the start is not permitted.~~ The swimmer shall push off on the back and continue swimming on the back throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water.

Rationale: Since the backstroke start is described in 101.1.2, it is unnecessary to describe it again here.

R 7	101.7.2	page 5	Rules Committee		Recommended	Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.2 Medley Relay—Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance in the following order: first, backstroke; second, breaststroke; third, butterfly; fourth, freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke used shall govern where applicable. At the end of each leg, the finish rules for ~~each~~ that stroke ~~applies in each case~~ apply.

Rationale: Less awkward language.

R 8	101.7.3	page 5	Rules Committee		Recommended	Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.3 Rules Pertaining to Relays ~~Races~~

Rationale: Simpler subtitle.

R 9	101.7.3B	page 5	Rules Committee		Recommended	Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.3 Rules Pertaining to Relay Races

B When automatic relay takeoff judging is used, all swimmers must touch the touchplate or pad in their respective lanes at the end of the course to have finished their legs of the relay ~~race~~.

Rationale: Unnecessary word.

R 10	101.7.3	page 5	Rules Committee		Recommended	Modify (Change order of F/G/H)	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.3 Rules Pertaining to Relay Races

A No swimmer shall swim more than one leg in any relay event.

B When automatic relay takeoff judging is used, all swimmers must touch the touchplate or pad in their respective lanes at the end of the course to have finished their legs of the relay race.

C A swimmer other than the first swimmer shall not start until the previous swimmer's leg has been concluded.

D If a team member other than the swimmer designated to swim a particular leg jumps into or enters the pool in the area where the race is being conducted and before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race, both the offending swimmer and relay team shall be disqualified.

Note: An exception may be granted to a relay team member who wishes to enter the water to start from the water; this swimmer shall notify the starter and be careful not to disturb or interfere with another swimmer or the timing system pad when in use.

E All relay team members shall leave the water immediately upon finishing their legs, except for the last member.

Note: Swimmers who cannot exit the water quickly enough to prevent interference with automatic officiating equipment may be allowed to hold on to the lane line until all relays have finished, allowing them to exit the pool more slowly or via the ladders at the conclusion of the race.

~~**F** Mixed relays shall consist of two men and two women who may swim in any order. The team of a swimmer whose feet have lost contact with the starting platform (ground, deck, or wall) before the preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified.~~

~~**G** Competitors shall be allowed to swim only once per meet in each of the following relays: men's/women's 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle; and mixed 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle. Mixed relays shall consist of two men and two women who may swim in any order.~~

~~**H** The team of a swimmer whose feet have lost contact with the starting platform (ground, deck, or wall) before the preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified. Competitors shall be allowed to swim only once per meet in each of the following relays: men's/women's 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle; and mixed 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle.~~

Rationale: Order as in USA-S 101.7.3 (move H to F, and move F and G to G and H), because USMS's F and G are not in the USA-S Rule Book.

R 11	101.7.3G	pages 5 & 8	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify (by moving the rule)		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.3 Rules Pertaining to Relay Races

~~**101.7.3G**~~ **102.9.8** Competitors shall be allowed to swim only once per meet in each of the following relays: men's/women's 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle; and mixed 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and 800 freestyle.

Rationale: Move 101.7.3G to 102.9.8 since it is a relay entry rule rather than a relay technical rule.

R 12	101.7.4	page 5	Rules Committee	Recommended	Add		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.7 Relays

101.7.4—See article 102.9 for additional relay rules.

Rationale: Add new section to reference additional rules pertaining to relays.

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

(R 12) 102.9.8 page 8 **Rules Committee** Add (& renumber 102.9.9 if R 11 passes)

102.9 Relays

102.9.8—See article 101.7 for additional relay rules.

R 13	102.4.2	page 6	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.4 Warm-up/Warm-down

102.4.2 Procedure—Swimmers must enter the pool feet first in a cautious and controlled manner. Diving and backstroke starts shall be permitted only in the designated lanes. No hand paddles are allowed.

Rationale: Doing backstroke starts in warm up and warm down areas not open for diving starts is equally dangerous.

R 14	102.5	pages 6-7	Rules Committee		Recommended	Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.5 Events

In planning any meet, careful consideration must be given the demands to be made upon swimmers, officials, and spectators, in that order. Meets should be planned to terminate within a reasonable period of time each day. Planning should provide for adequate meal and rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.

Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. Any of the following events may be conducted.

Rationale: Clarify groups.

