

FINAL REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

**FINAL REPORT OF THE USMS RULES COMMITTEE
FOLLOWING THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. The final action of the House of Delegates at the 2018 Annual Meeting is indicated.

Number	Section	Description	HOD Action
<u>R-1</u>	Glossary	Add glossary definitions for malfunction and valid time for clarity.	Adopted
R-2	Glossary	Add glossary definition for meet announcement to provide clarity on the use of different terms for meet information.	Adopted
R-3	Glossary	Permit a meet to be run with multiple sanction numbers when required without being considered as different meets.	Adopted
<u>R-4</u>	102.3.2	Change relay age groups for SCY meets to be the same as SCM and LCM meets.	Defeated
R-5	102.4	Add transmale and transfemale gender categories for transgender athletes.	Defeated
<u>R-6</u>	102.5.3	Codify a requirement to develop and publish guidelines for transgender swimmers to compete in the male and female gender categories.	Adopted
R-7	102.12.1	Codify the official interpretation that prohibits the use of therapeutic elastic tape in competition.	Adopted
R-8	102.16	Prohibit the use of cameras and video equipment in certain areas of the venue during competition.	Adopted
R-9	103.10.5	Clarify the use of automatic relay takeoff judging equipment for relay disqualifications.	Adopted
R-10	103.18.5	Correct inconsistency with the use of watch times in the event of automatic and semiautomatic system failures.	Adopted
<u>R-11</u>	103.18.5	Permit the use of two valid watch times as a tertiary backup system to be recorded for USMS records in the event of automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems failures when automatic timing is used.	Adopted
R-12	104	Delete Article 104 in its entirety.	Defeated
R-13	104.1	Allow for additional flexibility in selecting the dates for the short course national championship meet.	Adopted
R-14	104.4.3	Clarify reimbursement of expenses incurred by the championship committee.	Adopted
R-15	104.5.1	Requirements for distribution of heat sheets at national championships.	Defeated

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R-16	104.5.2	Update wording for “order of events” versus format.	Adopted
R-17	104.5.2 104.5.3	Change in wording to list the requirements for event limits in distance events at national championships.	Adopted
R-18	104.5.5	Update wording to describe seeding requirements for some events at national championships.	Adopted
R-19	104.5.5	Update wording to describe seeding requirements for events 200 yards/meters and above at national championships.	Adopted
R-20	104.5.5	Clarify that swimmers who have the potential to set a record should not be seeded in an outside lane regardless of seed time.	Adopted
R-21	104.5.7	Update wording for awards at national championships.	Adopted
R-22	104.5.11	Update wording for clarity in section regarding automatic timing equipment at national championships.	Adopted
R-23	105.2.2	Insert reference for split time requirements to be recorded for top 10 times for clarity.	Adopted
HK-1	101.1.1	Add consistent language for the forward start regarding foot position consistent with start commands in article 103.	Adopted
HK-2	104.5.6	Clarify reference for scoring at national championships.	Adopted
HK-3	107.1.2	Clarify that aids to speed, pace, buoyancy, and endurance are not permitted as disability accommodations with the reference to article 102.12.1E.	Adopted

USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS Rules

Number	Section	Description	HOD Action
U-1	Glossary 102.14	Add the definition of competition category with respect to gender and corresponding protest procedure.	Defeated
U-2	102.11	Clarify age definition when a meet is postponed for an extended period of time due to weather or other conditions.	Defeated
U-3	102.12.2	Add cannabinoids to the list of substances which may not be used in advertisements on swimwear.	Adopted
U-4	102.13.7	Add reference to clarify process for disqualifications due to illegal swimwear.	Adopted
U-5	103.17	Add requirement for a meet safety director.	Withdrawn

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U-6	106.13.2	Add requirement to have a mark on the deck that shows the location of the 15-meter points in addition to the required mark on the lane lines.	Adopted
U-7	106.12	Add a requirement that, if backstroke ledges are used, identical ledges must be provided for all lanes.	Adopted

CHANGES TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART ONE

The following amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7.

Rules adopted by the House of Delegates will take effect on January 1, 2018.

