

2021 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Rules Open Forum	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Mollie Grover	Vice Chair:	Claire Letendre
Minutes recorded by:	Julie Dussliere	Date/time of meeting:	Thursday 9-Sept-2021 / 8:00 pm ET

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1.

Motions Passed:

1.

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 2	Total Participants: 79
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Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):

Kathrine Casey, Julie Dussliere, Marilyn Fink, Christina Fox, Judy Gillies, Mollie Grover (Chair), Ian King, Claire Letendre (Vice Chair), Mark Marshfield, Barbara Protzman, Jason Weis

Committee Members Absent: Carolyn Boak, Jessica Seaton

Ex-officio Present: Chris Colburn (VP of Administration), Terri White (USMS Officials Committee)

Minutes

The Rules Forum was called to order at 8:00 pm ET.

Jessica Reilly (USMS National Office) briefly explained meeting protocols and Zoom logistics for the meeting/forum.

Mollie thanked everyone for joining the forum and discussion. She gave a brief overview of the proposals in the packet – substantive vs. housekeeping.

Review of Rules Amendments for HOD

Housekeeping HK1 through HK8

Comments/Questions:

- Mary Schneider – quick corrections:
 - HK2 103.10.6 D – remove hyphen
 - HK3 103.11.3 A – “s” is missing from “starting”
- Jane More – HK5 – 103.17.3 – first sentence is from 103.1.4 not from 103.17 – should be removed.

R1 / R3 / R4

Comments/Questions:

NONE

R8 / R13

Comments/Questions:

- Bob Anderson – last year there was a proposal to move all of article 208 to part 1. This year it appears that there is a split between what is being moved to 108 and what is being retained in 208. Bob referenced a post he has placed on the USMS forums on this topic.
- Mollie explained rationale of Rules / Legislation Committee this year to move items that are in alignment with part 1 to part 1 and retain administrative items in part 2. This was intentional and by design based on feedback from last year.
- Chris Colburn shared how closely that Rules and Legislation work together in general, as well as specifically on this proposal – both this year and last.
- Stephanie Gauzens shared perspective from Legislation Committee and as a sanctions chair.
- Kathy Casey spoke to the work and preparation from Rules and Legislation that resulted in R13.

- Chris Ottati – administrator for Pacific Masters – queried whether there will be pointers in the rulebook if this amendment passes to ensure that users realize that information is in multiple places. Chris also referenced that this is currently how information is split on the website and that it can be confusing for administrators and sanction chairs.
- Peter Guadagni – reminded attendees of what is being voted upon at HoD and that legislation can always be proposed again next year.
- Bill Tingley would point the Rules Committee to 301.3 and potential conflict if R13 passes in the HoD.
- Kathy Casey spoke to pointers in the new article 108 (108.1.C – reference to part 202, 108.2 – reference to part 2, 108.2.1C – reference to part 2). Regarding proof-reading Kathy mentioned that proof-readers require all sections in order to adequately proof for references throughout the rulebook, whether amendment passes or not.

R9 / R10 / R12

Comments/Questions:

- Michael Moore addressed R12 in the context of alignment with rules of other swimming organizations (i.e. USA Swimming, NCAA). USMS is the only organization where lane numbering is mandatory.
- Bill Tingley spoke to the rationale in R9 and questioned the statement of “not in the best interest of USMS at this time”.
- Mollie spoke to the current conditions during the COVID pandemic and the additional difficulties for swimmers to achieve times to the last of meets during the past number of months.
- Bob Anderson revisited R12 and queried whether the Rules Committee discussed value in rulebooks being consistent across governing bodies. Bob also raised whether swimmers share responsibility for identifying the correct lane.
- Mollie shared that there was discussion on the differences between USA Swimming and USMS rules regarding lane numbering.
- Kathy Casey shared historical context Short Course Nationals example and how compliance can be achieved with the required numbering.
- Teri White – chair of USMS Officials’ Committee – noted that one of the differences in USMS (from other governing bodies) is that swimmer must compete in correct lane or swim is not valid. Other governing bodies have leeway for referee to accommodate swims that happen in the wrong lane. After discussion with others, Teri feels that lane numbering should be “recommended” and not “mandatory” to align with other swimming governing bodies.
- Hugh Moore raised the question of how many pools are numbered left to right and how many facilities are may be impacted.
- Bill Tingley added a point of information that both HS and NCAA use the phrase “when practical”. He also shared approximate number of meets he has officiated during the last season with L to R versus R to L.