R 15	102.5.1	page 7	Indiana		Not Recommended	Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.5 Events

102.5.1 Short Course (25) Yards

25-50-100-200-500-1000-1650 yards freestyle

25-50-100-200 yards backstroke

25-50-100-200 yards breaststroke

25-50-100-200 yards butterfly

100-200-400 yards individual medley

100-200-400-800 yards freestyle relay

100-200-400-800 yards mixed freestyle relay

100-200-400 yards medley relay

100-200-400 yards mixed medley relay

Rationale: 25-yard races may be less intimidating for new swimmers. Adding 25-yard races and 100-yard relays will increase meet participation, meet revenues, and swimmer recognition through Top 10, All American, and All Star programs.

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

(R 15) 104.5.2D page 31 **Indiana** Modify

D Alternative meet schedules—Alternative meet schedules may be approved as follows:

(1) A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a different schedule from those defined in article 104.5.2A.

(2) A meet host may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a schedule that includes 25-yard individual events and/or 100-yard relay events.

(23) The Championship Committee has the authority to approve other changes in the meet schedule, as necessary, prior to the publication of the meet entry form in order to improve the efficiency of a particular national championship meet.

R 16	102.6	page 7	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.6 Event Limit

A swimmer may compete in not more than five individual events per day (or three individual events if the meet is a trials/finals format) and shall compete not more than once in each individual event entered (unless the meet is a trials/finals format). If, however, due to conditions beyond the control of meet officials, an event or events are postponed to a subsequent day of the meet, such postponed events shall not be included in the five (or three) events per day limitation.

Rationale: Swimming once in an event was probably the intent of the rules authors regarding meet entries. This change would, however, allow for a meet that offers an event more than once in a meet with different event numbers.

R 17	102.7	page 7	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.7 Entry Fees Entries

- A. Each competitor shall enter with the full name as it appears on the USMS registration card.
- B. Entry fee policies for local Masters events shall be set by the LMSC.

Rationale: This is required for relays in 102.9.5, but the rules have been silent about the name on individual entries. Name discrepancies on entries have caused problems.

R 18	102.11.4E	page 12	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.11.4E Postponement or Cancellation

E Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with articles 103.17 and 103.18 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language (adding the reference to official time).

R 19	102.12.1E	page 13	Pacific	Not Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Deemed an indivisible package by Rules Committee (under the jurisdiction of Rules and Long Distance).

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical

identification items may be worn. Any kind of tape, bandage, finger cot, or glove on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: It can be confusing for a referee to decide if bandages, finger cots, and rubber gloves are to be approved by the referee or require a medical exemption.

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

303.7.2D page 70 Pacific Modify

303.7.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events

D Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a swim (such as wetsuits, webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, buoyant armbands, etc.). Any kind of tape, bandage, finger cot, or glove on the body or flat armband is not permitted unless approved by the referee. Any devices used to maintain body heat are not permitted, except for those listed in article 303.7.2A.

303.7.3C page 71 Pacific Modify

303.7.3 Rules for Category II Swimwear for Open Water Events

C Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any additional device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a swim (such as webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, etc.), except in designated events where all swimmers may use similar devices or substances. Any kind of tape, bandage, finger cot, or glove on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

R 20 103.2.2 page 16 Rules Committee Recommended as Amended Modify

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

103.2.2 Timers—Two timers per lane if ~~fully~~ **semi**automatic ~~or manual~~ timing is ~~not being~~ used. One timer per lane if ~~fully~~ automatic timing is used.

Rationale: Clarify that two timers are required for semiautomatic and manual ~~a~~ timing systems **and change language from negative to positive.** ~~with buttons but no touchpads is not automatic timing; fully automatic timing means using touchpads.~~ Also add definition (below) for the term “fully automatic” which appears on ~~pages 40, 143, 152, and 155 of the rule book.~~

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

(R 20) Glossary page xii Rules Committee Add

~~Fully automatic timing— not semiautomatic timing; automatic start and touchpads are required.~~

R 21 103.3 page 16 Rules Committee Recommended Modify

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

103.3 Qualification of Officials

103.3.1 Referees shall be certified in this capacity by ~~a USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA, or any other~~ USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). Starters or stroke and turn judges certified by one of these bodies may serve as referees if they receive training on specific duties of the referee.

103.3.2 Starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in said capacities by ~~a USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA, or any other~~ USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). However, uncertified officials may

perform the duties of such positions if they receive training in the specified duties of their positions and are under the direct supervision of a certified official.

Rationale: Move the list of USMS-approved certifying bodies to Appendix B and keep the list in one place as already provided in Appendix B, page 141, first paragraph.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:
(R 21) 104.5.10B page 37 **Rules Committee** Modify

104.5.10 Personnel (also see article 103)

B Officials (last paragraph)

All officials shall be certified by ~~USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA, or any other~~ a USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B) in the capacity to 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.

