

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
USMS GLOSSARY AND PART 1 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7.

The amendment presented as an “indivisible package” was considered as a whole with a motion to adopt all of the changes in the entire package.

Number	Section	Description	Final Action
<u>R-1</u>	104.5.2B	Proposed rule modifications for 2021 Long Course National Championship meet	Adopted
<u>R-3</u>	104.5.5A(7)		Adopted
<u>R-4</u>	104.5.10C		Adopted
<u>R-8</u>	104.1	Add language from Part 5 regarding dates for LMSC and Zone championship meets	Adopted
<u>R-9</u>	104.5.3C(2)	Modify options for requiring national qualifying times in distance events at national championship meets.	Defeated
<u>R-10</u>	105.1.2	Allow for extension of Top 10 season dates, if warranted	Defeated
<u>R-11</u>	105.1.2(A)	Extend 2021 LCM Top 10 season end date	Adopted
<u>R-12</u>	106.4.3	Change lane numbering requirement from “mandatory” to “predicated upon facility availability”	Adopted
<u>R-13</u>	108 (new)	Move content related to technical rules for sanctions and recognitions from Part 2 to Part 1 Note: R-13 is an indivisible package with L-2.	Adopted
<u>HK-1</u>	102.11.4F	Housekeeping	Adopted
<u>HK-2</u>	103.10.2	Add numbering for readability	Adopted
<u>HK-3</u>	103.11.3	Add numbering for readability	Adopted
<u>HK-4</u>	103.14	Add numbering to match Rule Book style	Adopted
<u>HK-5</u>	103.17.3F	Add numbering to match Rule Book style	Adopted
<u>HK-6</u>	103.18 multiple	Add titles for consistency with other sections	Adopted
<u>HK-7</u>	104.5.10	Add numbering for readability	Adopted
<u>HK-8</u>	105.3.9A	Add numbering for readability	Adopted

Pending USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS Rules

Number	Section	Description	Final Action
<u>U-1</u>	107.1.2 107.4	Clarification of responsibilities for swimmers with a disability	Adopted
<u>U-2</u>	107.3.1 106.15	Update of language to align with USA Swimming	Adopted as amended

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART ONE

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the 2021 annual meeting on September 26, 2021 and be in force until the end of the 2021 Long Course National Championship Meet on October 10, 2021. These amendments WILL NOT appear in the 2022 USMS Masters Swimming Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

R-1 104.5.2B Championship Committee page 33 Add

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.2 Format— A four-day or five-day national championship meet shall be conducted. The Championship Committee shall set the order of events for each national championship meet.

A A national championship order of events shall not be repeated for at least two years.

B The Championship Committee shall publish the order of events no less than six months before the national championship meet begins.

(1) Article 104.5.2.B shall not be applicable for the 2021 Long Course Meters National Championship meet. This provision will take effect immediately following the conclusion of the 2021 annual meeting and will not be included in the 2022 USMS Masters Swimming Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

C In odd-numbered years, men’s events shall be odd-numbered. In even-numbered years, men’s events shall be even-numbered.

Rationale: Due to the uncertainty of pandemic restrictions, it was not possible to generate an order of events 6 months in advance of the meet start date.

R-2 was withdrawn by a unanimous vote of the Championship Committee after the August 1 deadline to publish proposed amendments to the House of Delegates.

R-3 104.5.5A(7) Championship Committee page 35 Add

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding (also see article 102.10)

(Article 104.5.5A(1) through (6) remain unchanged)

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

- (7) There will be no splitting of age groups into a.m. and p.m. sessions.
(a) Article 104.5.5 (7) shall not be applicable for the 2021 Long Course Meters National Championship meet. This provision will take place immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting and will not be included in the 2022 USMS Masters Swimming Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

(Article 104.5.5A(8) remains unchanged)

Rationale: To reduce the number of persons on deck at any given time, the Championship Committee is requesting the ability to conduct multiple sessions per day, if necessary, where the sessions would be based on age groups.

R-4 104.5.10C Championship Committee page 38 Add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.10 Personnel (also see article 103)

(Article 104.5.10A and B remain unchanged.)

- C Other personnel**—The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

Two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button, and at least one timer using a stopwatch,

One recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used, and

One safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed.

Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee shall make further modifications as appropriate and shall ensure that timers' duties in articles 103.11.2A and D and 103.11.3B are assigned to other meet personnel.

- (1) One timer may be utilized at the 2021 LCM National Championship meet for safety reasons (to maintain social distancing). Floating backup timers may be provided in order to provide secondary timing should the electronic system fail. This provision will take place immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting and will not be included in the 2022 USMS Masters Swimming Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

Rationale: When implemented, this change will only affect the number of timers. It is not possible to socially distance timers whose duties require them to be in close proximity at the end

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

of a race. This change allows the Championship Committee the flexibility to require the number of timers that are appropriate given the situation at the time of the event.

R-11 105.1.2 Championship Committee page 44 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

105.1.2 Deadlines – Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times shall be achieved and submitted as follows:

Long Course Meters times shall be achieved on or before September 30 (*table*)

A Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times shall be achieved on or before October 10, 2021, for Long Course Meters. This provision will be implemented immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting, expire at the conclusion of the LCM National Championship meet and will not be included in the 2022 USMS Masters Swimming Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.

Rationale:

- If approved or acted upon in a favorable manner, the deadline extension (ten days total) will incorporate the LCM national championship meet results within the USMS 2020/2021 season.
- FINA will be utilizing the USMS LCM national championship meet results in their 2021 compilation for Top Ten.
- USMS established precedent for this requested action when it extended the 1988 LCM season from Sept 30 to October 15 in order to include the FINA World Masters Championships results that were held in Brisbane, Australia, Oct 10-15, 1988.
- Due to the method competitor ages are calculated (age as of Dec 31), no swimmer will age up due to the extension.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2022.

R-8 104.1 Rules Committee pages 31-32 Add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.1 Meet Categories and Dates

USMS national championship meets shall be awarded in the following categories and held during the following dates:

104.1.1 Short Course (25) Yards or (25) Meters—Between April 15 and May 31.

104.1.2 Long Course (50) Meters—Between August 1 and September 15.

104.1.3 Other Dates—With the approval of the Championship Committee, other dates may be considered.

104.1.4 Dates of LMSC and Zone Championship Meets— When planning dates for LMSC championship meets and zone championship meets, see articles 502.10 and 503.5, respectively.

Rationale: Add the reference numbers 502.10 and 503.5 to Article 104, the nationals meet section, because people scheduling and running meets don't know where to find the rule about LMSC and Zone championship dates conflicting with nationals.- Also add a title to 104.1.3 for consistency with the titles of the other sections in 104.1.

R-9 104.5.3C(2) Kentucky LMSC pages 33-34 Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

104.5.3 Event Limit

(Article 104.5.3A through C(1) remain unchanged.)

(2) Event limit—When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying times. Competitors may also enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying times for those events. The Championship Committee may choose to specify one or more of the following entry limitations for the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 freestyle:

~~(a) Each competitor may enter only one of these events.~~

(b)(a) Each competitor may enter both of these events.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

- ~~(d)(b)~~ One of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet enter with a time at or better than the qualifying times and can show proof of entry time from the USMS database in that event.
- (c) Only competitors who meet enter with a time at or better than the qualifying times and can show proof of entry time from the USMS database in both events may enter both events.
- ~~(d)~~ One of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet the qualifying times in that event.
- ~~(d)~~ If the 800/1000 and the 1500/1650 freestyle are scheduled on two different days, competitors who enter with a time at or better than the qualifying times and can show proof of entry time from the USMS database in both events shall be able to enter both events.
- ~~(e)~~ Proof of entry times for competitors from a FINA federation outside of USMS shall follow procedures set by the Championship Committee.

Rationale: With the increase in participation in long distance and open water swimming, USMS should not completely disallow the swimming of both of the two pool distance events from both of its national championships. Considering the restrictions in time for running these distance events, the time has come to prove entry time in our national championships. This proposal uses the existing USMS database to prove time, which will also prove that a competitor has swum the event in a local or regional meet before entering the national championship. Proof of time from a database is used in the Olympic Trials, USA Swimming’s national championships, the U.S. Open, and some Pro Series meets, as well as in NCAA Division I national championship and conference championship meets for entry into all events. The current version of Club Assistant has the ability to show times from the USMS database. With a few tweaks, proof of time could then be done in the online entry. This proposal only affects four of the 46 events in the short course national championship and four of the 42 events in the long course national championships.

