

# Proposed Changes to the USMS Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules

In accordance with section 601.1.4, the Long Distance Committee submits the following 64 proposals for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2014 Convention.

Proposals concerning reorganization of Part 3 are LD 12, 13, 18, 19, 25, 41, 46, 53, 55, and 64.

Proposals of major substance are LD 2, 6, 7, 21, 27, 29, 40, and 50.

Proposals of some substance are LD 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 20, 23, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 51, 54, 57, 59, 60, and 62.

Housekeeping proposals are LD 1, 11, 15, 17, 22, 24, 28, 45, 47, 48, 49, 52, 58, 61, and 63.

LD 1	301.3.1&2, 301.5.1&2	pages 65-6	Long Distance Committee				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**301.3.1** ~~Participants~~ Swimmers with one-event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status or any other USMS special awards.

**301.3.2** All ~~participants~~ swimmers in national championship postal events must be currently registered members of USMS or a FINA-member national governing body on or before the day of their swim.

**301.5.1** In an open water swim, the eligibility of a ~~participant~~ swimmer shall be determined by the age of the ~~participant~~ swimmer as of the last day of the event, except for 18-year-olds, who must be 18 on the day that they swim.

**301.5.2** In a postal swim, the eligibility of a ~~participant~~ swimmer shall be determined by the age of the ~~participant~~ swimmer as of the day of the swim.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (preferred rules language).*

LD 2	302.2	page 66	Long Distance Committee				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

## **302.2 OPEN WATER SWIMS COURSES**

*Overall Rationale: Oddly, there is little mention of courses or course specifications in current USMS rules. This proposal remedies those omissions, and reorganizes this article for clarity. The topics and language of the proposal is taken largely from USA-Swimming Rule 702.7, but modified to be more*

flexible and appropriate to the variety of USMS open water events. Renumber after.

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<b>LD 3</b>	<b>302.2.1A (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**302.2.1 The Course**

**A** The event director shall determine the course and type of start and finish for open water swims, ~~keeping in mind the safety of the swimmers.~~

*Rationale 1: Reorganization. Proposed new 302.2.1A has been moved from old 302.2.2.*

*Rationale #2: Adding “finish” makes this rule more complete.*

*Rationale 2: Housekeeping: redundant language (the heading of 302.2 already mentions open water, and safety is specifically addressed in current 303.2).*

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<b>LD 4</b>	<b>302.2.1B (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**B** The course shall be measured and marked as accurately as ~~possible~~ feasible.

*Rationale #1: Reorganization. Proposed new 302.2.1B has been moved from old 302.2.2.*

*Rationale #2: Amending the current language makes the measurement requirement more flexible (and probably less costly) for event hosts and more appropriate to local event conditions.*

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<b>LD 5</b>	<b>302.2.1C (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**C** Hazards on the course should be eliminated or marked wherever possible.

*Rationale: This proposal addresses an obvious safety issue.*

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<b>LD 6</b>	<b>302.2.2A (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**302.2.2A Water Conditions**

**A Water Temperature**

**(1)** A swim shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 60° F. (15.6° C.), unless heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers.

**(2)** A swim in which heat retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers shall not begin if the water temperature is less than 57° F. (13.9° C.).

**(3)** ~~For swims of three miles or more, the~~ **A** swim shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 29.45° C. (85° F.).

Note: Reorganization (New 302.2.2A(3) is moved from 302.5)

Rationale: Safety. This proposal aims to reduce significantly the risks from thermal issues from swimming in water that is dangerously cold or hot for most USMS members, but allowing some flexibility for those who choose to swim in wetsuits. USMS open water swimmer population, taken as a whole, are typically not elite athletes, in general do not acclimatize, spend more time (in some cases much more time) in the water, have more health-related problems, and are much more likely to be using medications which can alter their adaptability.

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<b>LD 7</b>	<b>302.2.2B (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**B Water Quality**--If water quality meets the standards of the local testing authority, the water quality will be deemed acceptable.

Rationale: Safety. Using the standard and similar language adopted by USA-Swimming in Rule 702.3.1, modified for flexibility, this proposal aims to reduce the risks from swimming in water of unsafe quality.