R 22 103.5 page 16 **Rules Committee** **Recommended as Amended** Modify

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

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed... Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: obtaining a sanction; arranging for personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary for meet operation; ordering awards; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; processing entries; printing programs; preparing the facility; verifying proper certification of pool length as described in 105.1.7; completing record applications; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: Pool measurements, especially for bulkhead pools, have not been done properly at some sanctioned meets, and swimmers have lost records and top ten times. Lack of or improper documentation has also resulted in lost records. This is an additional reminder to meet ~~directors~~ committees to properly verify course measurements and properly document records.

R 23 103.11.2D page 21 **Rules Committee** **Recommended** Modify

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

103.11.2 Head Lane Timer—The head lane timer shall:

~~D Determine and report~~ Report and indicate on the timing recording form if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touchpad at the finish, or there is reason to believe the semiautomatic or manual times may be inaccurate. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.

Rationale: Consistent with change made by USA-S during their editing process.

R 24 103.18.4 page 26 **Rules Committee** **Recommended** Modify

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

103.18.4 The official time to establish records and Top 10 times can be achieved only in accordance with the following timing methods:

Timing method	Official time level
Automatic timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World records, USMS national records, and USMS Top 10 times • Initial splits for all purposes • Relay leadoff times for all purposes
Semiautomatic with three buttons or <u>manual with</u> three watches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World records, USMS national records, and USMS Top 10 times • Initial splits and relay leadoff times for world records and USMS Top 10 times
Semiautomatic with two buttons or <u>manual with</u> two watches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USMS Top 10 times • Initial splits and relay leadoff times for USMS Top 10 times

Rationale: Clarifying language.

R 25 104.1.2 page 27 **Championship Committee** **Recommended as Amended**
 Modify

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

104.1 Meet Categories

USMS national championship meets shall be awarded in the following categories and held during the following dates:

104.1.2 Long Course (50) Meters—Between **August 1** ~~July 15~~ and **September 15** ~~August 31~~. **With the approval of the Championship Committee, other dates may be considered.**

Rationale: Only one Summer Nationals has ever been held in September (1974). September conflicts with the beginning of school, youth competitive swim programs, and convention. This will give the same time range as for Spring Nationals (1 ½ months).

R 26 104.3.4 page 28 **Championship Committee** **Recommended** Modify

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

104.3 Awarding of National Championship Meets

104.3.4 Bid Deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be submitted to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than July 1 (or the next business day if July 1 falls on a Sunday ~~or holiday~~). If no timely certifiable bid is received, the Championship Committee shall continue to solicit bids.

Rationale: There are no holidays on July 1.

R 27 104.3.4 page 28 **Championship Committee** **Recommended** Modify

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

104.3 Awarding of National Championship Meets

104.3.4 Bid Deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be submitted to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than ~~July~~ June 1 (or the next business day if ~~July~~ June 1 falls on a Sunday or holiday). If no timely certifiable bid is received, the Championship Committee shall continue to solicit bids.

Rationale: Since the Championship Committee awards the bids prior to convention, an earlier deadline will give the committee more time to make the decisions and notify bid winners, giving winners ample time to make travel arrangements to attend convention. The current deadline interferes with the evaluation of Spring Nationals, preparations for Summer Nationals, and preparations for convention. June 1 has no holidays.

R 28	104.4.5	page 29	Championship Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.4 USMS Assistance and Agreements

104.4.5 Meet Report—The meet director of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Championship Committee within 60 days of the end of competition. This report shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, ~~final results~~, lessons learned, suggestions, and any other information that may be helpful to future meet directors.

Rationale: Final results are now prepared by the national office, so meet hosts should not be required to furnish final results with the meet report.

R 29	104.5.2	page 29	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.2 Program Schedule—A four-day ~~program~~ schedule for national championship meets will be used. With the approval of the Championship Committee, a five-day ~~program~~ schedule may be used.

Rationale: Replace the word “program” with “schedule” since the rest of the article refers to “schedule” not program.

R 30	104.5.2	pages 29-31	Championship Committee	Recommended as Amended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5 Conduct of National Championship Meets

104.5.2 Program—A four-day or five-day program for national championship meets ~~will~~ shall be used. ~~With the approval of the Championship Committee, a five-day program may be used.~~ The Championship Committee will shall set the meet schedule for each national championship meet.

(THE FOLLOWING IS ALL STRICKEN LANGUAGE.)

