

**FINAL LONG DISTANCE PACKET FOR 2025 USMS ANNUAL MEETING**

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART 3**

**The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Long Distance 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, 2026.**

The committee action is indicated as “recommended,” “recommended as amended,” or “not recommended.” Committee actions may be reconsidered at the annual meeting before presentation to the House of Delegates. Comments are invited from delegates at the annual meeting on all proposed amendments.

Amendments that are recommended by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Amendments that are not recommended by the committee require a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<b>LD-1</b>	301.2	Deletes the requirement for LDC’s creation of Open Water and Virtual guides to operations. These are documentation processes. <b>Renummer the rest of 301.</b>	Adopted
<b>LD-2</b>	303.1.1	Clarifies that open water event safety plans must be approved the USMS Open Water Coordinator.	Adopted
<b>LD-3</b>	303.4	Adds the requirement for an event’s swimwear requirements to appear in the event information.	Adopted
<b>LD-4</b>	303.5.1	Deletes the recommendation for seeding for an open water event by 1500 meter/1650 yard times and leaves the manner of seeding to the discretion of the event host.	Adopted
<b>LD-5</b>	306.6.3	States that the adjusted times (0.99 added to times to the nearest second and 0.09 to times to the nearest tenth) are the official times.	Adopted
<b>LD-6</b>	306.10.2	Identifies the different paths for resolving questions on results. One for non-championship events and one for USMS national championships.	Adopted
<b>LD-7</b>	307.2.2	Gives the LDC the latitude to identify the open water events for a particular year. It specifies that at least three open events will be held each year. This leaves the criteria for All-Americans intact. It also preserves the character of the current open water event definitions while allowing the LDC the ability to identify other events.	Adopted

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<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<b>LD-8</b>	307.3	Deleted. USMS has seen a decline in the number of hosts for open water national championships making adherence to the bid rotation impossible. Therefore, site selection should be viewed as a process executed by the LDC and removed as a rule that is not enforced. <b>Renumber the remainder of Article 307.</b>	Adopted
<b>LD-9</b>	307.5.1 C	Deletes the requirement for the performance bond since the performance bond for OW event hosts is no longer required.	Adopted
<b>LD-10</b>	307.5.2	Deleted since a financial statement for OW event hosts is no longer required.	Adopted
<b>LD-11</b>	307.7.8 A	Adds restrictions on which judgements made during the race may be protested only to the referee. This is similar to language in 102.14.3.	Adopted
	307.7.8 <b>AB</b>	Clarifies times allowed for the event director and LDC Chair to respond to protests.	Adopted as amended
	307.7.8 <b>BC</b>	Changes the authority for resolving protests in virtual events to the LDC Chair and gives the required response time.	Adopted as amended
<b>LD-12</b>	307.8.1	Removes the requirement for the order of presentation of individual results (women then men) as a rule.	Adopted
	307.8.2	Removes the requirement for the order of presentation of relay results (women then men then mixed) as a rule.	Adopted
	307.8.1 C	Removes the requirement for a swimmer's name in results to appear as on the USMS membership card.	Adopted
<b>LD-13</b>	307.9.3	Deletes requirements for divisions in club scoring for virtual events. Creation of divisions should be left to the discretion of the National Office.	Adopted
<b>LD-14</b>	307.10.4	Deleted. Presentation of awards by the LDC should not be the subject of a rule. The LDC can develop procedures for making awards.	Adopted
<b>LD-15</b>	307.11.3	Eliminates the requirement for OW hosts to provide All-American lists for their events. Will be handled by the LDC.	Adopted
<b>LD-16</b>	307.12.2	Clarifies that national championship swims are required to qualify for All-Star status.	Adopted
<b>LD-17</b>	308.1.4 B	States that the adjusted times for (0.99 added to times to the nearest second and 0.09 to times to the nearest tenth) are the official times.	Adopted
	308.1.4 C	New. States that to establish a new record, the official time must be less than the current record.	Adopted

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<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<b>LD-18</b>	308.1.5 <b>E</b>	<u>New</u> -Adds the documentation required for applying for a USMS record in a cable event.	Adopted
<b>LD-19</b>	308.1.6 D 3	Eliminates the requirement to notify a virtual national championship event host of an attempt to use a split time to set a USMS individual record.	Adopted
	308.1.6 E 3	Eliminates the requirement to notify a virtual national championship event host of an attempt to use a split time to set a USMS individual record. <u>Corrects errors identifying individuals rather than relay teams.</u>	Adopted

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### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Long Distance 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, 2026.