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<b>LD 8</b>	<b>302.2.3 (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

### **302.2.3 Starting Line**

**A** The starting line shall be specifically designated and clearly defined.

**B** For swims starting from a platform or dock, the water depth shall be no less than 6 feet for the first 5 meters of the course. All swimmers in the pre-race safety meeting and before the start of each race/wave shall be advised of the depth of the water. Water depth markings on the starting platform or dock are recommended. The referee shall have this start area inspected for underwater hazards before the swim. The swim shall use an alternative method of starting if hazards cannot be eliminated.

Rationale: See overall rationale under 302.2 (proposed LD 2).

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<b>LD 9</b>	<b>302.2.4 (new)</b>	page 66ff	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

### **302.2.4 Turns**

**A** All turns shall be clearly indicated.

**B** Turns shall be directional, and passed on the right or left as stated in the pre-swim

instructions

C Guide buoys may be used between turns to help swimmers navigate. These buoys shall be non-directional, and swimmers may pass these buoys on either side, except for floats on a straightaway swim course or when otherwise directed by the referee.

*Rationale: See overall rationale under 302.2 (proposed LD 2).*

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**LD 10**      **302.2.5 & 6 (new)**      page 66ff      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**302.2.5**      **Finish Line**

A The finish line shall be specifically designated and clearly defined.

**302.2.6**      **Feeding Stations**

A Number of feeding stations for swims without individual escorts:

(1) For swims 5-kilometers or shorter, feeding stations are optional.

(2) For swims longer than 5-kilometers but shorter than 10-kilometers, at least one feeding station is required.

(3) For swims 10-kilometers or longer, there shall be at least one feeding station every 2.5-kilometers.

B Feeding stations shall be fixed in position and shall safely accommodate the number of swimmers and feeders.

C Feeding stations shall be located on the inner or outer boundaries of the course.

D For swims requiring individual escorts, feeding stations are optional.

*Rationale: See overall rationale under 302.2 (proposed LD 2).*

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**LD 11**      **302.2.1**      page 66      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**302.2.1 STRAIGHTAWAY SWIMS COURSES**

*Rationale: Housekeeping (grammar—the article refers to the course, not the swim).*

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**LD 12**      **302.2.1**      page 66      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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A—The course shall be a straight, measured distance within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer. Floats on the course shall be a maximum of 10 meters apart.

**B Course measurement**—If permanent fixed and stationary markers are used, a course shall be certified once every five years. If markers are not permanent, the course shall be certified by a licensed surveyor annually before the swim takes place.

*Rationale: Process (since this current rule describes process, this proposal moves it to the OWGTO) and Housekeeping (no need for subheadings).*

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<b>LD 13</b>	<b>302.2.2</b>	page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

~~**302.2.2 Other Open Water Swims**—The event director shall determine the course and type of start for open water swims, keeping in mind the safety of the swimmers. The course shall be measured as accurately as possible.~~

*Rationale: Reorganization. These sentences will be moved to proposed 302.2.1 and 302.2.2.*

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<b>LD 14</b>	<b>302.3.1</b>	page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**302.3.1** Cumulative relays are comprised of groups of swimmers from the same USMS-registered club entered in the individual swim. Cumulative relay swims may be contested on a total time/distance or point system basis.

*Rationale: Taken together with proposed 302.3.4, this proposal intends to define usual relay composition as being from the same club, using parallel structure with proposed 302.4.1 and current 302.4.4. This was inadvertently dropped during the 2012 rules reorganization involving this rule.*

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<b>LD 15</b>	<b>302.3.2</b>	page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**302.3.2 Time or Distance Basis**—A specified number of ~~contestants~~ swimmers on each relay shall be considered in the computations for ~~team~~ club scoring.

*Rationale #1: Housekeeping (“swimmers” is the preferred term).*

*Rationale #2: Housekeeping (“club” is the correct term, as “team” in this context is not a USMS-recognized term).*

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<b>LD 16</b>	<b>302.3.4</b>	page 61	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**302.3.4** With the exception of National Championship events, the event director may allow special

events in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

*Rationale: This proposal allows event directors the flexibility of including special relay events, parallel with current 302.4.4 for sequential relays.*

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**LD 17**      **302.4.1**      page 67      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**302.4.1** Relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form from the same USMS-registered club. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified on the entry form. The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made within one minute after the completion of the previous swimmer's leg. In the exchange in open water relays, physical contact must be made between the two swimmers.