A Meet schedules (2014–2015)

Schedule 1	Schedule 2	Schedule 3
2015-SC	2014-SC 2015-LG	2014-LG
Day 1** 800/1000 free 1500/1650 free	Day 1** 800/1000 free 1500/1650 free	Day 1 1500 free
Day 2 400 IM	Day 2 400 IM	Day 2 200 fly

100 fly 200 free 50 breast 100 back 200 free relay (mixed)	100 fly 50 free 200 back 100 breast 200 free relay (mixed) 200 medley relay	50 breast 100 free 800 free
Day 3 400/500 free*** 100 IM 200 back 100 breast 50 free 200 fly 200 medley relay (mixed) 200 free relay	Day 3 400/500 free*** 100 free 200 breast 100 IM* 50 back 200 fly 200 free relay	Day 3 400 IM 50 back 200 free 100 breast 200 free relay
Day 4 400 free 400/500 free*** 200 medley relay 50 fly 200 breast 50 back 100 free 200 IM	Day 4 400/500 free*** 200 medley relay (mixed) 50 breast 100 back 200 free 50 fly 200 IM	Day 4 100 fly 50 free 200 back 200 free relay (mixed) 200 medley relay (mixed)
		Day 5 200 medley relay 100 back 200 IM 50 fly 200 breast

* The 100 IM is swum in short course nationals only.

** With Championship Committee approval, a swimmer may compete in both of the two longest freestyle events at the meet. The Championship Committee shall

decide how national qualifying times will affect the entry.

*** Men swim these events on Day 3 and women on Day 4 in odd-numbered years; women swim on Day 3 and men on Day 4 in even-numbered years.

B Rotation of meet schedules—The particular schedule shall be rotated in order (1, 2, and 3) among the three basic schedules shown in article 104.5.2A without regard to course.

(1) In odd-numbered years, men's events shall be odd-numbered. In even-numbered years, men's events shall be even-numbered. On the distance day only, men's and women's heats may be alternated regardless of whether the year is odd-numbered or even-numbered.

(2) In each schedule, at the option of the meet director and with the approval of the Championship Committee, the 800/1000 freestyle and the 1500/1650 freestyle may be swum as either the first day program or the last day program.

(3) The three basic schedules shall be chosen every four years, starting in 1990, by a vote of the House of Delegates, from at least four alternatives presented by the Championship Committee. The selected schedules shall apply to the period starting two years after approval by the House of Delegates.

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

D Alternative meet schedules—Alternative meet schedules may be approved as follows:

(1) A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a different schedule from those defined in article 104.5.2A.

(2) The Championship Committee has the authority to approve other changes in the meet schedule, as necessary, prior to the publication of the meet entry form in order to improve the efficiency of a particular national championship meet.

(THE FOLLOWING IS ALL NEW LANGUAGE.)

- A.** A schedule used at one national championship meet schedule shall not be repeated for at least two years.
- B.** The Championship Committee shall publish the meet schedule no less than six months before the national championship meet begins.
- C.** In odd-numbered years, men’s events shall be odd-numbered. In even-numbered years, men’s events shall be even-numbered.
- D.** With Championship Committee approval, swimmers may compete in both of the two longest freestyle events at the meet. The Championship Committee shall decide how national qualifying times will affect the entry.

Rationale: The meet schedule should be Championship Committee policy. The Championship Committee is best informed to consider each meet host’s facilities in order to create an event order that produces a time line that is best for swimmers and volunteers.

R 31	104.5.3A	page 31	Rules Committee		Withdrawn	Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn Pulled

104.5.3 Event Limit

A Individual events—Competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of six individual events. ~~(or five individual events, if~~ If deemed necessary by the Championship Committee), competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of five individual events. Competitors are limited to with a maximum of three individual events per day.

Rationale: Divide one sentence into three sentences.

R 32	104.5.3A	page 31	Michigan		Not Recommended	Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn Pulled

104.5.3A Individual events - Competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of six individual events (or five individual events if deemed necessary by the Championship Committee), with a maximum of three individual events per day. Swimmers who satisfy the qualifying times for both the 800/1000 and 1500/1650 freestyle must have opportunity to enter and swim both of those events.

Rationale: It is discriminatory to distance swimmers when the Championship Committee determines that swimmers may compete in only one of the two longest distance freestyle events.

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

104.5.2A, footnote ** page 30 **Michigan** Delete

104.5.2A Meet schedules - (footnote to tables showing schedules of events) ~~**With Championship Committee approval, a swimmer may compete in both of the two longest freestyle events at the meet. The Championship Committee shall decide how national qualifying times will affect the entry.~~

R 33	104.5.3C(2)	page 32	Michigan		Not Recommended	Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn Pulled

104.5.3 Event Limit

C National qualifying times

104.5.3C(2) Event limit - When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events of 200 meters or less without meeting the established qualifying standards. The Championship Committee may limit participation in either the 800/1000 or the 1500/1650 freestyle to only those who meet the national qualifying time for that event. Competitors may enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying time for those events.

