

## **U.S. Masters Swimming**

### **Long Distance Committee Operating Guidelines**

The purpose of this document is to put into writing the practices, policies, and procedures of the Long Distance Committee, as well as provide background and insight into this committee. This document in no way supersedes USMS articles of incorporation, USMS code, or any procedures and protocols defined in the Guide to Local Operations or USMS Rule Book.

#### **Definition**

The Long Distance Committee shall consist of the committee chair and up to 16 additional members, as well as:

- Oversee the rules and administration of Open Water and the rules of Long Distance events.
- Solicit, review, and select sites for the Open Water National Championships.
- Advise and coordinate with event hosts to improve Long Distance Championship events.
- Maintain records and select the Long Distance All-American and Long Distance All-Star Teams.
- Ensure Part 3 of the USMS rules promote fair and equitable competition, and keep members informed of any rule changes and interpretations.
- Initiate, receive, review, and recommend proposed rule amendments for consideration at the annual House of Delegates meeting in accordance with Part 6 of the USMS rules.
- Interpret and issue opinions on USMS rules and regulations within the committee's jurisdiction.

#### **Organization:**

The conduct and organization of Open Water and Long Distance swimming for U.S. Masters Swimming shall be governed by USMS through the Long Distance Committee and LMSCs, per 301.1 in the 2026 U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book. The Chair and Committee members shall be appointed.

## **Responsibilities of the Long Distance Committee**

U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book Part 3 contains the Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules. These rules are submitted through the Long Distance Committee throughout a calendar year, updated, changed, and ratified by the Long Distance Committee prior to the U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting. At the U.S Masters Swimming Annual Meeting, these proposed rule changes are brought to the floor of the House of Delegates to be voted on and ratified by the voting members of the U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting. Revised and updated from year to year, the following listing contains the responsibilities and specific events of the Long Distance Committee.

- Solicit bids and awards contracts for the Open Water National Championship events.
- Ensure that the USMS Open Water National Championship events and Virtual Championships are conducted per the Open Water and Long Distance swimming rules as stated in Part 3 of the U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book.
- Select individual and relay All-Americans.
- Select All-Star Team.
- Maintain Long Distance Records.

Amended: June 2005

Amended: August 2019

Amended: July 2026