**LD-1, 301.2** Long Distance Committee p. 67 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

#### **~~301.2 Guide to Operations~~**

**~~301.2.1 Open Water Guide to Operations~~**—The Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a guide for conducting open water events for the use of USMS open water officials and event hosts. The guide shall contain the governing policies, management of rules, and links to education applying to open water swims.

**~~301.2.2 Virtual Guide to Operations~~**—The Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a guide for conducting virtual events. The guide shall contain the manner of implementation, governing policies, and management of the rules applying to virtual swims.

**Rationale:** Deleted because it describes LDC processes, not rules. Renumber the rest of 301.

**LD-2, 303.1.1** Long Distance Committee p. 70 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**303.1.1** Event hosts shall develop and maintain a written safety plan that must be reviewed by the LMSC authorized representative. Safety plans shall then be included in the sanction application and must be approved by the USMS Open Water Coordinator before issue of the sanction.

**Rationale:** The USMS Open Water Coordinator approves the safety plan.

**LD-3, 303.4** Long Distance Committee p. 72 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

#### **303.4 Swimwear for Open Water Events**

Swimwear allowed for open water events is defined below. It is the swimmer's responsibility to understand the appropriate swimwear allowed at a particular event. **Swimwear requirements for an event shall be included in the event information.**

**Rationale:** Swimmers must be informed of the swimwear requirements for an event. The event information needs to give the requirements.

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LD-4, 303.5.1 Long Distance Committee p. 74 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**303.5.1** ~~When practical, swimmers shall be seeded by their 1500 meters/1650 yards times.~~ The manner of seeding swimmers ~~without times~~ shall be at the discretion of the event host and stated in the event information.

**Rationale:** Deleted because the manner of seeding is a recommendation not a rule.

LD-5, 306.6.3 Long Distance Committee p. 80 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**306.6.3** When a final time has been submitted to the nearest second, 0.99 second shall be added to the time submitted and becomes the official time. When a final time has been submitted to the nearest tenth of a second, 0.09 second shall be added to the time submitted and becomes the official time.

**Rationale:** States that the adjusted times are the official times.

LD-6, 306.10.2 Long Distance Committee p. 80 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**306.10.2** ~~Event hosts may request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may request that the Long Distance Committee chair refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information.~~ For non-championship events, event hosts may request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may request that the Long Distance Committee Chair refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information. For USMS National championships the USMS National Office in conjunction with the Long Distance Committee shall investigate and rule on issues regarding any entry.

**Rationale:** Identifies the different paths for resolving questions on results. One for non-championship events and one for USMS national championships.

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LD-7, 307.2.2                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 81                      Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:**                      Adopted

**307.2.2**     ~~At the discretion of the Long Distance Committee, national championships may be awarded in the following categories~~ **Open water national championships shall be awarded at the discretion of the Long Distance Committee. A minimum of three different championships shall be awarded each year. Championships with the names below shall conform to the distances given below:**

**Rationale:** Gives the LDC the latitude to identify the open water events for a particular year. It specifies that at least three open events will be held each year. This leaves the criteria for All-Americans intact. It also preserves the character of the current open water event definitions while allowing the LDC the ability to identify other events.

LD-8, 307.3                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 82                      Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:**                      Adopted

### **~~307.3 Site Selection~~**

~~The manner of site selection for national championships shall be at the discretion of the Long Distance Committee and shall depend upon the championship structure chosen under article 307.2. Should a bidding system be selected, it shall be accomplished in the following manner:~~

~~**307.3.1**     Suitable bids shall comply with all applicable USMS swimming and open water and long distance rules, policies, and procedures.~~

~~**307.3.2**     All bids shall be submitted to the chair of the Long Distance Committee no later than July 1. If no timely suitable bid is received, the committee shall continue to solicit bids.~~

~~**307.3.3**     Championships shall be awarded by the Long Distance Committee one to three years in advance of the national championship event.~~

~~**307.3.4**     A three-area award system may be followed for the bidding of open water championships (see Appendix D for map and description of areas). In this system, suitable bids from a qualifying area shall receive preference over bids from other areas.~~

<b>National Championship Bid Rotation</b> (see article 307.2.2 for distance definitions)			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Area 1 West</b>	<b>Area 2 Central</b>	<b>Area 3 East</b>
<b>2023</b>	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultramarathon Distance	2 Mile Cable Marathon Distance
<b>2024</b>	2 Mile Cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultramarathon Distance
<b>2025</b>	Middle Distance Ultramarathon Distance	2 Mile Cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival

**Rationale:** USMS has seen a decline in the number of hosts for open water national championships making adherence to the bid rotation impossible. Therefore, site selection should be viewed as a process executed by the LDC and removed as a rule that is not enforced. Renumber the remainder of Article 307.