Rationale for Not Recommend: The Rules Committee felt that restricting when swimmers were able to achieve NQTs for distance events compared to the remainder of the events typically offered at National Championship meets was not in the best interest of USMS at this time. Currently, NQTs can be achieved by simply being timed with a stopwatch at practice. This proposal would require distance swimmers to achieve NQTs at a sanctioned or recognized event, thereby limiting opportunities for swimmers to achieve distance freestyle NQTs.

R-10 105.1.2 Gulf LMSC page 39 Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended
HOD Action: Defeated

105.1.2 Deadlines—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times shall be achieved and submitted ~~as follows:~~ according to the following table. In the case of a USMS National Championship or a FINA World Masters Championship being held after the

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

deadline for the specific course, the Board of Directors may approve an extension of the Top 10 season deadline if it serves the best interest of USMS.

Course	Times Shall Be Achieved On or Before:	Times Shall Be Forwarded to Records and Tabulation Chair Or Designee By:	Season
Short Course Yards	May 31	June 30	June 1– May 31
Long Course Meters	September 30	October 20	October 1– September 30
Short Course Meters	December 31	January 26	January 1– December 31

Proposed amendment to be effective immediately.

Rationale: There may be certain situations where the date of a USMS National Championship or a FINA World Masters Championship falls after the specified USMS season deadline for that course. The Board should have the ability to consider and authorize the extension of the season deadline for Top 10 times if the Board decides doing so would be in the best interest of USMS. Currently there is no mechanism for making such an adjustment except through an emergency rules suspension and/or a HOD amendment to the rules effective for one year only. This is a cumbersome, time consuming, and difficult process. This proposed amendment would allow for an adjustment to the deadline for Top 10 times to be made more easily and efficiently and only applies if the Board of Directors feels it would be in the best interest of the USMS members.

Rationale for Not Recommend: The Rules Committee felt that carving out a single exception for the Board of Directors to be able to make a change without the input of the committee of jurisdiction and/or the House of Delegates was not in keeping with the spirit or intention of article 506.3.10 and its granting of emergency powers. Additionally, the proposal from the Championship Committee (R-11 above) is a more targeted change for just 2021, which will hopefully be the only year that the Top Ten dates will need to be shifted.

R-11 is located above with the other proposed amendments dealing with actions required for the Long Course Nationals Championship meet (R-1 through R-4).

R-12 106.4.3 Pacific LMSC page 44 Modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

106.4 Pool and Bulkhead Markings

106.4.3 Lane Numbers – The lanes shall be numbered from right to left as the swimmers stand facing the course from the starting end of the pool. If the event is started at the turning end of the course, no change in the lane numbering shall be made; i.e., the lanes shall be numbered the same on both ends of the course. Lane numbers shall clearly identify the lanes to officials stationed at each side of the course. ~~[M]~~[M*]

Rationale: With the current rule being mandatory, pools that have permanent lane numbering (embedded in concrete, permanent adhesion to starting blocks, etc.) are potentially excluded from obtaining sanctions for meets. Allowing LMSCs the ability to waive the requirement could allow for a broader spectrum of venues where meets could be held.

NOTE: This rule change would align with USA Swimming rule 103.5.4 (page 48 of current USA Swimming Rule Book)

Rationale for Not Recommend: The Rules Committee did not feel that a rule change was necessary in this case, as lane numbers can be flipped for meets by simply affixing temporary numbers to the blocks so that they are numbered as this rule requires.

NOTE: R-13 IS CONSIDERED AS AN INDIVISIBLE PACKAGE WITH L-2 UNDER THE PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE 601.4.5.

R-13 108 (new) Rules Committee page 52 Add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted as an indivisible package with L-2

ARTICLE 108: Sanction and Recognition of Pool Events

108.1 Sanctions

Times achieved at sanctioned events are considered for USMS records, USMS Top 10 times, FINA Masters world records, and FINA Masters Top 10 times. All swimmers entered in sanctioned events shall be USMS members or shall be members of a FINA Member Federation.

