

1998 Amendments to the USMS Rules

The following proposals were approved by the House of Delegates:

- R1 **Glossaryp. 12 Ozark**
Add after "Heat":
Horizontal – parallel to the level surface of the water.
- R4 **Glossaryp. 13 Ozark**
Add after "Pool":
Propulsive – having the power to propel.
- R6 **Glossaryp. 13 Florida Gold Coast**
Seeding- distributing swimmers among the required number of heats and/or lanes, based on submitted times.
- **Deck seeded seeding** - all events are seeded at the meet time of the event with entries received prior to or at the meet.
 - **Confirmed seeding** - events are seeded after a confirmation (check-in) time.
 - **Pre seeded seeding** - all events are seeded prior to the day of competition according to submitted times.
- R8 **102.2 p. 19 Rule Book**
AGE DETERMINING DATE —The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will/shall be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet.
- R10 **102.5. p. 19 Championship**
0002.1. **Events** -- In planing ...sheltered rest areas.
- Any of the following events may be conducted for each age group. Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. It is not necessary to conduct all events in each meet. For long distance events, see article 302.
- R11 **102.5.1 p. 19 Rule Book**
.1 Short Course (25) Yards
...
200-400-800 yards mixed freestyle relay (~~two female and two male~~)
200-400 yards medley relay
200-400 yards mixed medley relay (~~two female and two male~~).
- R12 **102.5.2 p. 20 Rule Book**
.2 Long Course (5) Meters and Short Course (25) Meters
...
200-400-800 meters mixed freestyle relay (~~two female and two male~~)
200-400 meters medley relay
200-400 meters mixed medley relay (~~two female and two male~~).

R13 102.6 p. 20 Florida
0002.1 **Event Limit** – A swimmer may compete in not more than five individual events per day. If, however, due to conditions beyond the control of meet officials, an event or events are postponed to a subsequent day of the meet, such postponed events shall not be included in the five events per day limitation.

R14 102.10.1A p. 20 Championship ^{be}
A All ~~Masters events conducted~~ short course meters events, long course meters events and National Championships shall be conducted on a timed final basis. Other short course yards may be conducted on a timed final basis. In a trials/finals format, competitors shall be limited to three individual events per day.

R16 102.10.4 A (1c) p.22 Championship
c. If, in ~~the slowest/fastest heat~~ there are not enough swimmers to fill the lanes with two swimmers each all heats with two swimmers in each lane, those swimmers with the fastest submitted times may be seeded one-to-a-lane.

R17 102.10.4A6a. p. 22 Rule Book
6 Lane etiquette
a. The starter shall instruct the swimmers to swim on one side of the lane during the entire race (~~e.g. i.e.~~, no “circle” swimming).

R18 102.13.3A p. 24 Rule Book

.3 Postponement or Cancellation

A If, prior to the start of a meet or event, unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or event, the meet committee (see article 103.5) may cancel or postpone it.

R19 103.1 p. 26 Rule Book
103.1 REQUIRED OFFICIALS PERSONNEL—The minimum number of officials personnel at USMS sanctioned Masters Swimming meets or recognized events shall include the following for each course:

R20 103.10.6 p. 30 Rule Book
.6 Infraction Signal

...

Exception: Relay take-off judges as outlined in article ~~103.5.5B~~ 103.10.5B.

R21 103.12.1 p. 31 Rule Book

C **Manual** A timing system operated by individual lane timers, each of whom operates a manual watch that is both started and stopped by the timer as described in article ~~103.6.3-103.11.3~~. ...

R25 103.13. 6 p. 35 Rule Book

.6 A backup time adjusted for system timing errors in accordance with the methods described in articles ~~103.7.4C, 103.7.4D, 103.7.4E, and 103.7.4F~~ 103.12.4C.

103.12.4D, 103.12.4E, and 103.12.4F may be used as an official time equal to the level of the timing system to which it has been adjusted.

R26 **104.3.2B** p. 36 Rule Book

B Eligible bidders - A national championship ... LMSC. In either event, the facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards ~~which have been adopted by USMS, Inc. defined in article 107.~~

R27 **104.3.2B** p.36 Championship

B Eligible bidders - ~~A national championship meet shall be awarded only to an LMSC or a club with the endorsement of its LMSC. Any club, LMSC, or organization may bid. In either event, t~~The facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards which have been adopted by USMS, Inc. The Championship Committee shall strongly consider LMSC endorsement as a selection criteria.

R28 **104.5.1A 2.** p. 38 Championship

2. The chairman of this meeting shall be the president of USMS, or an individual designated by the president ~~and the governing body shall be the House of Delegates of USMS.~~

R30a **104.5.2B** p. 39 Rule Book

B Rotation of meet formats schedules —The particular ~~format schedule~~ shall be rotated in order (1, 2, and 3) among the three basic schedules shown in article 104.5.2A without regard to course.