R-1 Glossary Rules Committee pages xiii and xv Delete, Add, and Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

~~**Malfunction**—a mechanical or electronic equipment failure; not a human failure by the swimmer.~~

~~**Valid time** – a time reported by a designated timing system without a confirmed malfunction and determined by the meet referee or designee to be accurate based on analysis of all reported times, observations by officials, and other relevant data.~~

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

(Sections A and B are unchanged)

C Primary timing system malfunction—A primary timing system malfunction may have occurred if:

- (1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the backup system(s) is approximately .30 second or greater; or
- (2) It is reported the swimmer missed the touchpad or had a soft touch.
- (3) The timing system operator confirms a mechanical, electronic, or operational error that results in failure of the timing system to report a time.

Rationale: With the changes in timing system adjustments and determination of official time that took place in 2017 and 2018, clarification of these terms provides additional guidance for officials to determine what constitutes a malfunction of the timing system and what constitutes a valid time.

R-2 Glossary Rules Committee page xiii Add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

~~**Meet Announcement**—document that sets forth required information about the meet, including the starting times, order of events, entry procedures, and other meet procedures as required by the rules and regulations.~~

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Rationale: We use the terms meet announcement, meet information, and entry form interchangeably in parts one and two. The term “meet announcement” is the predominant term in part one. A glossary definition connects all of these requirements together for clarity.

R-3 Glossary Rules Committee page xiii Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

Meet—an event or series of events held under ~~a single~~ sanction or recognition and conducted within 10 consecutive days at the same venue, except for postal meets.

Rationale: Clarifies that meets may be conducted using different courses (e.g., 25 yards, 25 meters, 50 meters) on different days or sessions could still be considered as part of the same meet. Our current process for compiling official times requires a different sanction number if more than one type of course is used in different sessions, but it is not necessarily the intent to regard each session as a separate meet.

R-4 102.3.2 Potomac Valley LMSC page 6 Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

The Rules Committee does not recommend this proposal (by a 6-8 vote). A majority felt the current system serves the organization well and promotes attendance at National Championships. There is also concern about the preservation of existing records in making this change.

102.3 Age Groups

102.3.2

Relay

Events-

~~**A Short course (25) yards**—18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+... (10-year increments as high as is necessary). The age of the youngest relay team member shall determine the age group. Relay teams must swim in the oldest age group for which they are eligible.~~

~~**B Short course (25) meters, and long course (50) meters**—72–99, 100–119, 120–159, 160–199, 200–239, 240–279, 280–319, 320–359, 360–399 ... (40-year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.~~

Rationale: For relay teams where swimmers' ages vary a great deal, assigning relay age based on the youngest swimmer's age puts many of these relays at a competitive disadvantage, effectively penalizing teams for having a diverse set of swimmers and swimmers for being old. Using the same relay age calculation as meters enables more SCY relay teams to be competitive in a more appropriate age-based evaluation.

R-5 102.4 Southern Pacific LMSC page 6 Add

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

The Rules Committee did not recommend this proposal by a unanimous vote. A consensus of the committee is that separate transgender categories are unnecessary and would be inconsistent with the operating norms of other swimming organizations. The change is also impractical due to the small number of affected swimmers and additional requirements for results tabulation, records, and top 10.

Add the following new article and renumber the remaining sections in article 102.

102.4 Gender

102.41 The following gender categories shall be offered at USMS sanctioned meets: male (M), female (F), transmale (TM), and transfemale (TF).

102.42 The rules committee shall develop and publish, with the approval of the USMS Board of Directors, guidelines that address the eligibility of transgender athletes to earn official times, places, and points in the male and female gender categories.

102.43 The transmale and transfemale categories refers to athletes who have completed a transition from one gender to another and meet the eligibility requirements to compete in the male or female categories.

102.44 Athletes who identify as non-binary or gender neutral shall enter and swim events using the gender assigned at birth.

The following changes are also needed for consistency:

**101.7.3 Rules Pertaining to Relays
(sections A-F unchanged)**

G Mixed relays shall consist of two men and two women who may swim in any order. Mixed trans relays shall consist of two trans men and two trans women who may swim in any order.

102.5.2 Any event (series of races in a given stroke and distance) conducted at a sanctioned meet must be offered for all age groups listed in articles 102.3.1 and 102.3.2 and ~~both~~ all genders categories defined in article 102.4.

Rationale: As USMS is an inclusive organization, this will give all athletes the opportunity to participate and compete while ensuring a fair field of play.