108.1.1 Sanction Requirements—Sanctions shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with article 202.1 and the following requirements:

A Sanction applications shall be accompanied by the meet announcement.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

- (1) The meet announcement shall include the statement “Sanctioned by (LMSC name) for USMS Inc.” and may include the statement “Sanction number _____.” Entry forms and programs may include these statements.
- (2) The meet announcement shall include ONE of the following statements for each course used for competition during the meet:

 - (a) The length of the competition course without a bulkhead is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1.
 - (b) The length of the competition course has been measured and is NOT in compliance with USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1: Times achieved in the meet will NOT be eligible for USMS Top 10 and records.
 - (c) The length of the competition course is not on file with USMS. Eligibility of times achieved in this meet will be contingent upon pool length measurement and approval with USMS; if bulkheads are present, their placement must also be confirmed by measurements at the meet (USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1).
 - (d) The length of the competition course is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1, but as a bulkhead course, is subject to length confirmation. Eligibility of times for USMS Top 10 and records will be contingent on verification of bulkhead placement.
- (3) The meet announcement shall include a description of the timing systems intended to be used at the meet (see articles 103.18.5-103.18.9) and one of the following statements for each course:

 - (a) Times from this competition will be eligible for world record, USMS record, and Top 10 consideration.
 - (b) Times from this competition will be eligible for USMS records and Top 10 consideration, but not for world records.
 - (c) Times from this competition will be eligible for USMS Top 10 consideration, but not for world or USMS records.
 - (d) Times from this competition will not be eligible for world record, USMS record, or Top 10 consideration.

If a change in primary timing system is necessary before or during the meet, the meet director shall ensure that all swimmers are notified of the change.
- (4) The sanction fee shall consist of a national fee established by the House of Delegates. Each LMSC may also establish a local fee.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

- B** Entries shall not be accepted before the sanction has been issued. Paper forms shall not be distributed, online entry systems shall not be activated, and the event shall not be listed as sanctioned on the USMS Calendar of Events until the sanction has been issued.
- C** If an individual or organization has failed to conduct a sanctioned event in accordance with applicable USMS rules and administrative regulations, or as stated in the meet announcement, a sanction may be withheld or withdrawn in accordance with articles 202.1.1F and G.

108.2 Recognized Events

Times achieved by USMS members at recognized events other than USA Swimming or FINA meets shall be considered for USMS records and Top 10 times if a designated USMS observer is present and verifies in writing that the conduct of the competition conforms to the relevant USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations. (See Appendix B for the required Observer's Report.) USA Swimming and FINA sanctioned meets do not require observers (see article 202.3). USMS membership is not required for swimmers entered in recognized events.

108.2.1 Recognition—Recognition shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with 202.2 and the following requirements:

- A** The conduct of a recognized event shall conform to relevant USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations, including but not limited to the following:
- (1)** Starts, Strokes, and Relays (article 101) or Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers With a Disability (article 107)
 - (2)** Swimwear Design (article 102.12.1)
 - (3)** Determination of Official Time (articles 103.17.3, 103.18.1, 103.18.2, 103.18.3, and 103.18.4)
 - (4)** Timing System Requirements for Records and Top 10 (articles 103.18.5-103.18.8 and 103.18.10)
 - (5)** Records and Top 10 Times (articles 105.1, 105.2.1, 105.2.2, 105.3.2, 105.3.3, 105.3.4, 105.3.5, 105.3.6, 105.3.7, and 105.3.9)
 - (6)** Minimum Standards for Facilities (articles 106.2.1, 106.2.3A, 106.3, 106.11.1, 106.11.2, 106.12, 106.13.2, 106.14, and 106.16)
 - (7)** Relay leadoff split times that conform to articles 103.18.1 and 105.2.2A will be considered for events listed in article 102.5. USMS membership is not required for the other members of the relay team and the relay event itself need not conform to article 102.5.
- B** World records can be set only in FINA- or USMS-sanctioned competitions, not

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

recognized events.

C If an individual or organization has failed to conduct a recognized event in accordance with applicable USMS rules and administrative regulations, or as stated in the meet announcement, a recognition may be withheld or withdrawn in accordance with articles 202.2.1E and G.