*Rationale: Housekeeping; this meaning is implied by current 302.4.4, but needs to be stated clearly.*

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**LD 18**      **302.5**      page 67      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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### ~~302.5 WATER CONDITIONS~~

~~For swims of three miles or more, the swim shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds 85° F.~~

*Rationale: Reorganization. This article is moved to 302.2.2A.*

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**LD 19**      **303**      page 67      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303:** Reorganize order of sub-articles:

<u>New</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Topic</u>
303.1	303.2	Safety
303.2	301.1	Scoring Divisions
303.3	303.5	Seeding
303.4	303.7	Swimwear
303.5	303.4	Starts
303.6	303.6	Finishes
303.7	303.8	Officials
303.8	303.9	Disqualifications
303.9	303.3	Escorted Swims
303.10	303.11	Solo Open Water Swim

303.11 303.12 Incomplete Race  
 303.12 303.10 Swimmers with Disabilities  
 303.13 303.13 Protests

*Rationale: Reorganization: This proposal reorders the sub-articles under article 303 in a more logical and flowing order, making the rulebook easier to read.*

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**LD 20      303.2.1      page 68      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.2.1** Event directors shall develop and maintain a written safety plan that ~~and is available for review by the LMSC authorized representative~~ must be reviewed by the LMSC authorized representative. Safety plans shall then be included in the sanction application and must be approved by USMS before issue of the sanction.

*Rationale: Conformity to current practice.*

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**LD 21      303.3.5 & 6 (new)      page 69      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.3.5** In any swim in which individual escorts are required and motorized escorts are allowed, receiving assistance by any drafting is prohibited. Swimmers must attempt to remain 3 meters or more from other swimmers, except when rounding buoys, when overtaking other swimmers when space is not readily available, when unescorted at the start and finish of the swim, and when the swimmer's escort craft becomes disabled as per 301.3.1 and 303.3.4. Incidental or accidental incursion into the 3-meter zone of another swimmer shall not be the basis for disqualification.

**303.3.6** In any swim in which individual escorts are required and non-motorized escorts are used, the event director may choose to allow drafting or prohibit drafting in accordance with 303.3.5.

*Rationale: SAFETY of all swimmers! When swimmers are tightly bunched in an open water swim, it is very challenging for individual escort craft of any kind to avoid cutting off or hitting swimmers, particularly in heavy winds, waves, or currents. This danger is even more acute when these escort craft are motorized (remember Maui!). Fortunately, in the long swims in which motorized individual escorts are most likely to be required, the prevailing swimmer ethos frowns on drafting.*

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**LD 22      303.6.1      page 69      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.6.1 Types**

**A In-the-Water**—The swimmer shall have finished the swim when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a ~~specifically designated~~ the finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line. ~~Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.~~

**B Out-of-the-Water**—Swimmers shall leave the water, as defined by the course, and proceed to a ~~specifically designated~~ the finish line. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer’s chest crosses the finish line. ~~Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.~~

*Rationale 1: Housekeeping. This removes the unnecessary word “the” in the title (see also 303.6.2).*

*Rationale 2: Housekeeping. If proposal 302.2.5 passes, this removes the unnecessary words “specifically designated”; these words are used verbatim to define the finish line in proposed 302.2.5.*

*Rationale 3: Housekeeping. The sentence “Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly” describe process (not rules), and should be removed and placed in the OWGTO.*

*Note that there are two rules proposals involving 303.6.1, one involving housekeeping and one involving order of finish.*

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<b>LD 23</b>	<b>303.6.1</b>	page 66	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

### 303.6.1 Types

**A In-the-Water**—The swimmer shall have finished the swim when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a specifically designated the finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. If visual judging is used, Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line. If electronic chip timing is used, order of finish shall be determined when the timing chip is registered by the electronic timing system or when the independent backup timing system is activated. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.

**B Out-of-the-Water**—Swimmers shall leave the water, as defined by the course, and proceed to a specifically designated the finish line. If visual judging is used, Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer’s chest crosses the finish line. If electronic chip timing is used, order of finish shall be determined when the timing chip is registered by the electronic timing system or when the independent backup timing system is activated. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly.

*Rationale: This clarifies the previous ambiguity about order of finish by combining previous*



303.6.4B into these articles and specifying the difference between visual judging and electronic chip judging.

Note that there are two rules proposals involving 303.6.1, one involving housekeeping and one involving order of finish.