R-6 Article 102.5.3 Southern Pacific LMSC page 8 Add

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

102.5 Events

(Add the following new article and renumber remaining sections in article 102.5)

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102.5.3 The Rules Committee shall develop, publish, and maintain, with the approval of the USMS Board of Directors, guidelines that address the eligibility of transgender athletes to earn official times and other forms of recognition (times, places, records, and top ten rankings) in the male and female gender categories. Athletes who do not meet the eligibility guidelines shall be permitted to participate in competition in the gender that corresponds to their USMS registration without official recognition.

102.14 Protests

(Articles 102.14.1 through 102.14.5 remain unchanged)

102.14.6 Protests of eligibility to compete in a gender category shall be considered by the Rules Committee in accordance with USMS policy guidelines regarding eligibility of transgender athletes. Athletes shall be permitted to compete in the gender category that corresponds to their USMS registration pending a decision by the Rules Committee.

Rationale: USMS is an inclusive organization. This proposal will add the USMS Transgender Policy/Guidelines to the Rule Book as well as attempt to address those who identify as non-binary.

R-7 Article 102.12.1 Rules Committee page 14 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

102.12.1 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. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

Rationale: Codify the current interpretation of the rule since questions persist on the use of therapeutic elastic tape in competition. Implementation of this rule in competition has been inconsistent.

R-8 Article 102.16 San Diego-Imperial LMSC page 16 Add

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended
HOD Action: Adopted

Add the following new article:

102.16 Use of Cameras, Video Equipment, and Drones

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- A The use of cameras, including cell phone cameras and/or other recording devices, is prohibited behind the starting platforms during the start of races, including relay starts.
- B The use of audio or visual recording devices, including cell phone cameras, is prohibited in changing areas, restrooms, and locker rooms.
- C The sanctioning LMSC or the meet host may also impose further restrictions and shall include such information in the meet announcement.
- D The meet referee may further restrict the use of cameras and video equipment during competition.
- E Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, and open-ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials, and/or spectators are present. USMS credentialed media personnel may be exempted from these restrictions.
- F Any individual in violation of these restrictions may be barred from the venue by the meet referee or meet director.

Rationale: To prevent unauthorized/inappropriate images from being taken during starts and to eliminate interference to officials, timers, and swimmers at the starting end and in areas where officials are performing their duties.

R-9 Article 103.10.5 Rules Committee page 21 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

103.10.5 Relay Takeoff Judges

(Paragraphs A and B are unchanged)

- C When automatic relay exchange judging equipment is in use, the system printout will provide the information to judge relay exchanges. Integrated backup timing cameras may be reviewed by the referee to confirm the automatic system's results. When backup timing cameras are not available, ~~the referee will determine the confirmation process~~ automatic relay exchange equipment may only be used to confirm or overrule an infraction noted by the relay takeoff judges.

Rationale: Provides clarity for officials on the use of relay takeoff judging equipment. This provision codifies current practice and is in conformance with FINA and USA Swimming protocols.

R-10 Article 103.18.5 Rules Committee page 27 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

103.18.5 Records and Top 10 times using an Automatic Primary Timing System—Secondary and tertiary times may be used to determine the official time as follows when the

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automatic primary timing system fails, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed. See 103.17.3D for overhead video backup.

- A** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by an automatic primary timing system.
- B** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the automatic primary timing system fails if the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system using three, two, or one valid button(s).
- C** USMS Top 10 times may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of one valid watch time.
- D** An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records, USMS records, or USMS Top 10 times when reported by an automatic primary timing system.
- E** An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the automatic primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system with three, two, or one valid buttons(s).
- F** USMS records shall not be established when the times are reported by a manual backup system when the primary system fails.
- G** An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times. ~~Note: If the secondary system is manual watches (no semiautomatic system), the requirements listed in 103.18.5C shall apply to the watch times.~~

Rationale: Correct inconsistency created when we modified article 103 in 2017. 103.18.5(G) says that two watches are required to record split times for Top 10 purposes. But, the note would permit times with only one watch if there is no secondary semiautomatic system capable of recording splits.

R-11 Article 103.18.5 Oregon LMSC page 27 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.18.5 Records and Top 10 times using an Automatic Primary Timing System—Secondary and tertiary times may be used to determine the official time as follows when the automatic primary timing system fails, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed. See 103.17.3D for overhead video backup.

- A** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by an automatic primary timing system.
- B** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the automatic primary timing system fails if the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system using three, two, or one valid button(s).

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BC USMS records may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

CD USMS Top 10 times may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of one valid watch time.