R30 **104.5.2** p.39 Championship

A. Meet Schedule (1999-2002)

Schedule 1	Schedule 2	Schedule 3
1st Day	1st Day	1st Day
800/1000 Freestyle 1500/1650 Freestyle	800/1000 Freestyle 1500/1650 Freestyle	800/1000 Freestyle 1500/1650 Freestyle
2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day
400 IM 50 Back 200 Freestyle 100 Breast 200 Fly 200 Medley Relay 200 Free Relay	50 Back 100 Breast 200 Freestyle 100 Fly 200 Mixed Medley Relay 200 Free Relay 400 IM	100 Back 200 Free 50 Fly 200 Breast 200 Mixed Free Relay 200 Medley Relay 400 IM
3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day
400/500 Freestyle (men)	400/500 Freestyle (women)	100 Fly

50 Fly	100 Back	200 IM
200 Breast	50 Breast	50 Freestyle
100 Back	200 IM	200 Back
50 Freestyle	50 Freestyle	50 Breast
200 IM	200 Fly	200 Free Relay
200 Mixed Medley Relay	200 Mixed Free Relay	400/500 Freestyle (women)
4th Day	4th Day	4th Day
400/500 Freestyle (women)	400/500 Freestyle (men)	400/500 Freestyle (men)
100 IM	100 Free	50 Back
100 Fly	200 Breast	100 Breast
50 Breast	50 Fly	100 IM
200 Back	200 Back	200 Fly
100 Freestyle	100 IM	100 Freestyle
200 Mixed Free Relay	200 Medley Relay	200 Mixed Medley Relay

- R31 **104.5.2C** p. 39 Rule Book
Alternative meet schedules—A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a different schedule from those defined in ~~section A~~ above article 104.5.2A.
- R32 **104.5.3(A)**p.40 Championship
A Individual events - Competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of six individual events (or five individual events, if deemed necessary by the Championship Committee) ~~in a 4-day national championship meet~~, with a maximum of three individual events per day.
- R33 **104.5.3(B)**p.40 Championship
B Relays - Each competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one freestyle relay, one medley relay, one mixed freestyle relay, and one mixed medley relay of each distance per meet.
- R34 **104.5.3(C2)** p. 40 Championship
2. Altitude adjustment - Times achieved at an altitude of 3000 feet or higher may be adjusted, for NQT purposes only, by subtracting the times (in seconds) in the following table from the actual time achieved.
- R35 **104.5.3 C-2** p. 40 Colorado
2. Altitude Adjustment - Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or higher may be adjusted for NQT purposes by subtracting the adjustment times (in seconds) from the actual time achieved. The specific adjustments for each age group and sex are found in Appendix B. The adjustments shall be determined every four years starting in 1998. The adjustment times for men and women competitors shall be calculated by multiplying the time adjustment in following table by the ratio of the 200-yard freestyle national record for the age group to that of the 25-29 200-yard freestyle for men and women respectively. The values in following table shall be those determined and used for the same purpose by USS.

Note: Records and Top Ten, etc., are to be actual times swum, not adjusted for altitude.

	3000-4249 ft	4250-6499 ft	6500+ ft
200 yards/meters	0.50	1.20	1.60
400-500 yards/meters	2.50	5.00	7.00
800-1000 yards/meters	5.00	10.00	15.00
1650 yards/1500 meters	11.00	23.00	32.50

An example table to be placed in Appendix B, using the current record times is shown below:

Appendix B
Adjustments for men's National Qualifying Times for swims at altitude

Age Group	3000-4249 ft				4250-6499 ft				6500+ ft			
	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m
19-24	0.52	2.58	5.16	11.36	1.24	5.16	10.33	23.75	1.65	7.23	15.49	33.56
25-29	0.50	2.50	5.00	11.00	1.20	5.00	10.00	23.00	1.60	7.00	15.00	32.50
30-34	0.51	2.54	5.07	11.16	1.22	5.07	10.15	23.34	1.62	7.10	15.22	32.98
35-39	0.52	2.62	5.24	11.52	1.26	5.24	10.47	24.09	1.68	7.33	15.71	34.04
40-44	0.53	2.66	5.32	11.71	1.28	5.32	10.65	24.49	1.70	7.45	15.97	34.60
45-49	0.55	2.75	5.50	12.10	1.32	5.50	11.00	25.29	1.76	7.70	16.50	35.74
50-54	0.57	2.86	5.73	12.60	1.37	5.73	11.45	26.34	1.83	8.02	17.18	37.22
55-59	0.60	2.98	5.95	13.09	1.43	5.95	11.90	27.37	1.90	8.33	17.85	38.68
60-64	0.61	3.05	6.11	13.44	1.47	6.11	12.22	28.10	1.95	8.55	18.33	39.71
65-69	0.65	3.23	6.45	14.19	1.55	6.45	12.90	29.68	2.06	9.03	19.35	41.93
70-74	0.70	3.51	7.01	15.43	1.68	7.01	14.02	32.26	2.24	9.82	21.04	45.58
75-79	0.75	3.75	7.49	16.49	1.80	7.49	14.99	34.47	2.40	10.49	22.48	48.71
80-84	0.87	4.33	8.66	19.05	2.08	8.66	17.32	39.83	2.77	12.12	25.97	56.28
85-89	1.01	5.04	10.08	22.17	2.42	10.08	20.16	46.36	3.23	14.11	30.24	65.51
90-94	1.18	5.91	11.82	26.01	2.84	11.82	23.64	54.38	3.78	16.55	35.47	76.84

