

## 2024 Rules Committee Housekeeping Report – House of Delegates Version

### HOUSEKEEPING REPORT

Pursuant to article 601.1.2, housekeeping changes to the USMS Rules of Competition submitted and approved by the Rules Committee, with the concurrence of the Vice President of Administration, are reported to the House of Delegates in the annual report from the Rules Committee or in a subsequent report (if approved after the annual meeting). These changes will take effect on January 1, 2025.

HK-1	105.2.2D	Page 43	Modify
	105.2.2E	Page 43	
	103.18.1 (for consistency)	Page 28	

**105.2.2** Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:

*(Articles 105.2.2A through 105.2.2C and 105.2.2F are unchanged)*

- D ~~The~~ In an individual event the swimmer<sup>(s)</sup> completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.
- E For a relay leadoff split time when automatic timing is used, the second swimmer does not start in the water or invalidate the pad touch by standing on an active touchpad at the exchange if starting from the deck. ~~when automatic timing is used.~~ The leadoff swimmer's time shall not be nullified by a subsequent disqualification of the remaining relay team members if the relay is swum by four eligible relay members.

*Other article that requires change in order to maintain consistency:*

**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 202.1.1E[1] and 108.2.1A). It may be achieved in:

- B An initial distance within a longer event or relay, provided the swimmer:
  - (1) Notifies the meet referee in writing of the intent to record an initial split time prior to the conclusion of the meet,
  - (2) Makes the written request prior to the swim for relay leadoff splits and for initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events,
  - (3) Completes the initial distance with a legal finish, and
  - (4) Completes the relay leadoff distance or the individual event without being disqualified.

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**Rationale for 105.2.2D):** 103.18.1C(3), page 29, was changed last year to allow a leadoff time for official purposes even if a subsequent, eligible relay swimmer disqualifies the relay (see text below). 105.2.2D currently says that’s a DQ, and that’s in conflict with 103.18.1C(3).

**Rationale for 105.2.2E:** Since 105.2.2D should no longer address relay leadoff splits, add the second condition for an official leadoff time to count when automatic timing is used (language from 103.18.1C[2]) and include the language from 103.18.1C(3) which was changed last year to allow a leadoff time for official purposes even if a subsequent, eligible relay swimmer disqualifies the relay (see text of both below).

**Rationale for 103.18.1:** For consistency, 103.18.1B(4), page 28, needs to be updated to clarify that only the leadoff distance of a relay must be completed without a DQ for a leadoff relay split to be official while in an individual event, the swimmer must complete the entire event without a DQ in order for an initial distance to be an official time.

<b>HK-2</b>	<b>105.3.9F</b>	Page 4	Modify
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**105.3.9** The following requirements for USMS record applications must be fulfilled:

*(Articles 105.3.9A through 105.3.9E are unchanged)*

**F** With the exception of World Aquatics World Masters Championships, record applications ~~from for~~ times ~~swum-achieved~~ in meets held outside of the United States shall be submitted on official USMS record application forms (Appendix B) and are subject to all pertinent requirements. Record applications are not required for times reported in the official results from World Aquatics World Masters Championships.

**Rationale:** More accurate terminology consistent with 105.3.2.

<b>HK-3</b>	<b>Glossary</b>	Page xii	Modify
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**Housekeeping**—changes to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* to correct errors of deviation from adopted language, nonconformity with the *USMS Publications Style Guide*, consistency of wording ~~betweenamong~~ multiple articles, or accuracy of numerical article and page references.

**Rationale:** Use more accurate language. This is one of only two places in the rule book where “between” and “among” are not used correctly (when being precise, “between” is usually for 2 persons/items; “among” is usually for 3 or more).

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HK-4	101.1.2B	Page 1 -2	Modify
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### 101.1.2 Backstroke Start

*(Article 101.1.2A is unchanged)*

**B All courses**—The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the backstroke starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, ~~the toes of both feet at~~ at least one toe of each foot must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.

**Rationale:** Both USA Swimming and World Aquatics (formerly FINA) changed the language (see text below). Note that USA Swimming and World Aquatics have slightly different language; USA Swimming says “at least one toe of both feet” and World Aquatics says, “at least one toe of each foot”

HK-5	102.5.3	Page 8	Modify
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**102.5.3** The Rules Committee shall develop, publish, and maintain, with the approval of the USMS Board of Directors, policy guidelines that address the eligibility of transgender athletes to earn official times and other forms of recognition (times, places, records, and Top 10 rankings) in the male and female gender categories. Athletes who do not meet the eligibility guidelines shall be permitted to participate in competition in the gender that corresponds to their USMS registrations without official recognition.

**Rationale:** Use language consistent with 102.14.6 (“policy guidelines”) and with the title, “Transgender Policy”, online.

HK-6	104.4	Page 34	Modify
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### 104.4 USMS Assistance and Agreements

The USMS Championship Committee, National Office, and legal counsel shall be responsible for establishing written contract requirements between USMS and the host organization of national championship meets. The Championship Committee shall establish policies, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for financial payments and for providing assistance to the meet host. The

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Championship Committee shall also establish policies for evaluating meet operations and receiving post-meet reports to document financial operations, lessons learned, and any other information that may be helpful to future meet hosts. The Officials Committee shall establish requirements for and receive a post-meet report from the meet referee.

**Rationale:** Add “for” in front of “providing” in the second sentence for parallel construction with “...for financial payments...” (two prepositional phrases describing separate duties).

HK-7	104.5.3C(1)	Page 35	Modify
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### 104.5.3 Event Limit

*(Articles 104.5.3A and 104.5.3B are unchanged)*

**C National qualifying times**—There shall be qualifying times for national championship meets unless otherwise determined by the Championship Committee. The procedure for determining the qualification times shall be established by the Championship Committee with the approval of the House of Delegates

**(1) Altitude adjustment**— Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or higher may be adjusted, for national qualifying times purposes only, by subtracting the adjustment times (in seconds) from the actual time achieved. The specific adjustments for each age group and gender are found in Appendix B. The adjustments shall be determined every four years starting in 1998. (See Appendix B for the next scheduled revision of the altitude adjustment charts.) The adjustment times for men and women competitors shall be calculated by multiplying the time adjustment in the following table by the ratio of the 200-yard freestyle USMS record for the age group to that of the 25–29 200-yard freestyle for men and women, respectively. The values in the following table shall be those determined and used for the same purpose by USA

**Note:** Records and Top 10, etc., are to be actual times swum, not adjusted for altitude. ~~(See Appendix B for the next scheduled revision of the altitude adjustment charts.)~~

**Rationale:** Reference Appendix B, so readers know the next revision year has already been calculated.

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HK-8	105.5	Page 45	Modify
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### 105.5 World Records

Applications and documentation for world records (25-meter and 50-meter courses only) shall be submitted to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee as detailed in Appendix B (see also articles 103.18.5–~~103.18.8~~103.18.9).

**Rationale:** Include 103.18.9 because the table in 103.18.9 addresses all the timing systems described in 103.18.5, .6, and .7.