DE An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records, USMS records, or USMS Top 10 times when reported by an automatic primary timing system.

EF An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the automatic primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system with three, two, or one valid buttons(s).

~~F~~ ~~USMS records shall not be established when the times are reported by a manual backup system when the primary system fails.~~

G An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times. Note: If the secondary system is manual watches (no semiautomatic system), the requirements listed in 103.18.5C shall apply to the watch times.

Rationale: A recent experience at USMS nationals created a situation in which the timing equipment operator turned off a pad during a national record swim and thus a record did not count. This is unfair to a swimmer, and there should be some accommodation for a record if either the entire system fails or it is operator error in turning off a lane.

The adoption of R-11 requires that the table on page 29 be amended for consistency.

	Automatic Primary Timing System	Semiautomatic Primary Timing System	Manual Primary Timing system
World Records	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.		
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by a touchpad.		
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by three, two, or one valid semiautomatic button(s) if the touchpad fails.		
USMS Records	Touchpad time		

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	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.		
	<u>Manual backup time with a minimum of two valid watches when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic systems fail.</u>		
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by touchpad.		
USMS Top 10 Times	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	Two-button system with a time calculated using the procedure in 103.17.3B	
	Manual backup time with one valid watch if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).	One watch if the two-button semiautomatic system fails (no buttons)	Two valid watches.
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches if the touchpad fails.	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches.	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches.

R-12 Article 104 South Texas LMSC pages 30-39 Delete

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

The Rules Committee does not recommend this proposal by a unanimous vote. While some sections of Part 104 are better suited to policy, rather than being codified in the rules, a wholesale deletion of this part is impractical without a replacement structure. The Rule Book is the primary resource for information about championship meet conduct, procedures, etc., beyond just the national championship meets. Removing Part 104 completely would create significant confusion for members and championship meet personnel.

Delete Article 104 in its entirety and renumber subsequent articles.

Rationale: Article 104 covers processes and administration activities related to USMS national championship events. This type of information is better contained in administrative procedure document and not the rule book for competitive swimming. Having these processes and administrative procedures defined in the Rule book also limit the flexibility in administering our national championships. It also limits the sharing of responsibility for these administrative activities between the Championship Committee and National Office staff. The Board of Directors

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should request the Championship Committee and National office staff to develop a document to house these administrative procedures.

R-13 Article 104.1 Championship Committee page 30 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended HOD Action: Adopted
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104.1 Meet Categories

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

104.1.1 Short Course (25) yards or (25) meters--Between April 15 and May 31.

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

104.1.3 With the approval of the Championship Committee, other dates may be considered.

Rationale: Placing the same sentence in a separate item allows flexibility for both meets, although this would be quite unusual for a Spring meet.

R-14 Article 104.4.3 Championship Committee page 31 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended HOD Action: Adopted
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104.4.3 Assistance to Meet Host—The Championship Committee shall provide such assistance and guidance necessary to provide uniformity in national championship meet production. Out-of-pocket expenses for services provided by the Championship Committee shall be reimbursed by USMS Inc.

Rationale: Clarify that the reimbursement is for such expenses incurred by the Championship Committee for providing the assistance.

R-15 Article 104.5.1 Championship Committee page 32 Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended HOD Action: Defeated

The Rules Committee has changed the recommendation to “Not Recommended” after further discussion. The term “registration” creates confusion. In addition, “heat sheets” refer to lists of heat and lane assignments and cannot be produced before the event is seeded. The existing language codifies the current practice and is preferable to new language that may introduce confusion.

104.5.1 Information for Participants

(Article 104.5.1A is unchanged.)

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B Heat sheets—~~For preseeded events, heat sheets listing the name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. For deck-seeded events, entry lists with the name, age, club, and time, by time or age group, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration. If instead the host chooses to make heat sheets available for deck-seeded events, then the heat sheets for each day, except relays, shall be made available in the morning before those events are swum. Heat sheets shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration with the following requirements for meets including both preseeded and deck-seeded events:~~

~~(1) Preseeded events: The heat sheet must list name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments.~~

~~(2) Deck-seeded events: The heat sheet must list name, age, club, and seed time by time or age group (except relays).~~

~~If the meet is entirely deck-seeded, then heat sheets listing each event with name, age, club, and seed time shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of registration, and a seeded heat sheet for each day, shall be made available for coaches and be posted online and at multiple places around the venue in the morning before those events are swum.~~

Rationale: To clarify what must be printed for all swimmers, recognizing that in a deck seeded event, printing heat sheets for all competitors each morning is too burdensome for the host and, in the age of electronics, probably not necessary.