Rationale: The meet timeline can be managed by restricting swimmers who do not have qualifying times only to events 200 yards/meters and shorter.

R 34	104.5.3C(2)	page 32	Gulf	Recommended as Amended		Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.3 Event Limit

C National qualifying times

(2) Event Limit—When qualifying times ~~(NQTs)~~ are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established ~~NQTs, qualifying standards, times.~~ The Championship Committee may limit participation in either the 800/1000 or the 1500/1650 freestyle to only those who meet the national qualifying time for that event. Competitors may also enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the ~~NQTs, qualifying times~~ for those events. The Championship Committee may choose to specify one or more of the following entry limitations rules to limit participation in either for the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 freestyle: by specifying one or more of the following entry rules:

- (a) ~~Each competitor with or without the NQT~~ may enter only one of these events.
- (b) Only competitors who meet the ~~NQT, qualifying times~~ in both events may enter both events.
- ~~(e) Competitors may be required to have met the NQT for one specified event in order to enter that particular event but may enter the other event without the NQT.~~
- (c) One of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet the qualifying times in that event.

R 34 will look like this in the rule book:

104.5.3 Event Limit

C National qualifying times

(2) Event Limit—When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying times. Competitors may also enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying times for those events. The Championship Committee may choose to specify one or more of the following entry limitations for the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 freestyle:

- (a) Each competitor may enter only one of these events.
- (b) Only competitors who meet the qualifying times in both events may enter both events.
- (c) One of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet the qualifying times in that event.

Rationale: To clarify that the entry options for the two longest events allow the most flexibility to the Championship Committee for time management of these events, while also giving possible competitive

advantages to the fastest distance swimmers. This will still allow a non-NQT swimmer to enter one of the longest events.

R 35	104.5.4A(1)	page 32	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

A Eligibility/affiliation

(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 as a membership number shall not be permitted except for 18-year-olds as follows: A swimmer who will turn 18 by the day prior to the beginning of competition must enter the meet by the entry deadline as a 17-year-old, provided the swimmer registers with USMS no later than the day prior to competition. 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: Less awkward sentence.

R 36	104.5.4C(2)	page 33	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

(2) Relay entry deadline—A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum as per meet information. Participants therein must have entered the meet by the individual entry deadline.

Rationale: This currently implies that a relay can be entered any time the day before, which is not true.

R 37	104.5.4C(3)	page 33	Championship Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

C Entry deadline

(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 entries postmarked by a U.S. Postal Service office in the 50 states by midnight of that date shall be considered on time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.~~

Entry Receipt Deadline—The Championship Committee may establish an entry receipt deadline. All entries must be received by USMS by that deadline to be considered on time.

Rationale: With 99% of the national championship entries received on line, the postmark date is almost obsolete. Mailed entries will have the same receipt deadline as online entries.

R 38	104.5.4D(2)	page 33	Championship Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

D Entry fees

~~(2) A banquet or social event may be conducted for an additional fee. Participation in this event is optional.~~

Rationale: Not necessary as a rule; optional event (e.g., parking passes and shuttle passes are not in the rules either).

R 39	104.5.5A(4)	page 34	Gulf	Not Recommended	Add		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(4) Events 200 yards/meters and longer shall be seeded by one of the following methods:

(a) By entry time only,

(b) By age group, the oldest age group first, slowest heats seeded first within each age group, then by time, or

(c) By a combination of (a) and (b).

(d) When men and women are seeded together by time only, the fastest overall heat of women shall be seeded women only, with that heat placed directly before the fastest heat of men.

The Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.

Rationale: Gender equality; when men and women are seeded together, each gender would have a “championship” heat.

R 40	104.5.8B	page 36	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.8 Results

B Publication of meet results—Meet results in the appropriate format (see Appendix B, “Preparation of Meet Results”) and club scores shall be published within 30 days of the last day of the meet and posted on the USMS website. Electronic files shall be sent to the Championship Committee chair and the USMS Records and Tabulations Committee chair, and a hard copy shall be sent to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee.

Rationale: More exact reference.

R 41	104.5.10B	page 37	Officials Committee	Recommended as Amended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.10 Personnel (also see article 103)

B Officials—The meet host shall appoint a meet referee, ~~and an administrative official referee, a head starter, and a chief judge,~~ subject to qualification standards established by the USMS Officials Committee. ~~A head starter shall also be assigned.~~

The minimum requirements for the following positions shall be assigned for each session shall be:
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 article 103.10.4. ~~and shall~~ Their assignments should meet the following minimum requirements:

two turn judges at each end of each course, each judge with a jurisdiction that does not exceed covering a maximum of five lanes per judge,
one stroke judge on each side of a 50-meter course,
one official at the 15-meter mark of each course for all starts and turns except breaststroke.