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**LD-9, 307.5.1 C**      Long Distance Committee      p. 82      Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:**      Adopted

**307.5-Financial**

**307.5.1** The host organization shall agree to underwrite the full event expenses, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Costs associated with the event (setting up the course, supplies, equipment, etc.).
- B. Cost of all national championship event awards (medals and patches) and/or other appropriate awards.
- C. A fee per individual entrant in the championship swim (or a fee per individual entrant in each championship swim in an event with multiple championship swims), ~~and a performance bond shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee and paid to USMS. All or a portion of the performance bond shall be returned to the host organization, based upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the event contract.~~
- D. Any other costs that may be reflected in national championship event contracts.

**Rationale:** The performance bond is no longer required.

**LD-10, 307.5.2**      Long Distance Committee      p. 83      Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:**      Adopted

~~**307.5.2** Complete financial statements shall be forwarded to the Long Distance Committee chair on the championship forms provided.~~

**Rationale:** The financial statement is no longer required

**LD-11, 307.7.8 A,B,C**      Long Distance Committee      p. 83      Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:**      Adopted as Amended (amendments shown in green)

**307.7.8 Protests**

- A**      **Protests against judgment decisions regarding the start, missing a course turn, failure to achieve a cutoff time, or the finish of a race can only be considered by the referee, and the referee's decision shall be final and may not be appealed.**

**Rationale:** **Adds restrictions on which judgements made during the race may only be protested to the referee. This is similar to language in 102.14.3.**

- AB**      Any protest arising from an open water championship swim shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. **After receipt of a protest, the referee or event director shall have seven ten days to reply. If the protest is**

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~~denied by the referee or event director, the swimmer will have seven~~ five days to appeal in writing to the Long-Distance Committee Chair. The Long-Distance Committee Chair will have seven ten days to reply unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee. ~~If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair. Protests against judgment decisions regarding the start, missing a course turn, failure to achieve a cutoff time, or the finish of a race can only be considered by the referee, and the referee's decision shall be final and may not be appealed.~~

**Rationale:** Clarifies times allowed for the event director and LDC Chair to respond to protests.

**BC** Any protest arising from a virtual championship swim shall be made to the ~~event director~~ Long Distance Committee Chair in writing within ~~three~~ five days after all swimmers are notified of the release of preliminary results or amendments to the preliminary results. ~~If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair. The final decision for any protest will be determined by the Long Distance Committee Chair. After receipt of a protest, the Long Distance Committee Chair shall have seven~~ ten days to reply unless the USMS Long Distance chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee.

**Rationale:** Changes the authority for resolving protests in virtual events to the LDC Chair and gives the required response time.

**Rationale for amendment:** Because an appeal can be complicated, the Long Distance chair needs more time (at least the same ten days afforded the meet referee or event director) to conduct a thorough investigation and make a decision or decide the appeal needs to be considered by the entire committee.

LD-12, 307.8.1, 307.8.2, 307.8.1 C Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**307.8.1** Individual results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. ~~Women's results shall be shown first, followed by men's results.~~ As a minimum, the following information shall be reported for each swimmer:

**307.8.2** Relay results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. ~~Women's results shall be shown first, followed by men's results, then mixed-gender relays last.~~ As a minimum, the following information shall be reported for each relay team:

**Rationale:** The order of presentation of results need not be the subject of a rule.



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- 307.8.1** A Age group.  
B. Age group place.  
C. Swimmer's name ~~(as it appears on the USMS membership card).~~  
D. Age.  
E. Club (official USMS club abbreviation).  
F. USMS number.  
G. Official time/distance or disqualified.  
H. Whether the time or distance is a USMS record.

**Rationale:** A swimmer's name can be displayed without regard to how it is shown on the swimmer's membership card. Any ambiguity arising from similar names can be resolved by the swimmer's USMS number. Differentiating between how similar names are presented in the results (e.g., adding a middle initial) can be considered process.

