

2026-27 COLLEGE CLUB SWIMMING GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK

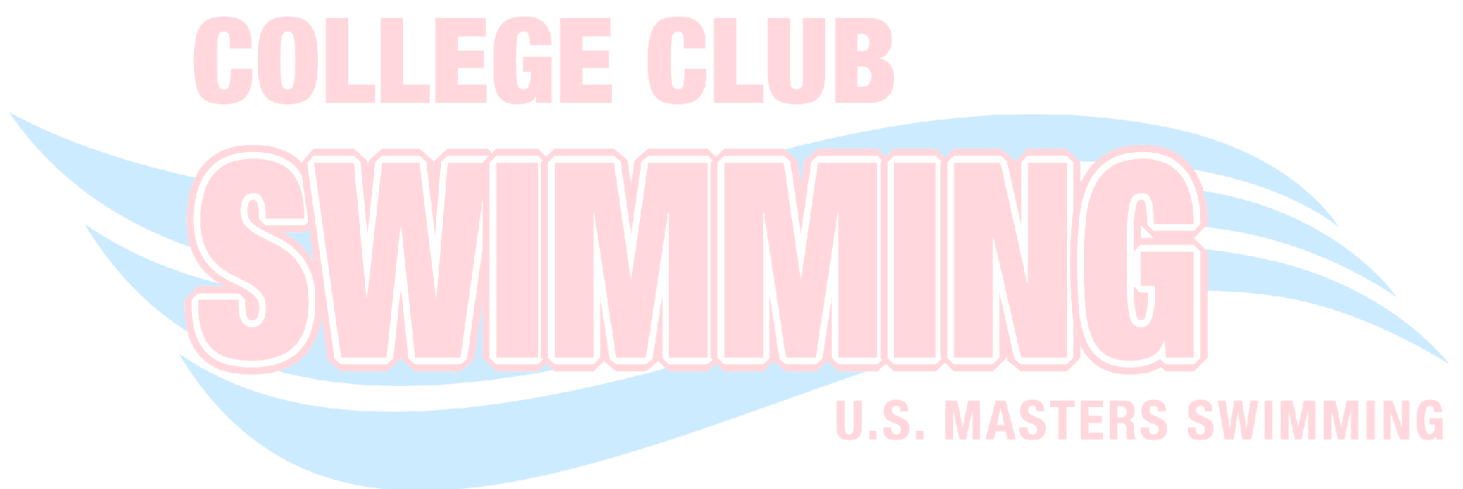


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1 Organizing Principles

1.1 Declaration

College Club Swimming (CCS) is an association of collegiate non-varsity Clubs dedicated to supporting camaraderie, friendship, and sportsmanship within the swimming community.

1.2 Mission Statement

To promote fitness, camaraderie, and competition for college students through swimming.

1.3 Vision Statement

CCS will provide the infrastructure for college swim clubs and their members to more effectively organize programs and competitions and enhance club and student swimming goals.

1.4 Objectives

CCS will work to maintain or achieve the following objectives:

- Support college club formation, growth, and continuity
- Provide communication channels
- Establish framework for competition
- Support the swimming community
- Provide an environment to encourage sportsmanship
- Provide leadership opportunities and mentoring at the club and national levels



2 Swimming Rules

2.1 Starts, Strokes, and Relays

Rules for starts, strokes, and relays will conform to the guidelines in the most recent edition of [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#).