Adjustments for women's National Qualifying Times for swims at altitude

Age Group	3000-4249 ft				4250-6499 ft				6500+ ft			
	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m
19-24	0.51	2.56	5.12	11.27	1.23	5.12	10.24	23.55	1.64	7.17	15.36	33.28
25-29	0.50	2.50	5.00	11.00	1.20	5.00	10.00	23.00	1.60	7.00	15.00	32.50
30-34	0.50	2.51	5.02	11.05	1.20	5.02	10.04	23.09	1.61	7.03	15.06	32.63
35-39	0.50	2.50	5.00	11.00	1.20	5.00	10.00	23.00	1.60	7.00	15.00	32.51
40-44	0.53	2.66	5.33	11.72	1.28	5.33	10.65	24.50	1.70	7.46	15.98	34.62
45-49	0.54	2.72	5.45	11.99	1.31	5.45	10.90	25.06	1.74	7.63	16.34	35.41
50-54	0.59	2.96	5.92	13.02	1.42	5.92	11.83	27.22	1.89	8.28	17.75	38.46
55-59	0.63	3.17	6.33	13.93	1.52	6.33	12.67	29.13	2.03	8.87	19.00	41.17
60-64	0.65	3.26	6.51	14.33	1.56	6.51	13.03	29.96	2.08	9.12	19.54	42.33
65-69	0.69	3.47	6.94	15.27	1.67	6.94	13.88	31.92	2.22	9.72	20.82	45.11
70-74	0.74	3.72	7.43	16.35	1.78	7.43	14.86	34.18	2.38	10.40	22.29	48.30
75-79	0.83	4.15	8.30	18.25	1.99	8.30	16.59	38.16	2.65	11.61	24.89	53.92
80-84	0.91	4.55	9.10	20.02	2.18	9.10	18.20	41.86	2.91	12.74	27.30	59.15
85-89	1.11	5.57	11.15	24.52	2.67	11.15	22.29	51.27	3.57	15.60	33.44	72.45

90-94 | 1.33 | 6.65 | 13.31 | 29.27 | 3.19 | 13.31 | 26.61 | 61.21 | 4.26 | 18.63 | 39.92 | 86.49 |

- R36 **104.5.C2** p.41 Championship
2. **Relay entry deadline** - ~~A r~~Relays may be entered until the day before the first day relays are swum ~~it is scheduled to be swum~~. Participants therein must have entered the meet 35 days in advance. ~~Relays entered after the original meet entry deadline will pay one and one-half times the normal entry fee. A fee of \$12.00 per relay shall be charged for all relays. Official USMS relay cards must be used.~~
- R37 **104.5.5(A2)**p.42 Championship
Delete 104.5.5(A2)
2. ~~In order to assure seeded the best competitive times of all entries must be submitted.~~
- R38 **104.5.5A3** p. 42 Rule Book
3. All events 200 yards/meters ... In the event that swimmers of the same sex two courses are simultaneously swimming ~~one sex in two courses~~, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.
- R39 **104.5.5(C)** p. 42 Championship
C Multiple Courses -- When courses are unequal in any way (depth of the course, visibility of timing display, bulkhead turns, type of gutter or starting blocks, etc.), male and female swimmers shall alternate courses by days share an equal number of days in both courses. ~~Women's events shall be scheduled in the preferred course on days 1 and 3 in odd years, and on days 2 and 4 in even years. Days for each course shall be determined by the Championship Committee.~~ If the time line of the meet is significantly affected by this rotation, the Championship Committee may override this requirement.
- R40 **104.5.8A** p. 43 Rule Book
A Posting of meet results--Photocopies of event/heat tapes shall be posted for each heat and lane before or simultaneously with the posting of the results (see article ~~103.6.6C~~103.11.6C).
- R41 **104.5.5C.8** p.43 Championship
A Posting of meet results -- Photocopies of event/heat tapes Event results shall be posted [~~for each heat and lane before or simultaneously with the posting of the results (see article 103.6.6C)~~ and splits for each swimmer shall be made available in accordance with article 103.11.6.C.
- R43 **104.5 C.9B** p. 43 Championship
B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual or a team to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host team by the protest panel chairman or Championship Committee liaison. . . .
- R44 **104.5.10** p. 44 Rule Book
104.5.10 Personnel (Also see articles ~~102.18~~ and 103)
- R45 **104.5.10** p.44 Championship
B Officials- The minimum number of officials at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:
One meet referee
One deck referee for each course
One administrative referee. . .
- R46 **104.5.10B** p.44 Rule Book
B Officials -- The minimum number of officials ... An official may serve in only one officiating position during any event. ~~For, except that during~~ freestyle events 400 meters and longer, the referee and starter may double as stroke and turn judges.
- R47 **105.1.2** p. 44 Records & Tabulation