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<b>LD 24</b>	<b>303.6.2</b>	page 69	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**303.6.2 Straightaway Events**—An in-the-water finish shall be used in straightaway events.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (consistent wording with proposed 303.6.1A & B).*

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<b>LD 25</b>	<b>303.6.4</b>	page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**303.6.4 Electronic Timing/Incorporating Chip Timing**

~~**A Backup timing**—In open water swims in which the event director provides electronic timing/chip timing is used, an independently operating backup timing system is required.~~

~~**B Order of finish**—For both in-water and out-of-water finishes, the order of finish shall be determined when the timing chip is registered by the electronic timing system or when the independent backup timing system is activated.~~

*Rationale: Reorganization and consistent language. Section B has been moved to 303.6.1A & B for clarity. Section A stands alone as 303.6.4, with the appropriate title and more consistent rules language.*

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<b>LD 26</b>	<b>303.7.1</b>	page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**B Advertising**—Products involving tobacco, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing ~~drugs~~ substances banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser's name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

*Rationale: This language broadens the definitions of that which is to be banned, and follows USA-Swimming and USMS rules language in 102.12.2.*

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<b>LD 27</b>	<b>303.3.7.2A</b>	page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**303.7.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events**

A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap or caps (~~which may include~~ including those made of neoprene when the water temperature is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit) and goggles. Swim caps shall be defined as head gear conforming to a traditional swim cap design and shall not extend to protect the neck and shoulders. Nose clips, ear plugs, wristwatches and grease are also allowed.

*Rationale: Safety. Heat-retaining caps may be unsafe in warm water. In addition, the term “may” allows event directors to disallow the use of neoprene caps in cold water; if swimmers need the extra warmth of a neoprene cap for safety reasons, they should be allowed to wear them. With the proposed water temperature limitations (302.2.2A), there would be no need to give the event director this discretion. This change also makes this rule consistent with proposed 303.7.3B.*

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<b>LD 28</b>	<b>303.7.2B</b>	page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B The ~~competitor~~ swimmer shall wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees. For women, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor below the knees.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (preferred language).*

*Note that there are two rules proposals involving 303.7.2B, one involving housekeeping and one involving change in swimwear coverage.*

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<b>LD 29</b>	<b>303.7.2B</b>	page 70	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

B The competitor shall wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. ~~For men, the swim suit shall not extend above the navel not below the knees.~~ For both men and women, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, and shall not extend past the shoulder, nor below the ~~knees~~ ankles.

*Rationale: This proposal would broaden the scope of the USMS open water swimwear rule to include suits now legal in USA-Swimming and FINA competition, by updating our coverage rules to be more consistent with the USA-Swimming open water swimwear rule (701.4.4) and the FINA Bylaws that apply to open water swimwear (BL 8.4 & 8.5), both of which went into effect on June 1, 2010.*

*Note that there are two rules proposals involving 303.7.2B, one involving housekeeping and one involving change in swimwear coverage.*

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**LD 30**      **303.7.2D**      page 70      **Long Distance Committee**

**Action:** Adopted    Defeated    Adopted/Amended    Tabled    Postponed    Withdrawn    Pulled

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**D** Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a swim (such as wetsuits, webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, buoyant armbands, audio players, etc.)....

*Rationale: Audio players can be used as an effective pacing device, and they constitute a questionable safety practice. Since swimmers ask this question many times each year, it is appropriate to add it to the list of illegal aids. See parallel proposal for Category II swimwear in new 303.7.3D (LD 35).*

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**LD 31**      **303.7.2D**      page 70      **Long Distance Committee**

**Action:** Adopted    Defeated    Adopted/Amended    Tabled    Postponed    Withdrawn    Pulled

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...Medical identification items may be worn....

*Rationale: Safety. This protection for swimmers seems obvious, uses identical language for both Categories of open water swimwear, and is identical with USMS rules language in 102.12.1E. See parallel proposal for Category II swimwear in new 303.7.3D (LD 36).*

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**LD 32**      **303.7.2D**      page 70      **Pacific LMSC**

**Action:** Adopted    Defeated    Adopted/Amended    Tabled    Postponed    Withdrawn    Pulled

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...Any kind of tape, bandage, finger cot or glove on the body or flat armband is not permitted unless approved by the referee. Any devices used to maintain body heat are not permitted, except for those listed in article 303.7.2A.

