



Protest Procedures for Open Water and Long Distance Swims

The following policies for protests relating to long distance events were developed by the Long Distance Committee. The Long Distance Committee has purview over these policies and will oversee and manage the policies for United States Masters Swimming.

Open Water Swims – Championship and Non-Championship

- Protests against judgment decisions regarding the start, missing a course turn, failure to achieve a cutoff time, or the finish of a race can only be considered by the referee. The referee's decision will be final and may not be appealed.
- Any other protest arising from an open water swim will be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results.
- After receipt of a protest, the referee or event director will have 10 days to reply. If the protest is denied by the referee or event director, the swimmer will have five days to appeal in writing to the Long Distance Committee chair.
- The Long Distance Committee chair will have 10 days to reply, unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.

Long Distance Pool Swims

- Protests against judgment decisions of starters and turn judges can only be considered by the referee. The referee's decision will be final and may not be appealed.
- Any other protest arising from a long distance pool swim will be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results.
- After receipt of a protest, the referee or event director will have 10 days to reply. If the protest is denied by the referee or event director, the swimmer will have five days to appeal in writing to the Long Distance Committee chair.
- The Long Distance Committee chair will have 10 days to reply, unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.

Virtual Championship Swims

- Any protest arising from a virtual championship swim will be made to the Long Distance Committee chair in writing within five days after all swimmers are notified of the release of preliminary results or amendments to the preliminary results.
- The final decision for any protest will be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair.
- After receipt of a protest, the Long Distance Committee chair will have 10 days to reply, unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.