In addition to the officials listed above, it is strongly recommended that 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 to 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 warmups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed. Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee shall make further modifications as appropriate and shall ensure that timers' duties in 103.11.2A and D and 103.11.3B are assigned to other meet personnel.

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: Current rule is not specific enough for national championship meet organizers, and it conflicts with the language of 103.2.1A&B. A definition of administrative referee is below, since it is currently not defined in the rule book.

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

(R 41) Glossary page xi **Officials Committee** Add

Administrative Referee—an official certified as an administrative referee who supervises entries, seeding, determination of official times, results, and meet personnel assisting with these duties.

R 42 104.5.11E page 38 **Championship Committee** **Recommended** Delete

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

104.5.11 Facilities and Equipment (also see article 107)

~~E The organization conducting the national championship meet shall use a computer to compile entry lists, heat sheets, entry cards, and final results.~~

Rationale: Not necessary as no one today would consider running a national championship meet without computers.

R 43	105.1.7E	page 39	Records & Tabulation Committee	Recommended	Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

105.1.7E If a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of USA Swimming shall be the standard for Top 10 eligibility for events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. A bulkhead placement confirmation measurement is required for a USMS record set at events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. The measurement rules and policies of USMS shall apply for dual sanctioned events.

Rationale: The additions are to clarify that bulkhead confirmations are still needed for USMS records set at USA-S events. In addition USA-S approved meets have the same requirement as USA-S sanctioned meets for bulkheads.

R 44	105.2.1	page 39	Records & Tabulation Committee	Recommended	Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.2 Top 10 Times

105.2.1 The National Top 10 Times list shall be published annually for 10 best times nationally in each age division and for each gender ~~shall be published annually~~ for the events listed under article 102.5.

Rationale: The National Top Ten times are the official top times which have been verified and achieved by registered USMS-members, whereas the "10 best times nationally" phrase could be misinterpreted as including times from the event ranking list, non-USMS member foreign swimmer times, "not-verified" times, or times from pools that did not meet pool length measurement requirements.

R 45	105.2.3	page 40	Records & Tabulation Committee	Recommended	Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.2.3 In order for a time to be valid for Top 10 times consideration, a minimum primary timing quality of two manual times, averaged per USMS rules (see article 103.17.3), shall be used.

Rationale: To clarify that two watches are required if manual timing is the "primary" timing system, and to further clarify that if automatic timing is used with one watch as the back up timing system and the automatic timing system fails, the adjusted time from the valid one-watch back up is eligible for Top 10 times consideration (103.18.7).

R 46 107.13.3 page 45 Rules Committee Recommended as Amended Add

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

107.13.3 Marking at Midpoint of Course—For long course backstroke, individual medley, and medley relay events, a firmly stretched ¼-inch (7-millimeter) line without flags or pennants may be suspended at the midpoint of the course.

Rationale: Since a midpoint line is still an option, it needs to be defined in the rule book.

R 47 107.17.3 page 46 Rules Committee Recommended Modify

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

107.17.3 Touchpads

B Markings—Panel face markings shall conform to and superimpose on pool end wall markings as closely as possible. Perimeter edges of the panel shall have a 1-inch-wide (0.025-meter) black border. [NC]

Rationale: Add the metric conversion.

R 48 108.2.1 page 48 Rules Committee Recommended Modify

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

108.2 Blind and Visually Impaired

108.2.1 Start—With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a swimmer who is blind or has vision loss. The A swimmer may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block chosen starting position.

Rationale: More accurate language, since a swimmer may start from positions other than on the block.

R 49 108.5.1E(4) page 50 Rules Committee Recommended Modify

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

108.5 Physical Disabilities

108.5.1 Start—Swimmers with physical disabilities:

E Shall use a forward start for breaststroke and butterfly. The referee, however, may allow modifications, such as the following:

(4) For breaststroke and butterfly, after the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg(s) may perform one asymmetrical stroke to attain the breast position.

Rationale: “leg(s)” is consistent with USA-S language. It could be one or both legs.

R 50 108.5.2 page 51 Rules Committee Recommended Modify

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

108.5.2 Stroke/Kick—In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the referee and stroke and turn judge should follow the general rule that if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be judged in accordance with the USMS rules.

Judgments should be made based on the actual rule—not on the swimmer’s technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other may have a nonsymmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule.

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1 Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify
----------------------	---------	------------------------	--------------------	--------

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

Event—any clinic, demonstration, series of races in a given stroke and distance, or meet, including pool, long distance, and open water.

Rationale: Clarify with semicolon that “pool, long distance, and open water” refer to all previous items in the sentence not just to “meet”, and add comma after “distance”.