2.2 Swimming Competition

2.2.1 Recognized Meets

- A. A recognized meet is any swimming pool competition that applies for and receives a CCS sanction through [collegeclubswimming.com](#).
- B. All meets with only one (1) CCS must also have at least one (1) attending team and sanction from another swimming organization (NCAA, USMS, USA Swimming) to be sanctioned by CCS. Intrasquad meets (meets with solely one (1) CCS registered club and no other teams) will not be sanctioned by CCS. Exceptions may be considered by the Advisory Board under special circumstances on a case-by-case basis by emailing [collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org](#)
- C. Recognized meets must follow the [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#) on starts, strokes, and relays per 2.1 with at least one (1) person on deck acting as a starter and/or referee as described in 2.3.1.
- D. Times achieved at recognized meets may be considered for CCS records, rankings, and national qualification, provided the swimmers are members of CCS prior to the start of the meet.
- E. Only times achieved at recognized meets will be eligible for CCS Nationals qualifications.
- F. Recognized meets must be swum in a pool approved for competition on the [USMS Certified Pool](#) list.
- G. CCS will not sanction meets on the same weekend as CCS Nationals, or CCS Regionals within the corresponding region. Exceptions may be considered by the Advisory Board under special circumstances on a case-by-case basis by emailing [collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org](#).
- H. Dual Sanctioned Meets
 - a. CCS may dual sanction a USMS meet that meets the minimum requirements to be CCS recognized.
 - b. In a dual sanction meet, meet host(s) may run the meet as they choose. Relay teams must consist of members of the same organization.
 - c. Athletes that are registered for more than one organization must declare which one they want to compete under at time of entry into the meet. However, times will count for both organizations. For times to go into the CCS database, the athlete's CCS ID must be submitted along with the results to CCS.

2.2.2 Pool Certification

- A. If a pool for a competition is not on the [USMS Certified Pool list](#), a [Pool Certification](#) request must be sent to [topten@usmastersswimming.org](#) and approved before a CCS sanction will be granted for the competition.

2.2.3 Eligibility of swimmer

- A. Any swimmer who has gone through the CCS swimmer registration process and meets the CCS eligibility requirements (3.2) will be eligible to have their times in the CCS database.
- B. Any swimmer who swims with a college club program but isn't registered with CCS may participate in non-regional or non-national championship meets but their times will not be reflected in the CCS database.

2.2.4 Relays

- A. Relay teams must be composed of four (4) registered CCS swimmers that swim on the same registered CCS Club.
- B. Men's relays must be composed of four (4) male swimmers. Women's relays must be composed of four (4) female swimmers. Mixed relays must be composed of two (2) male and two (2) female swimmers.

2.2.5 Swimwear for Competition

- A. Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit (in one (1) or two (2) parts), no more than two (2) caps, and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed).
- B. Only swimsuits complying with AQUA swimsuit specifications may be worn.
- C. Exceptions may apply for extenuating circumstances and must be approved by the USMS Rules Chair. Individuals must submit a request to rules@usmastersswimming.org.

2.2.6 Disqualifications

- A. Disqualifications follow the procedures outlined in most recent edition of [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#).

2.2.7 Protests

- A. Protests must be submitted to a designated meet official. If the protest is with the referee, a formal complaint must be sent to collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org within five (5) days of the event.

2.3 Meet Procedures

2.3.1 Required Personnel

- A. At minimum, in order to run a CCS sanctioned and recognized meet, the event must have a designated certified meet official acting as the starter and/or referee.
- B. The Official's information must be submitted during the sanctioning process for the meet to be sanctioned and recognized.
- C. CCS recognizes any swimming official certification from the following organizations:
 - i. US Masters Swimming
 - ii. YMCA Swimming
 - iii. USA Swimming
 - iv. NCAA
 - v. National Federation for High School Associations (NFHS)
 - vi. Any other [USMS-Approved Bodies](#) not specifically listed
- D. Meets that are run without the minimum required personnel will have their sanction revoked and the times will not be recognized by CCS. Future sanction requests may be withheld or subject to additional scrutiny.

2.3.2 Timing

- A. Every race in a recognized meet needs to be timed. CCS will accept one of two methods of timing:
 - i. Fully automatic timing with touchpads: Requires one (1) manual stopwatch per lane, plus one (1) pool backup stopwatch.
 - ii. Manual timing by individual lane timers: Requires minimum of two (2) stopwatches per lane, plus one (1) pool backup stopwatch.

2.3.3 Results

- A. It is the responsibility of the event director to submit the meet database backup file to collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org within seven (7) days of the event.
- B. If results are to be considered for National Championship Meet qualification, event results must be submitted by the announced result submission deadline, even if that date falls before the seven (7) day deadline.
- C. CCS and the Competition Committee reserve the right to question any result from any CCS-Sanctioned meet for authenticity and enforce individual and team sanctions for any conduct determined to be fraudulent or inauthentic.

2.4 Championship Meets

2.4.1 Eligibility

- A. Swimmers must be registered with CCS prior to the start of the Championship Meet in order to be eligible to participate in any CCS Championship Meet.