R-16 Article 104.5.2 Championship Committee page 32 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.2 Format--A four-day or five-day national championship meet shall be conducted. The Championship Committee shall set the order of events for each national championship meet.

A A national championship ~~meet format~~ order of events shall not be repeated for at least two years.

B The Championship Committee shall publish the ~~meet format~~ order of events no less than six months before the national championship meet begins.

Rationale: More accurate wording. Format refers to the four or five days and schedule of events refers to the specific stroke events.

R-17 Article 104.5.2 and 104.5.3 Championship Committee page 32 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

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104.5.2 Format-- A four-day or five-day national championship meet shall be conducted. The Championship Committee shall set the order of events for each national championship meet.

(Paragraphs A-C are unchanged)

~~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.~~

104.5.3 Event Limit

(Paragraphs A-B are unchanged)

C National Qualifying Times--There shall be qualifying times for national championship meets unless otherwise determined by the Championship Committee. The procedure for determining the qualification times shall be established by the Championship Committee with approval of the House of Delegates.

(104.4.3C(1) is unchanged.)

(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.

~~(a)~~**(b)** Each competitor may enter both of these events.

~~(b)~~**(c)** Only competitors who meet the qualifying times in both events may enter both events.

~~(e)~~**(d)** One of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet the qualifying times in that event.

Rationale: This proposal does not add anything new, but moves 104.5.2D into 104.5.3C (2), which is more appropriate for the content.

R-18 Article 104.5.5 Championship Committee page 35 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General Principles for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(104.5.5A(1) remains unchanged.)

(2) All Preseeded events and all deck-seeded events 100 yards/meters or less shall be seeded with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

~~-(3) Events 100 yards/meters or less shall be seeded with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first in each age group. In the event that swimmers of the same gender are simultaneously swimming in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.~~

(Renumber subsequent subsections.)

Rationale: Less wordy but states the present rule in one place, making clear that events 100 meters or less are always seeded by age group first.

R-19 Article 104.5.5 Championship Committee page 35 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General Principles for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(104.5.5A[1] through 104.5.5A[3] remain unchanged.)

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

- (a) By entry time only, slowest heats swum first,
- (b) By age group, the oldest age group first, slowest ~~heats seeded first~~ to fastest within each age group, ~~then by time~~, or
- (c) By a combination of (a) and (b).

The Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.

~~-(5) The last heat shall be composed of the swimmers with the fastest submitted times, the next to last heat composed of the next fastest swimmers, etc.~~

(Note exception provided in article 104.5.5A[9].)

(Renumber subsequent subsections)

Rationale: With this change, (5) is redundant as the first 4 sections of 104.4.5 will make clear that the slowest heats swim first in all seeding

R-20 Article 104.5.5 Championship Committee page 36 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General Principles for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(104.5.5A(1)through 104.5.5A(9) remain unchanged.)

(10) There will be no splitting of age groups into A.M. and P.M. sessions.

(11) ~~However, at~~ the discretion of the Championship Committee, swimmers whose entry times will inordinately delay the progress of the meet may be seeded individually in an outside lane with manual timing, thus allowing the continued sequence of the regularly scheduled heats. unless the meet referee concurs that the swimmer has the potential to break a USMS or world record(s).

(Renumber existing 104.5.5A(11) as 104.5.5A(12).)

Rationale: Separates the present 104.5.5 A (10) into 2 numbers as the two existing sentences have nothing to do with each other and thus should be separate rules. Also acknowledges that records can only be set by electronic timing so it may not be fair to seed a slow swimmer in such an outside lane with hand timing.

R-21 Article 104.5.7 Championship Committee page 37 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.7 Awards

(Article 104.5.7(A) remains unchanged.)

B USMS championship award (i.e., patch or some similar award to be determined by the Championship Committee) – Each individual who wins a short course or long course individual or relay ~~championship event~~ shall be awarded a USMS championship award. Swimmers winning more than one ~~championship event~~ may purchase one additional award for each additional ~~championship event~~ won.

Rationale: The word event is clearer, less wordy, and more correct.

R-22 Article 104.5.11 Championship Committee page 39 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.11 Facilities and Equipment (also see article 106)

(Article 104.5.11A remains unchanged.)