*Rationale: This proposal gives local referee discretion to approve protective coverings for recent wounds, burns or incisions. See parallel proposal for Category II swimwear in new 303.7.3D (LD 37).*

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**LD 33**      **303.7.3B**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

**Action:** Adopted    Defeated    Adopted/Amended    Tabled    Postponed    Withdrawn    Pulled

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**B** Wetsuits, neoprene caps, or any other heat-retaining swimwear may be allowed at the discretion of the event director when the water temperature is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

*Rationale: Heat-retaining caps may be unsafe in warm water. This also makes this rule consistent with proposed 303.7.2A (LD 27).*

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**LD 34**      **303.7.3C (new)**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**C** Swimmer safety devices that do not interfere with other swimmers and do not aid in buoyancy is permitted.

*Rationale: This proposal allows safety devices such as SafeSwimmer and SwimIT.*

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**LD 35**      **303.7.3D**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**D** Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any additional device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a swim (such as webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, audio players, etc.), except in designated events where all swimmers may use similar devices or substances....

*Rationale: Audio players can be used as an effective pacing device, and they constitute a questionable safety practice. Since swimmers ask this question is asked many times each year, it is appropriate to add it to the list of illegal aids. See parallel proposal for Category I swimwear in 303.7.2D (LD 30).*

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**LD 36**      **303.7.3D**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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...Medical identification items may be worn....

*Rationale: Safety. This protection for swimmers seems obvious, uses identical language for both Categories of open water swimwear, and is identical with USMS rules for pool swimming in 102.12.1E. See parallel proposal for Category I swimwear in 303.7.3D (LD 31).*

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**LD 37**      **303.7.3D**      page 71      **Pacific LMSC**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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...Any kind of tape, bandage, finger cot or glove on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

*Rationale: This proposal gives local referee discretion to approve protective coverings for recent wounds, burns or incisions. See parallel proposal for Category I swimwear in 303.7.2C (LD 32).*

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**LD 38**      **303.8.1**      page 71      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.8.1** There shall be an event director, referee, and safety coordinator director, scorer, announcer, clerk of course, starter and a sufficient number of judges, inspectors, timers and medical personnel to ensure a properly run open water event. The position of safety director shall not be combined with the duties of any other official or staff member.

*Rationale #1: USMS needs to require three major officials for operating any open water event. Definitions for each position will be included in the OWGTO.*

*Rationale #2: Housekeeping (“director” is the preferred term, used in all rules, OWGTO, and sanction materials).*

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<b>LD 39</b>	<b>303.8.2 (new)</b>	page 71	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>
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<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.8.2** There shall be additional officials in numbers sufficient to operate the event in accordance with USMS open water rules and administrative regulations and may include scorer, announcer, clerk of course, starter, judges, inspectors, timers, safety and medical personnel.

*Rationale: Regulation of remaining officials would be too restrictive, as staffing can depend on many variables that are specific to individual events. The OWGTO will define each function that needs to be fulfilled, without specifically requiring that a separate individual fulfill each function, except as specified in proposed 303.8.1 (LD 38).*

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<b>LD 40</b>	<b>303.8.3 (new)</b>	page 66	<b>Open Water &amp; Long Distance Committees</b>
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<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**303.8.3 Independent Safety Monitor**

- A An Independent Safety Monitor shall be approved by the LMSC sanctioning officer and shall be independent of the event organizing body.
- B The Independent Safety Monitor shall be present at the event to assure that the approved safety plan is implemented and that adequate safety precautions are in place for existing conditions.
- C The Independent Safety Monitor shall have the authority to revoke the sanction on the day of the swim if adequate safety precautions are not in place, and shall notify all participants of the revocation before the beginning of the swim if the event organizer proceeds with the swim.

*Rationale: Currently, there is no mechanism in place to assure that USMS safety requirements are followed by event hosts at event sites. If USMS is to require safety*

standards, they must be enforceable at the LMSC level. This proposal aims to rectify this omission, following the concept in USA-Swimming Rule 701.8.

Note: This amendment will require a simultaneous change to **Article 203.4 Withdrawal or Denial of Sanctions** under article 601.4.5 if accepted.

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<b>LD 41</b>	<b>303.8.2 &amp; 3</b>	page 71	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

~~303.8.2~~ The clerk of course shall ensure that all entrants in open water events are visibly marked with their entrant numbers.