2.4.2 Regional Championships

- A. There will be one (1) Regional Championship for each region per academic year.
- B. Regional Championships will not have any qualifying time standards.
- C. The Competition Committee will decide where the Regional Championships are located based on a bid process.
- D. It is required that there is a minimum of four (4) certified officials on deck (referee, starter and two (2) stroke and turn judges) per course.
- E. There must be, at minimum, one (1) timer per lane in addition to the automatic timing system with touchpads.
- F. Clubs may compete in Regional Championships outside of their geographically assigned region as described in Section 6, but such Clubs will compete as exhibition. For Regional Championships using the prelims/finals format, only swimmers whose Clubs are located within that geographic region will be permitted to swim in finals sessions.
- G. Clubs swimming at a Regional Championships outside of their geographically assigned region shall have results uploaded to the CCS database and are eligible for Nationals qualification. These results are not eligible for top performance recognition.

2.4.3 National Championship

- A. There will be one (1) National Championship meet per academic year.
- B. The National Championship meet will have qualifying standards decided upon by the Competition Committee. Course conversion times are not acceptable to be used as qualifying times.
- C. The Competition Committee will decide where the National Championship meet is located based on a bid process.
- D. The qualification period will be defined as the week after the preceding year's national championship until one (1) month before the national championship.
- E. It is required that there is a minimum of one (1) USMS/USA Swimming-certified official on deck per 200 swimmers (referee, starter and two stroke and turn judges) per course.
- F. There must be, at minimum, one (1) timer per lane on top of the automatic timing system with touchpads.
- G. Only times in the CCS database achieved within the qualification period (2.4.2D) will be acceptable times to qualify for the National Championship.
- H. Altitude adjustments will be made upon request for any CCS-Sanctioned meet swum at or above 3,000 feet elevation in accordance with the guidelines set by the most recent edition of the [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#).

2.4.4 Disabled Swimmers

- A. All disabled swimmers who wish to compete in the National Championship must meet the USA Swimming Para-Motivational Sectional Time Standards in order to be eligible for CCS National competition. Disabled swimmers are eligible to compete in the 50, 100, and 200-yard events. These time standards can be found by [clicking here](#).
- B. Prior to a championship meet, the swimmer and/or the coach or president of the swimmer's Club must notify the Meet Referee in writing of the swimmer's disability so that, if needed, there is time for accommodations to be made. The Meet Referee may elect to have them swim the 50's during the able-body 100 events, 100's during the 200 events, and 200's during the 400/500 events, based on entry times.
- C. Any swimmer with a disability that is not classifiable by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards, that has been diagnosed by a physician as having a disability, may compete if they meet the national time standard derived from that disabilities' international governing body world standards.

2.5 Records and Rankings

2.5.1 Eligibility

- A. Any result achieved by a CCS swimmer at a CCS recognized meet is eligible for recognition through CCS Records and Rankings.

2.5.2 Rankings

- A. CCS shall maintain a ranking of performances attained in every recognized event each season.

2.5.3 2.5.3 Records

- A. CCS will recognize historically best performances for:
 - College Club Swimming
 - CCS National Championship Meet
 - CCS Regional Championship Meets for each Region
- B. Records will become official after the ratification of results in Championship Meets **OR** after submission and acceptance of the Record Application for a result attained at a CCS recognized non-championship meet.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Club to submit the records application and all necessary materials to collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the meet.

2.6 Facilities Standards

Rules for facilities standards will conform to the current [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#).

3 Membership

3.1 Membership of Clubs

- A. Any club in good standing with their affiliated university may become a CCS-registered Club.
- B. There can only be one (1) CCS-registered Club per university.
- C. The club membership year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31 the following year.
- D. All clubs must meet the [College Club Swimming Amateurism and Eligibility Policy](#). Clubs who do not meet the standards are ineligible to register or compete as a CCS Club.

3.2 Membership of Individuals

3.2.1 Eligibility of Swimmer within a Club

- A. The Club and its university or college decides who can be a member of their local Club team. The below definition is only for eligibility as a CCS-registered swimmer affiliated with the Club, who will be listed in the CCS database.