Rationale: Putting the pool-competition-related information from Part 2, including the pool-meet sanction and recognition information, into Part 1 will make it easier for meet hosts, officials, and swimmers to find all the pool information they need in one part of the rule book.

The following are housekeeping items for the proposed L-2/R13 indivisible package:

Articles 102, 103, 301, Appendix B

102.3.3 If a sanctioned meet is conducted by an organization whose age eligibility requirements differ from USMS (see article ~~202.1.1G~~202.1.1E), the age groups listed in articles 102.3.1 and 102.3.2 may be adjusted to conform to the minimum and maximum ages eligible to compete in the meet.

102.5.2 Any event (series of races in a given stroke and distance) conducted at a sanctioned meet must be offered for all age groups listed in articles 102.3.1 and 102.3.2 and both genders. Sanctioned meets conducted by organizations whose age eligibility requirements differ from USMS (see article ~~202.1.1G~~202.1.1E) must comply with article 102.3.3. Events may be repeated with the same stroke and distance as different event numbers at a meet. Any of the following events may be conducted.

102.5.4 Nonconforming events may be offered in accordance with the provisions of article ~~202.1.1G(3)~~202.1.1E(3). For open water and long distance events, see Part 3.

103.18 Official Time

103.18.1 An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles ~~202.1.1G[1]~~202.1.1E(1) and ~~202.2.1E~~108.2.1A). It may be achieved in:

301.3 Membership, Representation, and Sanctions

Membership, representation, and sanctions for open water and long distance events shall be governed by all applicable rules under articles 201, 202 and 108, and 203.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

OBSERVER'S REPORT FOR RECOGNIZED MEETS OTHER THAN USA-S OR FINA MEETS

5th row up from the bottom of the table:

Requested relay leadoff times may come from relays where other members are not registered with USMS, and relay event does not conform (~~202.2.1 E [7]~~ 108.2.1A(7))

Statement after signature line:

A designated observer shall submit this form to verify in writing that the conduct of the competition conforms to the relevant USMS swimming rules and regulations as required by articles 108.2 and 202.2 of the USMS rule book. Completed forms should be sent to the Top 10 recorder of the LMSC. Attach a copy of this form to record applications

HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments are recommended to the House of Delegates by the Rules Committee and require a simple majority vote to be adopted.

HK-1 102.11.4F Rules Committee page 14 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

102.11.4 Postponement or Cancellation

(Articles 102.11.4A through E are unchanged)

- F** Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet director, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet director on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC ~~for~~ (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee ~~for~~ (national championship meets).

Rationale: Housekeeping

HK-2 103.10 Rules Committee pages 22-23 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.10 Judges

Shall have jurisdiction over the swimmers immediately after the race has begun.

103.10.1 Chief Judge

- A** An overall “chief judge” may assign and supervise the activities of all stroke, turn, and takeoff judges and may report their decisions.
- B** If desired, any judging category may have a designated “chief.”
- C** Any “chief” may act as liaison for the judges and may serve simultaneously in one of the judging positions, and shall assign those judges within the category.

103.10.2 Stroke Judges

- A** Shall operate on both sides of the pool, preferably walking slightly behind the swimmers during all strokes except freestyle, during which events they may leave poolside, at the referee’s discretion;~~;~~
- B** ~~s~~Shall ensure that the rules relating to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed;~~;~~ ~~and~~
- C** ~~s~~Shall report any violations to the referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number, and the infraction observed.

103.10.3 Turn Judges

- A Shall operate on both ends of the pool.
- B Shall ensure that after the start and when turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the rules applicable to the stroke used.
- C Shall report any violations to the referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number, and the infraction observed.

103.10.4 Jurisdiction of Stroke and Turn Judges—Before the competition begins, the referee shall determine the respective areas of stroke and turn responsibility and jurisdiction, which may include joint, concurrent, and coordinated responsibility and jurisdiction. The referee shall ensure that all swimmers shall have fair, equitable, and uniform conditions of judging.