~~303.8.3~~ Official craft shall be placed in a position in open water events to best observe yet not physically hinder the swimmers.

*Rationale: Process (These sections will be moved to the OWGTO).*

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<b>LD 42</b>	<b>303.9.5</b>	page 71	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**303.9.5** Receive assistance by pulling, pushing, or resting on ~~the escort or safety~~ any craft, cables, line markers, buoys or buoy lines, or cable pilings or physical features on or near the course other than the bottom. Incidental contact shall not be a basis for disqualification.

*Rationale: This broadens the definition of ‘assistance’ by including all craft and physical features on or near the course such as piers, jetties, pilings, etc. that are not included in the current rule.*

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<b>LD 43</b>	<b>303.9.10</b>	page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**303.9.10** Swim in a manner in which ~~their~~ personal safety is jeopardized.

*Rationale: Safety (this proposal would now include behavior which jeopardizes ANY swimmer’s safety as a disqualifying offense).*

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<b>LD 44</b>	<b>303.12.1</b>	page 72	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>					
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

**303.12.1** The referee or event director shall determine if the start of a race is to be postponed or canceled, or if a race in progress is to be stopped.

*Rationale: Safety. Either official should have the authority to postpone, cancel, and stop a race.*

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**LD 45      305.3.4      page 73      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**305.3.4 Postal**—A postal event is a competition in which swimmers participate at a place of their choosing and send ~~and~~ submit the time or distance achieved to a central location for tabulation.

*Rationale: Improved rules language.*

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**LD 46      305.6.8 (new)      page 74      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**306.8 SPLIT TIMES**

306.8.1 Split times from individual postal events may not be used for entry into a separate individual postal national championship event of a shorter distance.

306.8.2 Split times from individual postal events may not be used as part of a relay entry into a separate relay postal national championship event of a shorter distance.

*Rationale #1: Organization (not appropriate for the section on Records, this section has been moved from 308.1.8 and reorganized).*

*Rationale #2: This proposal specifies “national championship” events, allowing flexibility for non-national championship postal events.*

*Renumber after.*

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**LD 47      306.8.2      page 75      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**306.8.2** Event directors shall have the discretion to request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may request that the Long Distance Committee chair ~~to~~ refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (better grammar).*

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**LD 48      306.9.1-3      page 75      Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**306.9.1** In distance-based events, the person swimming the fastest time shall be declared the winner. If two or more swimmers achieve the same time, a tie shall be declared.

**306.9.2** In time-based events, the person swimming the farthest shall be declared the winner. If two or more swimmers swim the same distance, a tie shall be declared.

~~306.9.3 If two or more swimmers swim the same distance or achieve the same time, a tie shall be declared.~~

*Rationale: Housekeeping. By merging 306.9.3 into the two previous articles, this proposal eliminates the ambiguity current inherent in 306.9.3.*

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**LD 49**      **307.2.1A-C**      page 75      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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~~307.2.1 At the discretion of t~~ The Long Distance Committee, shall award open water national championships as may be awarded in a form determined in the best interest of USMS open water swimming, including:

**A** Individual championships, ~~distributed across the country.~~

**B** Multi-championship swim festivals.

**C** A combination of A and B, ~~as deemed appropriate.~~

...

*Rationale: Housekeeping (clearer rules language).*

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**LD 50**      **307.2.1D (new)**      page 75      **Open Water Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**D Open championships--championships that are open to all swimmers eligible to swim in USMS sanctioned events and include any standard USMS scoring division; or**

*Rationale: The proposal provides a dynamic and creative option for USMS to develop NC events that are tailored to the needs of the region where they take place and the open water swimmers who participate, including:*

- 1. Providing additional options for the LDC and hosts to consider in creating NC events that may help develop championships and local events.*
- 2. Allowing all swimmers eligible to swim in local events to swim in NC events and realize the rewards of their swims.*
- 3. Allowing all "standard" scoring division (as defined in Article 303.1) to be used in a NCs without penalty to the swimmers or creating difficulties for the event hosts.*
- 4. Integrating the NCs with the concepts of the proposed ERDB and National Ranking system.*
- 5. Making changes without impacting USMS' insurance needs.*
- 6. Reaching out to swimmers from the greater open water world.*
- 7. Providing opportunities to recruit championship bids from events where the "open" format may be more desirable and successful.*



9. Continuing to enhance the opportunities offered by our events beyond the standard definitions to keep USMS open water modern and forward moving.  
 This change would require simultaneous rules change to 301.3.1, and legislation change to 201.1.3 under the terms specified in 601.4.5 (see below). Reletter after.