HK 2 Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify
----------------------	----------	------------------------	--------------------	--------

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

Length—the extent of the course from end to end.

Rationale: Add “the” in the beginning.

HK 3 Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify
----------------------	----------	------------------------	--------------------	--------

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

Still Water—water contained within four walls or landlocked, having no perceptible current or movement other than that caused by wind or by swimmers. ~~(Circulatory systems should be off during competition.)~~

Rationale: Same sentence was deleted from 107.5 last year through adoption of a USA-S rule change, because no state allows a pool circulation system to be turned off.

HK 4 Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify
----------------------	----------	------------------------	--------------------	--------

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

Straightaway Swim—any swim of any length where the course shall be a straight, measured distance, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer.

Rationale: Comma after “distance” unnecessary.

HK 5 101.2.2	page 2	Rules Committee	Recommended	Withdrawn	Modify
---------------------	--------	------------------------	--------------------	------------------	--------

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

101.2 Breaststroke

101.2.2 Stroke—After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall, the ~~shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast~~ the body shall be kept on the breast. (Rest of language is unchanged.)

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S and FINA language and corrects a text error that occurred in 2009. The Rules Committee chose to withdraw HK 5 because the current (stricken) language matches that in the USA-S definition of “on the breast” in the USA-S glossary. Keeping the old language eliminates the need to look in the glossary to find the interpretation of “on the breast”.

HK 6 101.4.4	page 4	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.4.4 Finish—Upon the finish of the race, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. ~~The body may be submerged at the touch.~~

Rationale: Adopted corresponding FINA and USA Swimming language last year but overlooked making the required change in this rule.

HK 7 101.6.2	page 4	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.6.2 Stroke—The stroke for each one-fourth of the designated distance shall follow the prescribed rules for each that stroke.

Rationale: Parallel structure to 101.6.3A.

HK 8 102.9.5	page 8	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.9 Relays

102.9.5 On the relay card, relay teams must list the name of the club, the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and for mixed relays, the gender of each relay member. The name of the leadoff swimmer must be clearly designated.

Rationale: Add a comma between “relays” and “the gender”.

HK 9 102.10.1B	page 8	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.1 Seeding Principles for Masters Competition

B Age groups and/or genders, as well as events of the same distance 200 yards or longer, may be combined so that no swimmer has to swim alone and lanes may be filled.

Rationale: Add commas after “genders” and “longer”.

HK 10	102.10.2B	page 9	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.2 Heat and Lane Assignments

B Minimum number of swimmers per heat—When there are two or more heats, there shall be a minimum of three swimmers or relay teams seeded into the slowest heat. The fastest heat shall be filled first, then the next fastest heat, etc.

Rationale: Add a comma after “heats”.

HK 11	102.10.6C	page 11	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.6 Counters

C If visual counters are used, they may be stationed at the end or either side of the pool beyond the halfway point toward the end of the course opposite the starting end. Visual counters may be lowered into the water at the end of the swimmer’s lane, provided that, in the opinion of the referee, they neither physically aid the swimmer nor interfere with another competitor nor present any safety hazard.

Rationale: Change “or” to “nor” in both cases in the last sentence.

HK 12	103.2.1A	page 15	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.2.1 Officials

A One referee—The referee may also serve as a stroke and turn judge, but shall not serve as starter.

Rationale: Comma after “judge” unnecessary.

HK 13	103.6.1 & 103.7.1, & .2	pages 16-18	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.6 Referee

103.6.1 The referee ~~shall~~:

A ~~Shall~~ ~~H~~have full authority over all officials~~;~~

B Shall assign and instruct ~~them~~ all officials.

C Shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules, ~~and~~

D Can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action that the referee has personally observed.

103.7 Administrative Official

103.7.1 The administrative official shall be responsible to the referee for the supervision of the following:

A The entry and registration process~~;~~

- B Clerk of course₂.
- C Timing equipment operator₂ ~~and~~.
- D Other administrative personnel.

103.7.2 The administrative official shall be responsible to the referee for:

- A The accurate processing of entries and scratches₂.
- B Accurate seeding of heats₂.
- C Determination and recording of official time:
 - (1) Receiving and reviewing the automatic and/or semiautomatic timing results from the timing equipment operator and comparing primary timing results with the backup timing results to determine their validity₂.
 - (2) Receiving the times recorded by the head lane timers from the chief timer and using that data to the extent needed to determine the official time for each swimmer₂.
 - (3) Unless otherwise directed, notifying the referee whenever a time obtained by the primary timing system cannot be used as the official time₂ ~~and~~.
 - (4) Recording disqualifications approved by the referee.
- D Determination of the official results₂ ~~and~~.
- E Publication and posting of results of each event by gender and age group and scores (scores optional).