103.10.5 Relay Takeoff Judges

- A Relay takeoff judges shall be assigned by the referee and shall:
 - (1) Stand so that they can clearly see both the feet of the departing swimmer(s) as they leave the starting platform and the touch of the incoming swimmer(s).
 - (2) Judge whether the swimmer is in contact with the platform when the incoming swimmer touches the end of the pool.
- B If dual relay takeoff judging is used, the lane and side takeoff judges shall independently report infractions in writing without the use of the infraction hand signal. A relay shall be disqualified only if the lane takeoff judge has reported an infraction and the assigned side takeoff judge has confirmed the same infraction.
- C When automatic relay exchange judging equipment is in use:
 - (1) The system printout will provide the information to judge relay exchanges.
 - (2) Integrated backup timing cameras may be reviewed by the referee to confirm the automatic system's results.
 - (3) When backup timing cameras are not available, automatic relay exchange equipment may only be used to confirm or overrule an infraction noted by the relay takeoff judges.

103.10.6 Place Judge(s)

- A One or two place judges may be positioned on the side of the course near the finish to judge the order of finish of all swimmers.
- B If two place judges are used, they shall independently record the order of finish of all swimmers.
- C A place judge shall record a tie if a place distinction cannot be made. The referee, starter, or another official may also serve as a place judge.
- D Judging results may only be used to corroborate the places determined by the ranking of official times or to determine places in the event of a malfunction.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

Judging may not be used to change the results produced by ranking the official times.

Rationale: Change overly long paragraphs and sentences to lettered and numbered sections for easier reading.

HK-3 103.11.3 Rules Committee pages 23-24 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.11 Timers

103.11.3 Lane Timers—Officials assigned as lane timers may simultaneously operate two dissimilar devices (one watch and one button) but not two similar devices (two watches or two buttons). It is not within a lane timer’s jurisdiction to judge if the swimmer’s touch conforms to the applicable finish rules or if a relay takeoff infraction has occurred unless assigned concurrent responsibility as a lane timer and turn judge or relay takeoff judge. Each timer shall:

- A** Be in position at the start to have an unobstructed view and shall start the watch at the instant of observing the visual starting signal. If the visual starting signal is not observed, the watch shall be started upon hearing the sound of the starting signal.
- B** Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish to observe a touch above, at, or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semiautomatic system button when any part of the swimmer’s body touches the wall. When overhead video cameras replace timers, this responsibility shall be assigned to other meet personnel.
- C** Report:
 - (1) The watch time to the head lane timer or the designated recorder;
 - (2) If a late or missed pad touch is observed; ~~and;~~
 - (3) If requested, present the watch for inspection.

Lane timers shall not clear their watches until the command, “Clear watches,” is given or the referee signals that the next heat is ready to start.

Rationale: Number sections for easier reading.

HK-4 103.14 Rules Committee page 23-24 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.14 Announcer

The announcer shall make any announcements requested by the referee, the clerk of course, or the meet management. Announcements may include:

- A Event
- B Number of heats
- C Lane, name, and club affiliation of competitors
- D Results.

Rationale: USMS style in rule book to add lettering to the list of items.

HK-5 103.17.3F Rules Committee page 27 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

(Articles 103.17.3A through E remain unchanged)

F Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat

Table 1—Example of Heat Malfunction

(a) Systems used:

- (1)** Primary—Automatic (late manual start confirmed)
- (2)** Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (button times not valid)
- (3)** Tertiary—Manual, one watch (valid)

(Table remains unchanged)

(b) Adjustment calculation:

- **(1)** Add the differences between the pad and watch times (total = 24.50).
- **(2)** Divide the total by the number of lanes to determine an average ($24.50 \div 8 = 3.0625$).
- **(3)** Drop the digits after the hundredths place (leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06).
- **(4)** Add the adjustment factor for the late start of the primary system to each pad time to obtain the official time for that lane (e.g., lane one, $52.12 + 3.06 = 55.18$).

Rationale: USMS style to use numbers and letters in the rule book, not bullets. See examples on page 50. Housekeeping.