**Rationale:** The order of presentation of results need not be the subject of a rule.

**LD-13 307.9.3** Long Distance Committee p. 85 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

~~**307.9.3 Divisions**—Up to four divisions may be recognized for club scoring based on the number of swimmers entered from each club in the event. The number of entrants from a club that shall constitute division I (very large), division II (large), division III (medium), and division IV (small) shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair and the event host after the event entry deadline.~~

**Rationale:** This is not a rule but rather guidance on preparing and presenting club scores. If and how divisions are created varies from event to event and should be left to the discretion of the National Office.

**LD-14, 307.10.4** Long Distance Committee p. 86 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

~~**307.10.4** Appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair may be awarded to the first, second, and third place club winners in each division if warranted by the size of the event entry. Club awards are not required.~~

**Rationale:** This is not a rule. The LDC can develop procedures for making awards.

**LD-15, 307.11.3** Long Distance Committee p. 86 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

~~**307.11.3** The event host shall submit the name, age, date of birth, club affiliation, time or distance, and USMS membership number for each competitor achieving All-American status to the Long Distance Committee chair.~~

**Rationale:** It is not necessary to burden the host with creation of an All-Americans list for their event. The information is readily available to the LDC and can be complied by the LDC for inclusion in the annual All-Americans list.

**LD-16, 307.12.2** Long Distance Committee p. 86 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

**307.12.2** To be eligible for the All-Star Team, a USMS member shall legally complete at least three **national championship** events, of which at least one shall be an open water **national championship** ~~event~~ and at least one shall be a virtual ~~event~~ **national championship**.

Cancellation of an open water championship shall not relieve the requirement of completing an open water event to qualify for the All-Star Team.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that national championship swims are required to qualify for All-Star Status.

**LD-17, 308.1.4 B, C** Long Distance Committee p. 87 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

### **308.1.4 Timing for Records**

- A. Record times shall be listed in hundredths of a second (two decimal places). If times are tied to the hundredth of a second, the results shall be declared a tie and records should be shared by all swimmers thus tied.
- B. When a record attempt has been timed to the nearest second, 0.99 second shall be added to the time submitted **and becomes the official time**. When a record attempt has been timed to the nearest tenth of a second, 0.09 second shall be added to the time submitted **and becomes the official time**.
- C. **When times are adjusted, the adjusted times are the official times and must be less than the current record to establish a new record.**

**Rationale:** Adjusted times are the official times. To establish a new record, an official time is required.

**LD-18, 308.1.5 D ~~E~~** Long Distance Committee p. 87 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

### **308.1.5 Cable Swims**

- A. Cable swim records may be made only in stationary, fresh water. No cable swim records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.
- B. The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 303.7.1A and 303.7.4.
- C. Swimmers must wear category I swimwear as defined in article 303.4.2 to be eligible for USMS records.
- D. USMS records for cable swims may not be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event. ~~Swimmers applying for a cable swim record must submit a copy of the application for a Cable Event Record to the Long Distance Committee Chair.~~
- E. **Swimmers applying for a cable swim record must submit a copy of the application for a Cable Event Record to the Long Distance Committee Chair.**

**Rationale:** Adds the documentation required for applying for a cable event record.

LD-19, 308.1.6 D 3, 308.1.6 E 3 Long Distance Committee p. 87, 88 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended for Adoption

**HOD Action:** Adopted

- D** An individual may use the split time in one long distance pool event to establish a USMS record in a different long distance pool event if:
- (1) The split is swum as an initial distance within an event.
  - (2) The swimmer completes the full distance or time of the sanctioned event.
  - (3) For events other than virtual national championships, the ~~The~~ intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
  - (4) A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.6.
- E** ~~An individual may use the split time~~ A relay team may use their split times in one long distance pool event to establish a USMS record in a different long distance pool event if:
- (1) ~~The~~ Each split is swum as an initial distance within an event.
  - (2) ~~The~~ Each swimmer completes the full distance or time of the sanctioned event.
  - (3) For events other than virtual national championships, the ~~The~~ intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
  - (4) A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.6.

**Rationale:** Since there is no event host on site for virtual championships, this eliminates the requirement to notify the host of an attempt to use a split time during a virtual national championship to set a USMS record. Item E has been corrected to apply to relay teams rather than individuals - as it does in the current version of the rules.