Rationale: Parallel structure of lists and correct punctuation.

HK 14	103.8.3A	page 18	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8.3 Optional Instructions—the starter may:

- A Announce the event (~~recommended~~).

Rationale: Consistent with change made by USA-S during their editing process.

HK 15	103.13	page 21	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.13 Marshals

Marshals shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist and, with the concurrence of the referee, to remove or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or those whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

Rationale: Parallel sentence structure with other position descriptions.

HK 16	103.15	page 22	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.15 Recorder of Records

The recorder of records shall obtain from the administrative official all times made in each event, shall have proper application forms and shall duly process all record claims as set forth in article 105.

Rationale: Parallel sentence structure with other position descriptions.

HK 17	104.3.1	page 28	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

104.3 Awarding of National Championship Meets

104.3.1 Solicitation of Bids—The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of bids with an emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country.

Rationale: Add the article “an”.

HK 18	104.3.3	page 28	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

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

Rational: The correct conjunction is placed after “meet reports”.

HK 19	106.1	page 41	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

106.1 Medical Examination

Each competitor is strongly encouraged to have a complete medical evaluation before beginning Masters swimming training. In addition, it is ~~also~~ recommended that each competitor have a physical checkup immediately prior to Masters swimming competition to ensure physical readiness for participation.

Rationale: “Also” is redundant because of “In addition”.

HK 20	107.2.1D	page 42	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

D Dimensional tolerance—Against the required length, a tolerance of minus 0.00 meter in each lane used for competition on both end walls at all points from 0.3 meter above (if the wall or timing pad extends to this height, ~~or otherwise~~ to the top of the wall or pad ~~otherwise~~) to 0.8 meter below the surface of the water is allowed. [M‡]

Rationale: Better placement of “otherwise” and delete “or”.

HK 21	107.2.3A	page 42	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

107.2.3 Water Depth

A Starting end—Minimum water depth for racing starts, as measured for a distance of 3 feet, 3½ inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet, 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall, during either competition or practice, shall be as follows:

Rationale: Add comma after “practice”.

HK 22	107.4.1	page 43	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.4.1 Pool Bottom Lane Markers—Minimum 10-inch-wide (25-centimeter) lines of a dark contrasting color (preferably black) shall be provided in the middle of each racing lane on the bottom of the pool. The lines shall, preferably, should be uninterrupted the length of the course and shall end with a distinctive cross line 3 feet, 4 inches (1.0 meter) long and the same width as the bottom center marker. The line, including the cross line, shall terminate 6 feet, 7 inches (2.0 meters) from each end wall. [M*, NC]

Rationale: “shall, preferably” means “should”; consistent with USA-S language.

HK 23	107.17.4	page 46	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.17.4 Optional Accessories—Automatic timing equipment may provide relay judging capability, automatic lap counting, split time readouts for all lanes, correction of erroneous touch, and television equipment tie-in. Any corrections or impulses generated by the equipment operators shall be clearly identified on the results printout.

Rationale: Add comma after “touch”.

HK 24	107.18	page 47	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.18 Electrical Safety

All permanent or temporary electrical connections to the electronic loudspeaker start system, automatic timing equipment, and other electrical or electronic devices operating on line voltages in the vicinity of the racing course shall be made only from groundfault circuit interrupter (GFI) protected convenience receptacles or circuits. In the event such receptacles or circuits are not available in the facility used for competition, portable UL-approved self-contained GFI outlet fittings shall be provided (furnished and installed) at the nonprotected convenience receptacles by the meet management, meet director, or the equipment operator(s), whenever such equipment is connected and in use. [M]

Rationale: Parallel structure of phrases in a series, and add comma after “operator(s)”.

HK 25	108.1.2B(3)	page 47	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.1.2B(3)

B Referee—The referee’s responsibilities include:

(3) Modifications—Aids to buoyancy ~~and~~ or speed are not allowed (see articles 102.12.1E and 102.13.9). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:

- (a) A change in starting position.
- (b) Reassignment of lanes within a heat (e.g., exchanging lanes two and seven).
- (c) Allowing the swimmer to have a personal assistant(s).

Rationale: Consistent with USA-S language and correct punctuation.

HK 26	108.2.2	page 48	Rules Committee	Recommended	Modify		
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.2 Blind and Visually Impaired

108.2.2 Turns and Finishes—A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have personal assistants (“tappers,”) who use poles with soft-tipped ends to tap the swimmer as notification of turns and the finish). Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper(s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.

Rationale: Delete quotation marks and comma from (tappers) and enclose tappers alone in parentheses.