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.18 Official Time

103.18.1 Achieving Official Times—An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1GF[1] and 202.2.1E). It may be achieved in:

(Articles 103.18.1A – D remain unchanged)

103.18.2 Automatic Recording of Split Times—Upon a recommendation from the meet host, the meet referee may approve the automatic recording of individual initial splits and relay leadoff splits for official times without the requirement for a written request subject to the following conditions:

(Articles 103.18.2A – E remain unchanged)

103.18.3 Official Time for Event or Stroke—An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

103.18.4 Timing Resolution (Timing Accuracy)—All timing systems, including stopwatches, shall have a resolution of 0.01 second. Times from all systems shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. The digits representing thousandths shall be dropped with no rounding.

103.18.5 Records and Top 10 Times Using an Automatic Primary Timing System—Secondary and tertiary times may be used to determine the official time as follows when the automatic primary timing system fails, provided the procedures in article 103.17.3B are followed. See article 103.17.3D for overhead video backup.

(Articles 103.18.5A – G remain unchanged)

103.18.6 Records and Top 10 Times Using a Semiautomatic Primary Timing System—Semiautomatic times are used to determine the official time as follows (or backup times when the semiautomatic primary timing system fails), provided the procedures in article 103.17.3B are followed.

(Articles 103.18.6A – D remain unchanged)

103.18.7 Records and Top 10 Times Using a Manual Primary Timing System—Manual times are used to determine the official time as follows, provided the procedures in article 103.17.3B are followed.

(Articles 103.18.7A – C remain unchanged)

103.18.8 Certified Pool Length—Only those results from events conducted in pools officially certified for length in conformance with article 106.2.1 shall be acceptable for record applications or Top 10 submissions.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

103.18.9 Timing System Eligibility—Except when the primary system consists of watches, backup timing shall be provided for all competitors. No swimmer shall be required to reswim a race due to equipment failure that results in unrecorded or inaccurate time or place. It is the meet director’s responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of articles 103.18.5-103.18.7. The meet announcement shall include a description of the timing systems intended to be used at the meet and one of the following statements for each course:

(Articles 103.18.9A – D remain unchanged)

103.18.10 Recording Backup Times—Secondary and tertiary times shall be recorded but shall not be used except to corroborate or correct missing or inaccurate primary/secondary results.

Rationale: Add titles for consistency with the titles of the other sections in 103.18.

HK-7 104.5.10 Rules Committee pages 37-38 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.5.10 Personnel (also see article 103)

A Meet director—The meet director shall follow the swimming rules of USMS Inc. and the policies and procedures established by the Championship Committee with regard to the planning and execution of the requirements for a national championship meet.

B Officials

(1) Meet referee

(a) The meet host may nominate a meet referee subject to qualification standards established by the USMS Officials Committee.

(b) This nomination is subject to approval by the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees.

(c) If there are no nominations from the meet host, the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees shall jointly appoint the meet referee.

(d) The meet referee shall develop a leadership team (administrative referee, head starter, and chief judge) and submit the names to the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees for approval.

(2) Minimum requirements—The minimum requirements for the following positions assigned for each session shall be:

(a) One deck referee for each course.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

(b) One starter for each course~~;~~

(c) One chief judge for each course.

(3) Sufficient number—A sufficient number of stroke and turn judges shall be assigned in order to provide fair and equitable jurisdictions per article 103.10.4. Their assignments should meet the following minimum requirements:

(a) Two turn judges at each end of each course, each judge with a jurisdiction that does not exceed five lanes per judge~~;~~

(b) One stroke judge on each side of a 50-meter course~~;~~

(c) One official at the 15-meter mark of each course for all starts and turns except breaststroke.

(4) Additional officials—In addition to the officials listed above, it is strongly recommended that additional officials be assigned in order to provide adequate relief for all officials during each session.

(5) Certification—All officials shall be certified by a USMS-approved certifying body (~~Appendix B~~) in the capacity to which they are assigned.

C Other personnel

(1) Minimum other personnel—The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

(a) Two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button, and at least one timer using a stopwatch~~;~~

(b) One recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used~~, and~~

(c) One safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

(2) Sufficient number—A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed.

(3) Overhead video cameras—Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee shall make further modifications as appropriate and shall ensure that timers' duties in articles 103.11.2A and D and 103.11.3B are assigned to other meet personnel.