- .2 Times to be considered for records and Top Ten times must be made on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times, and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation chairman by ~~July 15~~ , June 30 , October 20, and ~~February 5~~ , January 26 , respectively.
- R48 105.2.2B p. 45 Pacific
A. Prior to the swim ~~(The intent to record a split time is brought in writing to the attention, in writing~~ , of the meet referee and ...
- R48a 103.13.1B1 p.34 Pacific
1. Notifies, in writing, the meet referee of the intent to record an initial split time prior to the swim,
- R48b 105.3.7B p.45 Pacific
B. Prior to the swim ~~(The intent to record a split time is brought in writing to the attention, in writing~~ , of the meet referee, and
- R51 107.16 p.50 Championship
107.16. **PACE CLOCKS** - There ~~may~~ shall be at least two large, accurate timing devices or clocks for each warm-up course, preferably located one on each opposite sides of the course, clearly visible to all swimmers. ~~Dial type clocks shall be at least 3 feet in diameter with sweep second and minute hands. If digital readout clocks are provided, minimum height of the digits shall be 6 inches. [M*,NC]~~
- R52 107.17.2 p. 50 Rule Book
.2 **Power Source**—See article ~~103.7~~ 103.12 ...
- R53 108.1.1 p. 51 Rule Book
.1 **Authority**—The USMS rules and regulations grant the referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability (see article 103.6.6). ...
- R54 108.5.3 p. 53 Rule Book
.3 **Turns/Finishes** — Touches shall be judged ... Swimmers with no arms or with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head may touch the wall with any part of the upper body, ~~provided the shoulders remain horizontal with the water surface.~~
- R55 103.7 p. 27 Rules (new section; insert and renumber)
0003.1 **ADMINISTRATIVE REFEREE**
The administrative referee shall resolve errors in entries and seeding, make adjustments as required and verify timing (see article 103.12.4), verify record documentation, and perform other duties as assigned by the meet referee.
- R56 103 p.103 Rule Book
Change title of article:
MEET PERSONNEL AND THEIR DUTIES PROCEDURES
- R58 102.2 p.19 International Committee
0002.1. **Age Determining Date** -
A For Short Course Yards, ~~(The~~ eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet.
B For Short Course Meters and Long Course Meters, the eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of December 31st of the year of competition.
- R59 104.5.5.A1 p.42 Championship
Move 104.5.5.A1 to 104.5.4.B4 and renumber
.4 Information on entry - All information regarding seeding must be stated on the entry form.
- R60 104.5.4.B4 p.41 Championship
4. **Relay entry cards**—On the relay card, relay teams must list the name of the registered swim club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS registration card), the age, and the meet ID number of each relay member. ~~The age group of the relay team may be changed prior to the relay check-in deadline.~~

U1 **Glossary** p. 14

Add after "Wall":

Warning Signal - a starting pistol, bell, whistle, air horn or other appropriate audible device.

U2 **102.9.5** p.20

.5 First and last names of competing eligible relay swimmers, their ages, and ~~their~~ order of swimming shall be ~~declared~~ submitted on a relay entry form or card to the clerk of course (if used) or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer immediately prior to the start of the relay heat in which such team is entered. No changes will be permitted thereafter.

U3 **102.14** p.25

102.14. ~~COSTUME~~ SWIMWEAR

.1 ~~Design—Swimmers' costumes~~ The swimsuits worn for competition shall be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition ~~under this rule~~ until they ~~appear properly costumed~~ comply with this rule.

.2 ~~Advertising—~~Products involving tobacco, alcohol, or pharmaceuticals containing drugs 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.

U4 **107.11** p.25

0007.1. STARTING PLATFORMS

U5 107.14 p. 49

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

U6 103.8 p.29

103.8. RECALL STARTER—A recall starter may be assigned to immediately discharge a recall sound device (a) if the automatic equipment is not properly functioning on the starting signal or (b) if a false start has been observed, and (c) to assist the Starter in any desired manner. The position of the recall starter and the type of signal to be used shall be made known to the swimmers. ~~The recall starter may also be assigned to assist the starter in any desired manner.~~

U7 107.15 p.50

0007.1. FALSE START RECALL ROPE—A recall rope to be dropped across the course in case of a false start shall be provided approximately ~~11 meters (36 feet)~~ 15 meters (49 feet) from the starting end in both short course and ~~15 meters (49 feet)~~ in long course competition.