U1 / U2

Comments/Questions:

NONE

R11

Comments/Questions:

- Dan Cox raised the point that the rule is being changed in the middle of the season and this is not fair to athletes. He stated that this doesn’t seem fair to athletes nor reflect the integrity of the organization.
- Bill Tingley stated that there is precedent based on prior rule suspension in 1988 due to World Championships dates. Bill referenced the alignment with 31 December age date as well as alignment with FINA top ten and supported the rule change.
- Ben Wycoff – CT LMSC – rationale second bullet point regarding FINA top ten may be a bit misleading or confusing as FINA will include results in 2021 top ten regardless of USMS rule; additionally, precedent is over 30 years ago.
- John Fox – Southeastern LMSC – there has been a lack of meets over the past year and a half as we all are aware, moving this date provides more opportunities for the swimmers.
- Nancy Ridout stated that this change is just for this meet (2021 LC Nationals), and that some flexibility at this point in time is an opportunity for swimmers and is in full agreement with proposal.
- Peter Guadagni made the plea for all in attendance at forum and at HoD for a moderate amount of discussion.
- Becky Cleavenger questioned whether a time that is achieved during that 10-day window in 2021, will also be counted in 2022.
- Mollie clarified that times swum during that ten-day period will count for top ten once – in 2021 if R11 passes, and in 2022 if R11 fails in the HoD.
- Ally Sega – CT LMSC – appreciate both sides of issue and raised concern that LC Nationals sign up has already closed and entrants may not be aware of this potential rule change.
- Chris Colburn spoke to two issues at play that were carefully considered. Procedurally, we must consider these rule changes in HoD based upon the emergency actions taken by the BoD for National Championships this year. Secondly, LC Nationals meet information specifically notes the rule changes that are in front of the HoD.
- Marilyn Fink – San Diego Imperial LMSC – spoke to accommodation of rules for extenuating circumstances but doesn’t feel that this change is an extenuating circumstance and these times will be there for inclusion in 2022.
- Sandy Rousseau agreed with the precedent that Bill Tingley raised earlier. She also agreed with Nancy Ridout’s previous comments regarding this being an unusual year and the need for flexibility. Sandy raised the point that we do not want to discourage discussion either in this forum or within the HoD.

- Sally Dillon – Pacific Northwest LMSC – looking for clarification on SCY change in date earlier this year and was under the impression that an extension had been made for SC Nationals in July.
- Mollie stated that the Rules Committee did not approve a change for the SCY season earlier this year.
- Skip Thompson referenced a decision from the Records/Tabulation committee where he believed that this decision was voted down previously. Skip also believed that both meets were decided together at that time (May).
- Chris Colburn shared the history of the rules suspension and that Records/Tabulation was consulted. The BoD was required to undertake the rule suspension with consent from the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee did not give consent and therefore the BoD did not consider the rule suspension for SC Nationals. Chris also noted that any emergency action undertaken by the BoD expires at the next HoD; thus why this legislation needs to be re-undertaken by the HoD to ensure that it is procedurally correct.
- Skip referenced that the “layman swimmer” may not understand all of this procedure and legislation; nor the differences between impact on SC and LC Nationals this year.

Jessica shared the location on the USMS website where the recording of the forum and the notes will be posted when available. She also reviewed the upcoming meetings on the Annual Meeting schedule.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. None at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm ET.