D Availability of officials—In the event of insufficient personnel, the meet referee may modify or combine assignments, except that the deck referee and starter may not be the same person and lane timers may not operate two similar timing devices simultaneously.

Rationale: Arrange in additional numbered and lettered sections for easier reading. Add titles to 104.5.10B (4) & (5), and delete the reference to Appendix B in 104.5.10B(5) since Appendix B no longer lists USMS-approved certifying bodies.

HK-8 105.3.9A Rules Committee page 41 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

105.3.9 The following requirements for USMS record applications ~~are~~must be fulfilled:

A When a record is claimed in meets other than USMS national championship meets:

(1) An official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be:

(a) ~~e~~Completed and signed by the designated officials;

(b) ~~t~~Transmitted immediately following the performance with all supporting data to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized.

(2) Supporting data shall include:

(a) ~~e~~Official meet results;

(b) ~~t~~The timing system printout and/or copy of the entry card with timers' signatures, ~~and~~.

(c) ~~a~~A copy of the heat sheet. ~~The heat sheet which~~ shall show the swimmer's name, heat number, and lane number in which the record was achieved.

(3) The LMSC may assign this responsibility to the LMSC records chair or to the meet director.

Rationale: Arrange long paragraph in numbered and lettered sections for easier reading.

USA SWIMMING AMMENDMENTS THAT AFFECT USMS RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.7, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments.

Amendments to USA Swimming article 103 (USMS article 106, facilities standards) may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

The following amendments will be submitted by the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee to the USA Swimming House of Delegates for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting.

U-1 Article 107.1.2 and 107.4 pages 48-50 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

107.1.2 Responsibilities

- A Swimmer**—The swimmer (or the swimmer’s coach) is responsible for notifying the referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any-personal assistant(s) or any equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.
- B Referee**—The referee’s responsibilities include:
(Articles (1) and (2) are unchanged.)
- (3) Modifications**—Aids to speed, pace, buoyancy and endurance are not permitted (see articles 102.12.1E and 102.13.10). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:
- (a)** A change in starting position.
 - (b)** Reassignment of lanes within a heat (e.g., exchanging lanes two and seven).
 - (c)** Allowing the swimmer to have a personal assistant(s).

107.4 Cognitively Disabled

The swimmer may be permitted to have an-a personal assistant on the deck when necessary. No other specific rule modifications are required other than patience and clarity in communicating instructions.

Rationale: Amended to conform with USA Swimming proposed language.

U-2 107.3.1 and 106.15 pages 49 and 47 Modify

Committee Action: No recommendation, pending USA Swimming HOD action HOD Action: Adopted as Amended
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107.3.1 Visual Starting Signal—~~Swimmers who are d~~Deaf ~~and-or~~ hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal (i.e., a strobe light and/or starter’s arm signals). The referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer’s heat (i.e., exchanging one lane for another) so that the strobe light or starter’s arm signal can more readily be seen by the swimmer who is deaf or hard of hearing ~~swimmer~~. Standard starter’s arm signals are shown in Figures 1 and 2. A recall rope is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a swimmer who is deaf or hard of hearing ~~swimmer~~ will be participating.

Note: Amendments to Article 106 (Facilities Standards) may also be recommended to the House of Delegates by the Rules Committee. The following article should also be modified for consistency.

106.15 Loudspeaker Starting System

An electronic sound-generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course, or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light or similar visual signal located on the starter’s side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to manual timers and swimmers who are deaf ~~and-or~~ hard of hearing ~~swimmers~~ (also see article 107.3). The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and final-lap signal option. [NC]

Rationale: Will be updated once the USA Swimming HOD takes action on this proposal. Uses more athlete-forward language and aligns with USA Swimming rules.

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA SWIMMING FACILITIES STANDARDS

Pursuant to USMS article 601.4.7, changes USA Swimming article 103 (facilities standards) may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

There are no amendments to the USA Swimming facilities standards proposed for the 2021 annual meeting.

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO FINA RULES

Pursuant to USMS Article 601.4.8, if amendments to the FINA Masters Technical Rules are adopted between annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

There are no pending FINA amendments to consider for the 2021 annual meeting. The next FINA Congress is scheduled for May 2022 in conjunction with the World Aquatics Championships.