Additional proposals from the Rules Committee

The following proposal was received after the completion of the rules committee meeting. The committee recommends approval of this proposal.

R60 104.5.4.B4 p41 Championship

4. Relay entry cards—On the relay card, relay teams must list the name of the registered swim club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS registration card), the age, and the meet ID number of each relay member. ~~The age group of the relay team may be changed prior to the relay check-in deadline.~~

Rationale: Delete this sentence only if the relay entry deadline proposal, R36, passes. Relays may then be entered until the afternoon prior to the relay being swum and there will no longer need to be a later, i.e. next day, relay check-in.

The following proposals have been passed by USA Swimming and are recommended for approval by the House of Delegates.

U1 Glossary p. 14 Add after "Wall":

Warning Signal - a starting pistol, bell, whistle, air horn or other appropriate audible device.

Rationale: This is a term used but not defined.

U2 102.9.5 p.20

- .5 First and last names of ~~competing eligible~~ relay swimmers, their ages, and ~~their~~ order of swimming shall be ~~declared submitted on a Relay Entry Form~~ to the clerk of course (if used) or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer immediately prior to the start of the relay heat in which such team is entered. No changes will be permitted thereafter.

Rational: To correct the omission of the requirements to submit a Relay Entry form; currently, the rules require only that the relays be listed on the "entry blank" and are silent on how the swimmers actually competing in a relay are to be "declared".

U3 102.14 p.25

102.14. ~~COSTUME~~ Swimwear

.1 Design—Swimmers' costumes The swimsuits worn for competition shall be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition ~~under this rule until they appear properly costumed~~ comply with this rule.

.2 Advertising—Products involving tobacco, alcohol, or pharmaceuticals containing drugs 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: We have been wearing swimsuits since the mid-1920's.

U4 107.11 p.25

107.11. STARTING PLATFORMS

Rationale: There are more than one type of platforms governed by this rule.

U5 107.14 p. 49

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

Rationale: This is language preferred by the disabled sports organizations.

U6 103.8 p.29

103.8. RECALL STARTER—A recall starter may be assigned to immediately discharge a recall sound device (a) if the automatic equipment is not properly functioning on the starting signal or (b) if a false start has been observed, and (c) to assist the Starter in any desired manner. ~~The position of the recall starter and the type of signal to be used shall be made known to the swimmers. The recall starter may also be assigned to assist the starter in any desired manner.~~

Rationale:

U7 107.15 p.50

107.15. FALSE START RECALL ROPE—A recall rope to be dropped across the course in case of a false start shall be provided approximately ~~11 meters (36 feet)~~ 15 meters (49 feet) from the starting end in both short course and ~~15 meters (49 feet)~~ in long course competition.

Rationale: To change the location of the false start rope.

Not recommended
U8 107.15 P.50

CHANGE [NC] TO [M]

Revise for conformance with FINA rules:

101.1. BREASTSTROKE (Page 14):

101.1.5 Finish--At the finish , the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. ~~The body shall be on the breast and the shoulders in line with the water surface.~~ The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during any part of the last complete or incomplete stroke cycle preceding the touch.

101.2 BUTTERFLY (Page 14):

101.2.5 Finish--At the finish , the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. ~~The body shall be on the breast and the shoulders in line with the water surface.~~

Revise awkward and non-conforming format to eliminate repetition of the word "means" and to delete the unneeded semicolon:

101.4 FREESTYLE (Page 15):

.2 Stroke--~~Freestyle means that i~~ In an event ~~so~~ designated freestyle the swimmer may swim any style ~~+~~ + except that in a medley relay or an individual medley event, freestyle means any style ... (no change to end).

The following proposal is presented to the House of Delegates for the selection of three schedules for national championships to be held between 1999 and 2002. Schedules 2a and 2b are considered the same schedule since the only difference is the placement of the 400/500 free at either the beginning or end of the day. We will vote on these schedules in the following way:

- 1) We will vote on which schedule of the four schedules will be ELIMINATED.
- 2) If schedule 2 is NOT eliminated, then we will vote to select the preferred version of schedule 2 (i.e. 2a or 2b).

R30 104.5.2 p.39 Championship

House to vote on which three of the following schedules shall be used for the next four years.

