

U.S. Masters Swimming Virtual Championship Guidelines

Introduction

These guidelines apply to the Virtual Championship events.

Applicable Rules

Virtual Championship events are run in accordance with all Long Distance Rules as found in Part 3 of the current U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book. The USMS National Office in coordination with the Long Distance Committee shall have jurisdiction over the Virtual Championship events.

Definitions

Virtual Event: A swimming competition conducted in multiple pool locations with results compiled in a central location. Five Virtual Championships are held each year: The 1-Hour, the 5K & 10K (held simultaneously), and the 3000 and 6000 swims can be either short course yards or short course meters. (held simultaneously).

Relay Team: Women, men or mixed relay team

Club: Member organization registered by USMS.

LDC: Long Distance Committee

Club Assistant: A private company that provides online entry and management program currently used by USMS Virtual Championships.

1.1 Entry Form: The information and event entry form for the Virtual Championships will be created by the National Office and will appear on the USMS club calendar of events and on the National Championship Event Page published on the USMS website. The USMS National Office will work with Club Assistant to ensure proper posting and promotion of the Virtual Championships. Timelines for the events will be included in the event information.

1.2 Eligibility: Swimmers must be members of USMS prior to registering for the event. International swimmers must be a member of an equivalent AQUA (formerly FINA) member organization prior to registering. International entrants must submit a copy of their organization's registration card to events@usmastersswimming.org prior to submitting results. International swimmers are not eligible for USMS records or All-American status. USMS will not ship awards or merchandise internationally.

Verification of entries: Swimmers entering both the 5K & 10K and the 3000 & 6000 Virtual Championships must complete both the swims (i.e., separate entries of the 5K and 10K)

Verification that the entrants split times are not used. Online entry system automatically checks for completion and errors by not accepting those entries incomplete or non-eligible entries. The USMS National Office and the Long Distance Committee will verify entries for accuracy and may contact a swimmer to ensure an entry is correct.

1.3 Cumulative Relays: Recognized relays for the Virtual Championships shall be three- person women's relay, three-person men's relay and 4-person mixed-gender relays with two women and two men. Age groups for relays shall be in 10 year age groups 18+, 25+, 35+, 45+... with the youngest relay member determining the age group. Relay members must be affiliated with the same club. Cumulative relays are contested on a total time basis.

1.4 Late Entries: Entries must be received before the deadline. The deadline for entries is included on the information details on the USMS Website the Virtual Championship Event page.

1.5 Individual Results: Preliminary individual and relay results shall be tabulated by the National Office along with verification by the Long Distance Committee and posted on the USMS website. Individual results will be shown by gender and age group. Ties are allowed. Any protest arising from a Virtual Championship swim shall be made to the USMS National Office and the Long Distance Committee within 3 days of swimmers being notified of the release of the preliminary results. Final results of the Virtual Championship will be posted within 5 days depending on weekends and holidays.

1.6 Relay Results: Preliminary relay results shall be tabulated and distributed by the National Office along with verification by the Long Distance Committee posted on the USMS website. Relay results will be shown by gender and age group. Any protest arising from a Virtual Championship swim shall be made to the USMS National Office and the Long Distance Committee within 3 days of swimmers being notified of the release of the relay preliminary results. Final relay results of the Virtual Championship will be posted in approximately 5 depending on weekends and holidays.

1.7 Awards: USMS Standard Long Distance medals will be awarded for individual and relay swimmers for the Virtual Championships. If a Virtual Championship has greater than 1000 entries: Awards will be presented to the top 10 individual times, male and female for each age group. Relays will award the top 6 places for female, male and mixed for each age group. For Virtual Championships with under 1000 entrants, individual awards for the top 6 in each age group male and female. The top 3 relay, female, male and mixed for each age group will receive awards.

1.8 All American: The first place finisher in each age group male and female will be designated "All American". The first place finishers for female, male and mixed relays in each age group will

be designated “All Americans”. All first place finishers will receive a patch with the designation. One patch per swimmer.

1.9 Club Awards: USMS awards monetary prizes to clubs with the highest participation in divisions broken down by size of the club.

1.10 Award Distribution: Awards will be distributed by the USMS National Office

1.11 USMS Virtual Championship Individual and Relay Records: Swimmers applying for a USMS Virtual Championship record in an individual or relay event must submit a copy of their split sheet to the National Office events@usmastersswimming.org. An individual or relay may use the split time in one Virtual Championship event to establish a USMS record in a different Virtual Championship event if the split is swum as an initial distance within an event; the swimmer completes the full distance or time of the event; a stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split. The swimmer or relay needs to notify events@usmastersswimming.org of the intent to use a split for a different Virtual Championship event.

1.12 Merchandise: Virtual Championship merchandise is available for purchase at the time the swimmer enters the event.

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