3.2.2 Eligibility of Swimmer for CCS

To be an individual CCS member, a swimmer needs to be a member of a CCS registered Club. They can only be a member of one (1) registered CCS Club at a time. The swimmer must also meet the following requirements:

- A. Is at least 18 years of age on the day of CCS registration.
- B. Is a member in good standing with a CCS Club affiliated with a university or college.
- C. Is affiliated with the university as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student in the current academic term, a full-time co-op/intern student or faculty and staff in the current term.
- D. Students at a satellite campus, defined as a campus of a university or college located at a different site than the main campus, are allowed to be on the same CCS registered team with students at the main university campus. Students at a satellite university, defined as a college that is affiliated with a larger system, but operates as a distinct institution at a separate location, must have their own distinct CCS registered team, and may not combine teams with other universities in the same system.
- E. All swimmers must meet the [College Club Swimming Amateurism and Eligibility Policy](#). Swimmers who do not meet the standards are ineligible to register or compete as a CCS swimmer.

3.2.3 Club Roster

- A. No swimmer may be declared inactive on their club roster after February 1. Individuals may register themselves and be added to a club roster at any time throughout the club membership period.
- B. Swimmers may not be declared inactive after competing in a CCS championship meet.

3.3 Participation

- A. CCS shall respect and protect the opportunity of every eligible individual to participate in CCS activities and recognized meets. No member of CCS or any organization associated with CCS may deny or threaten to deny any eligible individual the opportunity to host or participate in CCS activities without just cause. It is not a violation of this article to restrict an individual's eligibility based on Club membership or qualifying times. Any Club or eligible individual who alleges that the opportunity to participate has been denied or is about to be denied may seek redress through CCS hearings and appeals (3.5).
- B. CCS shall follow [NCAA guidelines for transgender athlete participation](#).

3.4 Conduct of Members

The opportunity to participate is a privilege and as such members shall conduct themselves with integrity and in a sporting manner. The privileges of membership and participation may be withdrawn or denied if the conduct of a member or prospective member is 1) inconsistent with the CCS mission or 2) detrimental to the image or reputation of CCS, the sport of swimming, or those who participate in it.

3.5 Hearings and Appeals

3.5.1 Club Privileges

- A. Member Clubs and CCS may deny membership, censure, place on probation, suspend, fine, or expel any Club or individual member or any person participating in CCS activities who has engaged in any action contrary to the conduct of members.
- B. Disputes arising within a single Club shall be dealt with directly by the Club in accordance with Club or college rules and procedures. Any appeal of the Club's decision shall be made to the National Board of Review.

3.5.2 National Board of Review

- A. The National Board of Review will be comprised of: the USMS Legal Council (non-voting), a USMS director (non-voting), the CCS rule committee chair (voting), one (1) swimmer from the Region where the submission originated (voting), and one member from the Advisory Board (voting) unless there is a conflict of interest.
- B. The National Board of Review shall have authorities defined in [U.S. Masters Swimming Rules](#) (403.5)
- C. National Board of Review shall develop and maintain procedures including how disputes and appeals shall be filed, timing for each aspect of hearing and appeal process, fees, structure of hearing panels, conduct of panel hearings and notifications.
- D. CCS shall maintain a permanent file of all physical evidence and written decisions pertaining to any matter that was reviewed by the National Board of Review or the Advisory Board pursuant to Part 4 of this document. The files shall be made available to any member wishing to examine them.
- E. Decisions rendered by the National Board of Review shall, when applicable, be recognized and fully enforced.



4 Organization and Structure of CCS

4.1 Regions

- A. Regions are geographic areas with administrative responsibility for Clubs located within the region.
- B. Region Boundaries – Part 6 contains official names and boundary descriptions for each Region.

4.2 Advisory Board

4.2.1 Membership

The Advisory Board shall consist of:

- A. Two (2) directors elected from each Region (elected directors).
- B. Up to four (4) CCS alumni/recreational sports representatives, appointed by the USMS Chair and subject to approval by the Advisory Board.
- C. No more than two (2) national championship liaisons overseeing the National Championships Meet.
- D. No more than two (2) regional championship liaisons overseeing all Regional Championships Meets.
- E. Two (2) USMS directors, appointed by the USMS Chair.
- F. A USMS Chair.
- G. An elected director Chair who shall be selected from the Advisory Board elected directors, approved by the preceding season's Advisory Board.
- H. An elected director Secretary who shall be selected from the Advisory Board elected directors, approved by the preceding season's Advisory Board.