A. Meet Schedule (1999-2002)

Schedule 1	Schedule 2a	Schedule 2b	Schedule 3	Schedule 4
1st Day	1st Day	1st Day	1st Day	1st Day
800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	1500/1650 (m) 400 IM (w) 100 Fly 50 Back 200 Breast 200 MFR
2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day
400 IM 50 Back 200 Free 100 Breast 200 Fly 200 MR 200 FR	50 Back 100 Breast 200 Free 100 Fly 200 MMR 200 FR 400 IM	50 Back 100 Breast 200 Free 100 Fly 200 MMR 200 FR 400 IM	100 Back 200 Free 50 Fly 200 Breast 200 MFR 200 MR 400 IM	1500/1650 (w) 400 IM (m) 50 Breast 200 Back 100 Free 200 FR 200 MMR
3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day
400/500 (m) 50 Fly 200 Breast 100 Back 50 Free 200 IM 200 MMR	400/500 (w) 100 Back 50 Breast 200 IM 50 Free 200 Fly 200 MFR	100 Back 50 Breast 200 IM 50 Free 200 Fly 200 MFR 400/500 (w)	100 Fly 200 IM 50 Free 200 Back 50 Breast 200 FR 400/500 (w)	800/1000 (m) 400/500 (w) 50 Fly 100 IM 200 Free 100 Breast 200 MR
4th Day	4th Day	4th Day	4th Day	4th Day
400/500 (w) 100 IM 100 Fly 50 Breast 200 Back 100 Free 200 MFR	400/500 (m) 100 Free 200 Breast 50 Fly 200 Back 100 IM 200 MR	100 Free 200 Breast 50 Fly 200 Back 100 IM 200 MR 400/500 (m)	400/500 (m) 50 Back 100 Breast 100 IM 200 Fly 100 Free 200 MMR	800/1000 (w) 400/500 (m) 50 Free 200 IM 100 Back 200 Fly

Note: For the purpose of condensing the above table, relays are shown as: FR (M/F freestyle), MR (M/F medley), MFR (mixed freestyle), MMR (mixed medley). They will be spelled out in the rule book.

Original

**Recommendations of the Rules Committee
on the 1998 Proposed Amendments to the USMS Rules**

The committee recommends the following proposals for approval by House of Delegates:

- ✓ R4 **Glossary** p. 13 Ozark
Add after "Pool":
Propulsive – having the power to propel.
Rationale: Removed at suggestion of Legislation Committee in 1997. Term is used in definition of strokes.
- ✓ R8 **102.2** p. 19 Rule Book
AGE DETERMINING DATE —The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group ~~will~~ shall be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet.

Rationale: "Shall" is the helper verb our glossary defines as mandatory.

- ✓ R10 **102.5.** p. 19 Championship
102.5. Events -- In planing ...sheltered rest areas.

Any of the following events may be conducted for each age group. Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. It is not necessary to conduct all events in each meet. For long distance events, see article 302.

Rationale: Housekeeping change. The existing rule opens the door to conducting some events for only some age groups or one gender.

- R11 **102.5.1** p. 19 Rule Book
.1 Short Course (25) Yards
...
200-400-800 yards mixed freestyle relay (~~two female and two male~~)
200-400 yards medley relay
200-400 yards mixed medley relay (~~two female and two male~~)

Rationale: The definition of a mixed relay is given in 101.7.3F and need not be repeated here.

- ✓ R12 **102.5.2** p. 20 Rule Book
.2 Long Course (5) Meters and Short Course (25) Meters
...
200-400-800 meters mixed freestyle relay (~~two female and two male~~)
200-400 meters medley relay
200-400 meters mixed medley relay (~~two female and two male~~)

Rationale: The definition of a mixed relay is given in 101.7.3F and need not be repeated here.

- ✓ R13 **102.6** p. 20 Florida
102.6 Event Limit – A swimmer may compete in not more than five individual events per day. If however, due to conditions beyond the control of meet officials, an event or events are postponed to a subsequent day of the meet, such postponed events shall not be included in the five events per day limitation.

Rationale: Thunderstorms have often caused cancellation of part of a meet. The above proposed change is taken from USS.

The following proposal has been tabled pending the outcome of the USS House of Delegates Meeting

- ✓ R54 108.5.3 p. 53 Rule Book
.3 Turns/Finishes — Touches shall be judged ... Swimmers with no arms or with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head may touch the wall with any part of the upper body, ~~provided the shoulders remain horizontal with the water surface.~~

Rationale: Requirement for shoulders to be horizontal done away with by FINA in March.

The following proposals have been withdrawn by their submitters.

- X R2 Glossary p. 13 Rule Book
Add after "Meet":
Meet committee—a group consisting of at least the meet director, referee or starter, and a participating athlete, which makes preparations for the meet and handles administrative matters related to the meet.

Rationale: A unique term that should be defined.

- X R3 Glossary p. 13 Rule Book
Add after "Member":
Mixed relay—two men and two women who may swim in any order.

Rationale: A unique term that should be defined.

- X R5 Glossary p. 13 Ozark
Add after "Shall":
Simultaneously -- at the same instant.

Rationale: Removed at the suggestion of Legislation Committee in 1997. Term is used in definition of strokes.

- X R22 103.12 p. 31 Rule Book
103.12 TIMING EQUIPMENT
Delete all of 103.12 from article 103 and move to beginning of 107.17, and renumber 107.17.1–107.17.4. Then renumber current 107.17.1–107.17.5 to 107.17.5–107.17.9.

Rationale: Article 103 is titled "Meet Personnel and Their Duties." A timing system is not a person or a duty. This belongs in article 107, "Facilities Standards."

