

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2025 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (LEGISLATION COMMITTEE)

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
USMS GLOSSARY, PART 2, and PARTS 4–6 of the USMS CODE OF REGULATIONS**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations are submitted to the House of Delegates for consideration at the annual meeting in accordance with articles 601.2 and 601.4.1.

The committee action is indicated as “recommended for adoption,” “recommended for adoption as amended,” or “recommended for rejection.” Committee actions may be reconsidered at the annual meeting before presentation to the House of Delegates.

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.

Amendments that are presented as an “indivisible package” will be considered as a whole with a motion to adopt all of the changes in the entire package.

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
L-1	507.1.4	Sunset the History and Archives Committee	Recommended for adoption
L-2	507.1	Remove the requirement for all standing committees to meet in conjunction with the annual meeting	Recommended for adoption

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L-1	507.1.4	Standing Committees	Board of Directors	Delete
Committee Action:		Recommended for Adoption	Recommended for Rejection	
HOD Action:		Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

~~**507.1.4 History and Archives Committee**—The History and Archives Committee shall record, collect, and preserve documents, stories, photos, exhibits, oral histories, and other memorabilia in an appropriate repository and in durable formats to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The archived information shall be made available. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function.~~

Rationale: Several task forces and working groups have recommended that the History and Archives Committee be sunset as a standing committee, with any ongoing work transitioned to individual contributors. The majority of USMS hard-copy historical artifacts have been preserved or digitized, and most new content created by staff is now archived in a digital format.

The most recent task force recommended that the Board appoint a historian to maintain the organization's archives after the committee is sunset. In February 2025, the Board voted to submit legislation to the House of Delegates to sunset the committee. The Board also instructed the President to appoint a historian and develop a job description for the role by January 1, 2026. The President has since appointed a four-person History and Archives Committee and tasked them with the following:

- Develop a job description for the historian
- Define what qualifies as a “historical artifact”
- Assist in selecting the historian
- Facilitate the transition of responsibilities to the historian

The committee’s work is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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L-2	507.1	Standing Committees	Board of Directors	Modify
Committee Action:		Recommended for Adoption	Recommended for Rejection	
HOD Action:		Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

507.1 Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be as listed in this article. Unless otherwise specified in this article, the president, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the chair of each committee, and the president, with the concurrence of the committee chair, shall choose committee members from the individual membership of USMS. When practical, each committee shall have representation from each zone. Committee chairs and committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the president. Each standing committee shall report to an officer of the corporation, who shall be an ex officio member of that committee. Standing committees shall conduct business as necessary throughout the year, as stated in USMS policy ~~and shall meet in conjunction with the annual meeting of the House of Delegates~~. Each committee member shall have one vote. The president may appoint associate members to committees that have reached their full membership. Associate members have participatory rights but no vote or automatic delegate status. The chief executive officer or designee shall be an ex officio member of each standing committee. Associate and ex officio members shall have voice but no vote. The presence of a majority of the committee members with voting privileges shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of a standing committee, except for scheduled meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, where a quorum shall consist of those members of the committee present and voting.

Rationale: The requirement that Standing Committees meet in conjunction with the annual meeting dates to a time when technology was not available to support effective discussion when committee members were not physically present in the same room. Today, this requirement is arbitrary and, for many committees, not related to the times when they must act. Upon approval of this change, the Board will establish a policy on committee meetings to ensure there is no degradation in member access and input to committee deliberations. This policy will also require the legislative committees (Legislation, Rules, and Long Distance) to conduct open meetings shortly before the annual meeting to explain and take input on proposed amendments to the rule book.