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**301.3.1** ~~With the exception of open championships and open award systems, Participants swimmers~~ with one-event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status or any other USMS special awards.

*Rationale: See proposed change to Article 307.2.1D for definition of “open championship.” This change would require simultaneous legislation change to 201.1.3 under the terms specified in 601.4.5 [see below]*

**201.1.3 One-Event Registration**

**A Open Water One-Event Registration**—An LMSC may offer a single event registration that allows an athlete to participate in a USMS-sanctioned open water event. Membership cards shall not be issued for one event registration. One-event registrants must be considered unattached and agree to be governed by applicable USMS open water swimming rules and administrative regulations, ~~except that their swims shall not be eligible for USMS national open water records and recognition.~~ One event registrants shall be identified as such in the meet results.

*Rationale: Required for consistency with proposed change to 301.3.1. In addition, eligibility of one event registrants to swim in various open water competitions and earn awards is part of the rules of competition and is not relevant to defining the single event membership.*

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<b>LD 51</b>	<b>307.2.2A-F</b>	page 75-6	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**307.2.2** At the discretion of the Long Distance Committee, national championship events may be awarded in the following categories:

- A** One mile Sprint Distance Championship (quarter-mile straightaway or open water course)
- B** Two miles Cable Championship (quarter-mile straightaway)
- C** Open water Middle Distance Championship (greater than 1 mile and less than or equal to 3 miles)
- D** Open water Long Distance Championship (greater than 3 miles and less than 6 miles)
- E** Open water Marathon Distance Championship (greater than or equal to 6 miles and less than 9 miles)
- F** Open water Ultra Marathon Distance Championship (greater than or equal to 9 miles)

*Rationale 1: This proposal now gives specific names to each of the open water swim distances for easy identification and branding purposes.*

*Rationale 2: Grammar (the addition of “mile(s)” in 307.2.2C & D follows parallel construction in 307.2.2C & D with the rest of 307.2.2).*

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<b>LD 52</b>	<b>307.2.2H-I</b>	page 76	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**H** Postal 5 and 10 kilometer (each event swum separately in a 50-meter course in a pool)

**I** Postal 3000 and 6000 yard (each event swum separately in a 25-yard or 25-meter course in a pool)

*Rationale: Housekeeping (clearer and less ambiguous rules language).*

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<b>LD 53</b>	<b>307.3.1 (new)</b>	page 76	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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

*Rationale: Reorganization (former 307.3.4 now becomes 307.3.1). Renumber after.*

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<b>LD 54</b>	<b>307.3.1-4</b>	page 76-7	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

~~**307.3.12** Bids shall be due, in writing, to the Long Distance Committee chair no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting. 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.~~

~~**307.3.23** Championships shall be awarded by the Long Distance Committee, typically at the annual meeting, one to three years prior to the championship being held. The committee may award championships one to three years in advance of the national championship event.~~

~~**307.3.3** Events not awarded at the annual meeting may be awarded by the Long Distance Committee chair.~~

~~**307.3.4** Suitable bids shall comply with all applicable USMS swimming and open water and long distance rules, policies and procedures.~~

*Rationale: This proposal matches this rule with current practice, in much clearer rules language.*

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<b>LD 55</b>	<b>307.3.5</b>	page 77	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
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**307.3.5** A three-area award system may be followed for the bidding of open water championships. (See Appendix D for map, ~~and~~ description of areas and bid rotation.)

In this system, suitable bids from a qualifying area shall receive preference over bids from other areas.

<b>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID ROTATION</b>			
Year	Area 1 West	Area 2 Central	Area 3 East
2013	Open water >1/≤3 mile	2 mile cable Open water >	1 mile Open water >
2014	1 mile Open water >3/≤6	Open water >1/≤3 mile	2 mile cable Open water >6/≤9
2015	2 mile cable Open water >6	1 mile Open water >	Open water > 1/≤3 mile

*Rationale: Process (this chart should be moved to Appendix D, with “Bidding Areas for Long Distance National Championship Meets”).*

**307.4 CONTRACT**

A representative of the ~~sponsoring~~ host organization that is the successful bidder of an open water and long distance championship event shall sign a written contract with USMS, which specifies the responsibilities of the event host and of USMS.