- X R23 103.13 p. 34 Rule Book
103.13 OFFICIAL TIME
Delete all of 103.13 from article 103 and move to article 102, where it becomes the new 102.11. Then renumber current 102.11–102.17 to 102.12–102.18.

Rationale: Article 103 is titled "Meet Personnel and Their Duties." Official time is not a person or a duty. This belongs in article 102, "Swimming Competition."

The following proposal is presented to the House of Delegates for the selection of three schedules for national championships to be held between 1999 and 2002. Schedules 2a and 2b are considered the same schedule since the only difference is the placement of the 400/500 free at either the beginning or end of the day. We will vote on these schedules in the following way:

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- 2) If schedule 2 is NOT eliminated, then we will vote to select the preferred version of schedule 2 (i.e. 2a or 2b).

R30 104.5.2 p.39 Championship
House to vote on which three of the following schedules shall be used for the next four years.

A. Meet Schedule (1999-2002)

Schedule 1	Schedule 2a	Schedule 2b	Schedule 3	Schedule 4
1st Day	1st Day	1st Day	1st Day	1st Day
800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	800/1000 1500/1650	1500/1650 (m) 400 IM (w) 100 Fly 50 Back 200 Breast
2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day
400 IM 50 Back 200 Free 100 Breast 200 Fly 200 MR 200 FR	400/500 (w) 100 Back 50 Breast 200 IM 50 Free 200 Fly 200 MFR	100 Back 50 Breast 200 IM 50 Free 200 Fly 200 MFR 400/500 (w)	100 Back 200 Free 50 Fly 200 Breast 200 MFR 200 MR 400 IM	1500/1650 (w) 400 IM (m) 50 Breast 200 Back 100 Free 200 FR 200 MMR
3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day	3rd Day
400/500 (m) 50 Fly 200 Breast 100 Back 50 Free 200 IM 200 MMR	400/500 (m) 100 Free 200 Breast 50 Fly 200 Back 100 IM 200 MR	100 Free 200 Breast 50 Fly 200 Back 100 IM 200 MR 400/500 (m)	100 Fly 200 IM 50 Free 200 Back 50 Breast 200 FR 400/500 (w)	800/1000 (m) 400/500 (w) 50 Fly 100 IM 200 Free 100 Breast 200 MR
4th Day	4th Day	4th Day	4th Day	4th Day
400/500 (w) 100 IM 100 Fly 50 Breast 200 Back 100 Free 200 MFR	50 Back 100 Breast 200 Free 100 Fly 200 MMR 200 FR 400 IM	50 Back 100 Breast 200 Free 100 Fly 200 MMR 200 FR 400 IM	400/500 (m) 50 Back 100 Breast 100 IM 200 Fly 100 Free 200 MMR	800/1000 (w) 400/500 (m) 50 Free 200 IM 100 Back 200 Fly 200 MFR

See Supplement Page

Note: For the purpose of condensing the above table, relays are shown as: FR (M/F freestyle), MR (M/F medley), MFR (mixed freestyle), MMR (mixed medley). They will be spelled out in the rule book.

The committee does not recommend the following proposals as amended:

X R24 103.13.1 B p. 34 Records and Tabulation

B An initial distance within a longer event, provided the swimmer:

1. Notifies, in writing, the meet referee of the ~~intent request~~ request to officially record an initial split time,
2. For individual backstroke splits such a written request must be made prior to the swim and be brought to the attention of the meet referee.

Rationale: Conform to the rule-change proposal for 105.2.2. Any legal swim qualifies for Top Ten or Record consideration. The new backstroke turn necessitates special language for backstroke events.

X R49 105.2.2B p. 45 Records and Tabulation

B. The ~~intent to record~~ request to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet referee, ~~and.~~ For individual backstroke splits, the intent to record a split must be brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet referee prior to the swim.

Rationale: Any legal swim qualifies for Top Ten or Record consideration. The new backstroke turn necessitates special language for backstroke events.

X R50 105.3.7 p. 45 Records and Tabulation

B. The ~~intent to record~~ request to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet referee, ~~and.~~ For individual backstroke splits, the intent to record a split must be brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet referee prior to the swim.

Rationale: Conform to the rule-change proposal for 105.2.2. Any legal swim qualifies for Top Ten or Record consideration. The new backstroke turn necessitates special language for backstroke events.

The Committee does not recommend the following rules for adoption by the House of Delegates.

X R7 101.7.3 p.18 Florida Add and renumber:

- .3 IM Relay – Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance by individually completing an individual medley (all rules for individuals competing in an individual medley apply - rule 101.6)

Rationale: This would be both the most exciting relay possible (with many lead changes as swimmers perform their best/worst strokes) and a test of which team has the most complete swimmers, while encouraging more swimmers to master more of the strokes, thereby promoting more new challenges to athletes.

