

	Bylaws	Rules	Policies (Mandatory Procedures)	Guidelines (Recommended Procedures, Processes, Local Operating Guides)
Officially	Part 5	USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition (online version prevails)	USMS.org > Organizational Policies	USMS.org > Guidelines, Procedures, and Forms
Summary Definition	Governing document containing rules to regulate internal management and operations.	Outline expectations for competition and operating expectations that protect the organization and its members (e.g., liability release requirements and code of conduct).	Establishes a standard by which USMS manages its affairs. Requires oversight from a specialized committee or staff.	Recommended processes and procedures that are best practice but not mandatory, and may need frequent adjustment. The rule book shall prevail in the event of conflict.
Responsible party	Board of Directors	Rules, Legislation, Long Distance Committees and Board of Directors	Board of Directors	Relevant Committee
Effect on Governance or Operations	Mandatory	Mandatory; must be followed in business and operations	Mandatory within context of committee or business to which it applies	Recommended / suggested best practice
Approval of Changes	Vote of House of Delegates after board recommendation (future plan)	Vote of House of Delegates	Board of Directors	Established by committee or staff; Board concurrence strongly encouraged, dialogue and concurrence of other relevant committees also encouraged
Examples	Part 5	Entirety of Rule Book	Organizational Policies Page	Championship - Coaches Hospitality
Notes for working group:	To keep individual agendas and issues that shouldn't be elevated to bylaws discussion out of the process, proposals on which the board doesn't agree should not move forward to the House of Delegates	How do we provide direction on what should come out of the rules book and move to other categories? Guy provided a very solid overview generated by AI.	Policy page update simplifies access, but how do we avoid having a massive database of policies	There are a lot of committee policies, rules, operating guides, and charters that need serious review. How do we differentiate national and local procedures (e.g., https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/guide-to-local-operations)