4.2.2 Elections and Term of Office

- A. Annually, one (1) elected director shall be elected to a 2-year term from each Region.
- B. The elected director is expected to attend the annual in-person meeting.
- C. Each club may choose to nominate up to one (1) individual to run for election to the Advisory Board. Nominations will be open for a minimum of four (4) weeks before closing on March 31.
- D. Elections for elected directors shall open on April 15 and will conclude at midnight EST two (2) weeks after they open.
- E. Each member Club in the Region shall have one (1) vote for the elected director from their Region.
- F. The term of office for elected directors shall begin July 1.
- G. Alumni and recreational sport representative directors shall be appointed to a 1-year term after elections and prior to August 1.
- H. Elected directors shall hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected or appointed with approval from the Advisory Board.

4.2.3 Powers

- A. Determine the mission and objectives of College Club Swimming
- B. Award Regional and National Championships
- C. Alter, amend, or repeal rules and policies
- D. Create, modify, or disband committees
- E. Oversee Advisory Board elections
- F. Enforce the rules and policies listed by this Governance Handbook and other published policy.

4.2.4 Term Limits, Removal and Vacancies

- A. Each elected director is eligible for election to the same office for two (2) terms.
- B. There shall be no limit on the number of times alumni directors, recreational sport representatives and USMS directors may be appointed, but each position shall have a term of one (1) year and must be selected annually.

- C. A director may be removed from the Advisory Board for failing to perform required duties of the Advisory Board. Removal of a director requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Advisory Board. The director in question shall have voice but no vote on such removal.
- D. A director may resign at any time by giving notice to the Advisory Board.
- E. A vacancy may be left vacant or filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the Advisory Board appointment or by special election within the Region. An appointed director shall have full rights and responsibilities of the position.

4.3 Meetings

- A. A minimum of three (3) meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held each year, with one (1) of these as an annual in-person meeting.
- B. The Advisory Board may participate in any regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of any means of communication, including telephone. A director participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person.
- C. The presence of a majority of directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Advisory Board. Except, at the annual meeting where a quorum shall consist of those directors present and voting.
- D. Each elected director and USMS director shall have one (1) vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. In the case of a tie, the USMS Chair may cast a vote.
- E. Agendas and recaps of each meeting will be posted to collegeclubswimming.com.

4.4 Committees and Appointments

4.4.1 Rules Committee

The Rules Committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to: Governance Handbook revisions, rules interpretations, and Advisory Board elections.

4.4.2 Competition Committee

The Competition Committee's responsibilities include but are not limited to: awarding and overseeing Regional and National Championships.

4.4.3 Club Development Committee

The Club Development Committee's responsibilities include: but are not limited to: the creation of best practice documents, marketing of CCS, and promoting CCS club development and growth.

4.4.4 Financial Policy

The Advisory Board shall not maintain separate accounts. Funding for Advisory Board activities shall come from U.S. Masters Swimming and the member CCS Clubs. CCS shall release an annual summary of revenue and expenditures.

4.5 Parliamentary Authority

Unless otherwise specified, and subject to all standing rules, the current Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings and proceedings.

4.6 Indemnification

Each person who is or was an Advisory Board director shall be indemnified by USMS to the full extent permitted by the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the state of Florida against any liability, cost, or expense incurred in the capacity as a director or arising out of the status as a director.

5 Amendment Procedures

5.1 Jurisdiction

Proposed changes to the CCS Governance Handbook shall be considered by the Rules Committee for report and recommendation to the Advisory Board.

5.2 Submission

Changes to the CCS Governance Handbook may be proposed only by a member Club, a committee, or the Advisory Board. Proposed changes to the CCS Governance Handbook must be submitted to collegeclub@usmastersswimming.org no later than January 1 to be considered for the upcoming season.

5.3 Modification

Proposed amendments may be modified in any manner by the Rules Committee and Advisory Board, where appropriate, while under consideration by said body. Such modification must be germane to the subject matter and intent of the proposed change.

5.4 Adoption

- A. The CCS Governance Handbook may be amended by a majority vote of the Advisory Board if the proposed amendments are recommended by the Rules Committee or by a two-thirds vote of the Advisory Board if the proposed amendments are NOT recommended by the Rules Committee.
- B. Adoption of any rule change for the following season must be approved by the Advisory Board by May 1, to allow ample time for membership to familiarize themselves with the rule change(s).