**307.5 FINANCIAL**

**307.5.1** The ~~sponsoring~~ 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 event 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 ~~sponsoring~~ host organization, based upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the event contract.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “sponsor” with “host” is preferred rules language).*

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**LD 57**      **307.5C & 6**      page 77-8      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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C A fee per individual entrant in the event 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.

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### **307.6 ENTRY FEE**

The Long Distance Committee shall determine the individual and relay entry fees ~~The entry fees for open water and postal national championships shall be approved by the Long Distance Committee.~~

*Rationale: Align language with pool national championships. Also, clarify who determines the per swimmer fee and makes the LDC responsible for determining entry fees, which can be different for each event. Currently the LDC only has the authority to approve whatever the host sets.*

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**LD 58**      **307.8.1B**      page 79      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**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. For each swimmer, the following information must be reported in this order:

A Age group place

B Swimmer's name (~~last name first~~, as it appears on the USMS membership card)

...

*Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary & redundant language).*

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**LD 59**      **307.10.1-2**      page 80      **Long Distance Committee**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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### **307.10 AWARDS**

**307.10.1** National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded at least to the first six place winners of individual championships in each age group. In national championship events with 1000 or more entrants, individual awards shall be awarded to at least the first 10 place winners of individual championships in each age group.

**307.10.2** National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance

Committee chair shall be awarded to the members of at least the first three place winners of relay championships in each age group. In national championship events with 1000 or more entrants, awards shall be awarded to the members of at least the first six place winners of relay championships in each age group.

*Rationale: These proposals match the current requirement for awards for the One-Hour Swim, now covered in the Postal Guidelines (not to mention the pool championships, covered in 104.5.7A), and would also apply to all other long distance championship events.*

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<b>LD 60</b>	<b>307.12.3</b>	page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**307.12.3** ~~If a swimmer scores points in one age group and ages up to another age group~~ participates in two age groups in the course of a year, the points earned shall be ~~transferred up to the new~~ counted in the older age group. If a swimmer swims the same event in two different age groups, only the higher finish will be counted.

*Rationale: This proposal assures that swimmers are counted in an age group in which they have actually competed in an All-Star qualifying swim.*

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<b>LD 61</b>	<b>307.8.1.1</b>	page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**308.1.1** Individual national records will be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway swims (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (one-hour, 3000-yard, 6000-yard, and 5- and 10-kilometer postal). Relay national records shall be maintained in all of these quarter-mile straightaway swims and long-distance pool events. ~~The records shall be for three person men's and women's relays and four person mixed relays.~~

*Rationale: Housekeeping (if proposal 308.1.4 is accepted, the last sentence in this article would be redundant because it is included in 307.2.3A).*

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<b>LD 62</b>	<b>308.1.4</b>	page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**308.1.4** Open water and long distance records shall only be permitted from events conducted in compliance with articles 307.2.3, 307.7.3B and 307.7.6A of the USMS rule book.

*Rationale: Oddly missing previously, this proposal defines conditions under which relay records may be set. See also 308.1.1.*

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<b>LD 63</b>	<b>308.1.7A-B</b>	page 81	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

**308.1.7** Long distance national records for postal swims may be established by using a swimmer’s split time in an individual event if:

**A** The split is swum as an initial distance within a ~~scheduled~~ sanctioned event,

**B** The swimmer completes the full distance of the ~~scheduled sanctioned event swim~~ without being disqualified,

*Rationale 1: “Sanctioned” is clearer and more definitive rules language than “scheduled”.*

*Rationale 2: Housekeeping (“swim” is the approved term in this instance, and is parallel in construction to the rest of Part 3).*

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<b>LD 64</b>	<b>308.1.8</b>	page 81-2	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>				
<b>Action:</b>	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

~~**308.1.8** Split times from individual postal events may not be used:~~

~~**A** As part of a relay entry into a separate relay postal event of a shorter distance~~

~~**B** For entry into a separate individual postal event of a shorter distance.~~

*Rationale: Reorganization (Since this rule does not involve records, it is currently misplaced in article 308; this proposal moves it to section 306.8).*