B All courses shall have automatic timing equipment and an electronic readout board(s). ~~For two courses, the electronic readout boards shall have with~~ the capability of displaying times for all lanes simultaneously.

~~**C** Automatic timing equipment shall be provided for all courses during the competition.~~

(Renumber subsequent 104.5.11D as 104.5.11C.)

Rationale: Combining B and C in a simpler and shorter manner.

The following articles must also be amended for consistency:

106.18.5 Time Display Board (optional, except for national championships)—An automatic display board visible to all swimmers shall give a digital-time readout to two decimal places, displaying split times, final times, and places for all lanes. In the event of a tie, the place shall be displayed as a tie. A separate line of display for each lane meeting the above requirements shall be provided for national championship meets on all two courses. ~~A one line board is the minimum requirement for a third course.~~ [NC]

R-23 Article 105.2.2 Rules Committee page 41 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:

A The time meets the requirements for an official time,

B In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the conclusion of the meet. A written request is not required for individual events (other than backstroke) in national championship meets or other meets, in accordance with article 103.18.2, when the meet referee has approved automatic splits.

C In a relay event or in an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the swim. A written request is not required for relay leadoff splits (other than initial splits within a

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backstroke leadoff distance) in national championship meets or other meets, in accordance with article 103.18.2, when the meet referee has approved automatic splits.

Rationale: Inserts reference from article 105 to the timing system requirements in article 103 for clarity.

HK-1 101.1.1 Rules Committee page 1 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended HOD Action: Adopted
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Note: This is an additional proposal added after the June 10 deadline and would require a 2/3 vote of the committee to consider this proposal with the others.

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 may take and maintain their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, or the deck, or in the water, and remain there. On the starter’s command, “Take your mark,” each swimmer shall immediately assume the starting position that maintains with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck. Each swimmer starting in the water must take the position on the wall with at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and one foot in contact with the wall. A swimmer starting in the water may face any direction.

Rationale: Confusion has occurred for officials because of slightly different language between 101.1.1 and 103.8.5. This change adds corresponding language for starts from 103.8.5A&C into 101.1.1.

HK-2 Article 104.5.6 Championship Committee page 36 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended HOD Action: Adopted
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104.5.6 Club Scoring

A Scoring—All national championship meet scoring and awards shall be treated as if the meet were swum in a 10-lane pool, regardless of the actual number of lanes available. Points shall be awarded as in article 103.19.3(A).

Rationale: It is only the (A) section of 103.19.3 that is pertinent to national meets.

HK-3 Article 107.1.2 Rules Committee page 49 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended HOD Action: Adopted
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107.1.2 Responsibilities

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(Section A is unchanged)

B Referee—The referee’s responsibilities include:

(paragraphs 1 and 2 remain unchanged)

(3) Modifications—Aids to ~~buoyancy or~~ speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance are not ~~allowed~~ permitted (see articles 102.12.1E and 102.13.109). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:

Rationale: Reference is made to articles 102.12.1E, but the language is not consistent. Clarifies current interpretation that aids to speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance are not permitted even as a disability accommodation.

USA SWIMMING AMMENDMENTS THAT AFFECT USMS RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.7, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments.

U-1 Glossary and Article 102.14 page xi and 16 Add and Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

The rules committee recommends rejection of U-1 in favor of R-6 which better reflects USMS requirements, policies, and current practices.

Competition Category--As defined as male or female for the purpose of athlete swimming eligibility, competition, selection and records. An athlete's stated competition category shall be referred to as "gender".

102.14 Protests

102.14.1 With the exception of a competition category protest, The official results of any protested race shall not be announced, the affected awards shall not be given, and points shall not be allocated until the protest is resolved or is withdrawn in writing.

102.14.2 Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization in any race shall be made in writing to the meet director or referee before the race is held, and if the meet committee deems it advisable, the swimmer may compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race. The meet committee shall immediately refer such protest to the LMSC officers (local meets) or championship meet protest committee (national championship meets; see article 104.5.9B) having jurisdiction for adjudication at the earliest possible time.

102.14.3 Protests against judgment decisions of starters and stroke, turn and relay takeoff judges can only be considered by the referee, and the referee's decision shall be final.