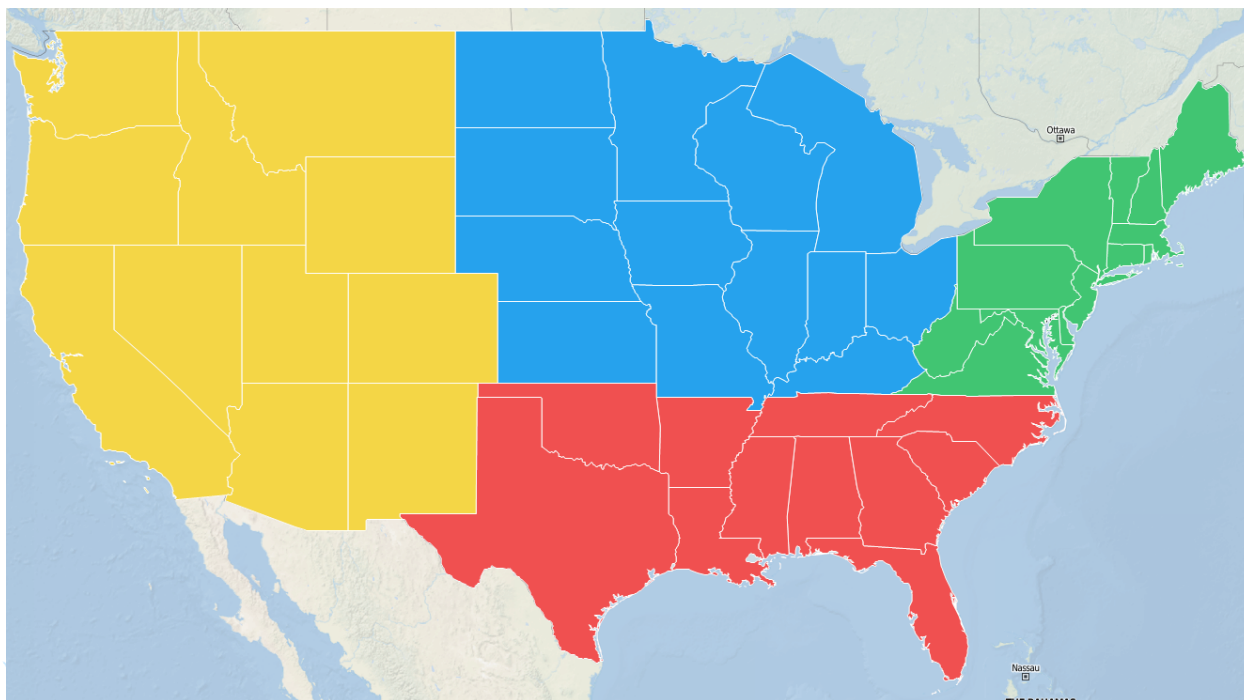
5.5 Effective Date

All approved changes shall become effective for the upcoming registration year on August 1 unless otherwise noted by the Advisory Board. All USMS Rules changes will take effect on the upcoming CCS registration year, starting August 1, unless otherwise noted by the Advisory Board.

5.6 Deferment to US Masters Swimming Rulebook

Any situation, procedure, or policy not specifically outlined or addressed by published CCS Policy or the most recent edition of the CCS Governance Handbook shall defer to the most recent edition of the US Masters Swimming Rulebook or USMS Published Policy.

6 Regions



Eastern	Central	Southern	Western
Connecticut	Illinois	Alabama	Alaska
DC	Indiana	Arkansas	Arizona
Delaware	Iowa	Florida	California
Maine	Kansas	Georgia	Colorado
Maryland	Kentucky	Louisiana	Hawaii
Massachusetts	Michigan	Mississippi	Idaho
New Hampshire	Minnesota	North Carolina	Montana
New Jersey	Missouri	Oklahoma	Nevada
New York	Nebraska	South Carolina	New Mexico
Pennsylvania	North Dakota	Tennessee	Oregon
Rhode Island	Ohio	Texas	Utah
Vermont	South Dakota		Washington
Virginia	Wisconsin		Wyoming
West Virginia			

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