102.14.4 Protests regarding an athlete's competition category may only be heard by the rules committee in accordance with the current USMS policy on eligibility of transgender athletes. A protest shall not prohibit the athlete from competing in his or her stated competition category until such time as the rules committee has issued a decision.

Rationale: This proposal follows from the USA Swimming Transgender Task Force. USA Swimming is adding a "national eligibility protest committee" to handle protests of a swimmer competing in one gender or the other. There is also a process when a swimmer registers to make a determination if there are questions. There are also corresponding changes in part three of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations that deal with registration categories. These changes are not germane to USMS Rules and Regulations.

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U-2 Article 102.11 page 14 Add

Committee Action: Not Recommended HOD Action: Defeated

The rules committee recommends rejection of this amendment as unnecessary for USMS.

102.11.4 Postponement or Cancellation

(Paragraphs A-D remain unchanged.)

E For meets held in 25-yard pools which have commenced but postponed to a start date within fourteen (14) days from the original start date, age shall be determined as of the last day of the original meet. For meets held in 25-yard pools which have not commenced or meets postponed to dates more than fourteen (14) days from the original start date, age shall be determined as of the last day of the postponed meet.

(renumber subsequent paragraphs)

Rational: USA Swimming added this provision in response to situations which have arisen when meets were postponed for a long period of time.

U-3 Article 102.12.2 page 14 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended HOD Action: Adopted

U-3 was amended by the USA Swimming House of Delegates on the floor of the HOD to add the word “psychoactive”.

102.12.2 Advertising—Products involving tobacco, psychoactive cannabinoids, alcohol, or pharmaceuticals containing substances banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser’s name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

Rationale: To comply with FINA regulations.

U-4 Article 102.13 page 16 Add

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended HOD Action: Adopted

102.13 Disqualifications

(Articles 102.13.1 through 102.13.16 are unchanged.)

102.13.17 For swimwear disqualifications, refer to article 102.12.1.

Rationale: Clarify the provisions for disqualifications on swimwear.

U-5 Article 103 page 23 Add

Committee Action: Withdrawn HOD Action: None Required – Not Adopted
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The USA Swimming House of Delegates did not approve this amendment and it was therefore withdrawn before final action of the USMS HOD.

(Insert new article 103.17 and renumber the rest)

103.17 Meet Safety Director

The meet safety director shall be appointed by the meet host at time of sanctioning, shall be a USMS member, and shall be present during the meet to ensure compliance with USMS operational risk manual safety policies. The meet referee and/or the meet director may not serve as the safety director.

Rationale: Recommended by USA Swimming operational risk management.

Pursuant to USMS article 601.4.7, changes USA Swimming article 103 (facilities standards) may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

U-6 Article 106.13.2 page 47 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended HOD Action: Adopted

106.13 Floating Lane ~~Lines/Dividers~~ and Markings

106.13.2 Size, Color, and Safety—Dividers shall consist of contiguous floats having a minimum diameter of 5 centimeters (2 inches) to a maximum diameter of 15 centimeters (6 inches). The color of the floats extending from the walls the distance of 5 meters (16 feet, 6 inches) for long course and short course meters, and 15 feet for short course yards, shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. Distinctive colored floats, or markers extending around the full circumference of the floats, shall be placed at 15 meters (49 feet, 2½ inches) from each end wall in both short course and long course pools. Fixed distinctive marks shall be placed on either the pool wall or deck surface adjacent to any outside lane at a distance of 15 meters from each end wall of the course. These marks should also be used to correctly align the distinctive floats on the lane dividers, but the fixed marks on the deck or walls take precedence for judging. Damaged or broken floats shall be removed and/or replaced to the extent possible. [M]

Rationale: To comply with FINA rules.

Committee Action Note: Amended from the version provided by USA Swimming to clarify the language regarding fixed marks and precedence for judging.

U-7 Article 106.12 page 46 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

106.12 Backstroke Ledge

The backstroke ledge shall conform to FINA specifications when used in competition as follows:

106.12.1 The ledge may be adjustable to 4 centimeters above or 4 centimeters below the water level. [M]

106.12.2 The ledge shall be a minimum of 65 centimeters in length. [M]

106.12.3 The ledge must be 8 centimeters in height, 2 centimeters at the width with 10 degrees of slope. [M]

106.12.4 The ledge shall not be used in water depth less than 4 feet (1.22 meters). [M]

106.12.5 Should backstroke ledges be used, identical ledges shall be provided for all lanes.
[M]