W/D X R9 102.3.2 p. 19 Colorado

.2 Relay Events

A—Short Course (25) yard 19+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+ ... (10-year increments as high as necessary). The age of the youngest relay team member shall determine the age group. Relay teams must swim in the oldest age group for which they are eligible.

B—Short Course (25) meter and long course (50) meter – 76-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319, 320-359, 360-399 ... (forty-year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.

Rationale: Small teams are disadvantaged in yards competition using the age of the youngest swimmer. Provides consistency of rules between yards and meters, compatibility with FINA and the philosophy of USS and encouragement for age diversification plus camaraderie, etc.

X R15 102.10.1C p.20 Championship

- C It is recommended that when If swimmers are seeded by time and not by age groups, the fastest two swimmers with the fastest submitted times in each age group ~~should~~ shall not be seeded into outside lanes. ~~It is recommended that they be moved inward one lane~~ They shall be assigned lanes inward from the end lane or given the center lanes in the next slowest heat, whichever is the more appropriate placement.

Rationale: first of all, what we mean by "the fastest two swimmers" is "the two swimmers with the fastest submitted times." "Shall" should replace "should" for the same reasons this rule exists in the first place.

X R29 104.5.2 p. 38 Rule Book

- .2 Program—A 4-day program for national championship meets ~~will~~ shall be used. ...

Rationale: "Shall" is the helper verb our glossary defines as mandatory.

X R42 104.5.5C.8B p.43 Championship

- B Publication of meet results - Meet results in the appropriate format (See Appendix B) and club scores shall be published within 30 days of the last day of the meet and distributed to members of the USMS Board of Director, representatives of participating clubs that request results, and the USMS Records and Tabulation chairman.

Rationale: With Internet access to results, the current rule likely results in copies of results being distributed frivolously.

✓ R36 104.5.C2 p.41 Championship

2. Relay entry deadline - ~~A r~~Relays may be entered until the day before the first day relays are swum it is scheduled to be swum. Participants therein must have entered the meet 35 days in advance. ~~Relays entered after the original meet entry deadline will pay one and one-half times the normal entry fee. A fee of \$12.00 per relay shall be charged for all relays. Official USMS relay cards must be used.~~

Rationale: Charging all relays the same price regardless of entry date will obviate the need to pre-enter relays that require age group and time changes. Relay cards are now generated on computer.

✓ R37 104.5.5(A2) p.42 Championship

Delete 104.5.5(A2)

- ~~2. In order to assure seeded the best competitive times of all entries must be submitted.~~

Rationale: No way to enforce.

✓ R38/ 104.5.5A3 p. 42 Rule Book

3. All events 200 yards/meters ... In the event that swimmers of the same sex two courses are simultaneously swimming one sex in two courses, the Championship Committee may authorize some alteration of this rule to allow for smooth progress of the meet.

Rationale: Awkward wording. Courses don't swim, swimmers do.

✓ R39 104.5.5(C) p. 42 Championship

- C Multiple Courses -- When courses are unequal in any way (depth of the course, visibility of timing display, bulkhead turns, type of gutter or starting blocks, etc.), male and female swimmers shall alternate courses by days share an equal number of days in both courses. ~~Women's events shall be scheduled in the preferred course on days 1 and 3 in odd years, and on days 2 and 4 in even years. Days for each course shall be determined by the Championship Committee.~~ If the time line of the meet is significantly affected by this rotation, the Championship Committee may override this requirement.

✓ R41 104.5.5C.8 p.43 Championship

- A Posting of meet results -- ~~Photocopies of event/heat tapes~~ Event results shall be posted ~~[for each heat and lane before or simultaneously with the posting of the results (see article 103.6.6C)]~~ and splits for each swimmer shall be made available in accordance with article 103.11.6.C.

Rationale: We don't need tapes with computerized results.

✓ R48 105.2.2B p. 45 Pacific

- B. Prior to the swim ~~t~~The intent to record a split time is brought in writing to the attention, ~~in writing~~, of the meet referee and ...

✓ R48a 103.13.1B1 p.34 Pacific

1. Notifies, in writing, the meet referee of the intent ot record an initial split time prior to the swim,

✓ R48b 105.3.7B p.45 Pacific

- B. Prior to the swim ~~t~~The intent to record a split time is brought in writing to the attention, ~~in writing~~, of the meet referee, and

Rationale: Swimmers who want a split time to count for Top Ten Time should request so in writing before the swim so that the meet committee will not be inundated with innumerable request for splits after the fact.

An example table to be placed in Appendix B, using the current record times is shown below:

Appendix B
Adjustments for men's National Qualifying Times for swims at altitude

Age Group	3000-4249 ft				4250-6499 ft				6500+ ft			
	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m
19-24	0.50	2.50	5.00	11.00	1.20	5.00	10.00	23.00	1.60	7.00	15.00	32.50
25-29	0.49	2.43	4.85	10.67	1.16	4.85	9.70	22.31	1.55	6.79	14.55	31.53
30-34	0.50	2.48	4.95	10.89	1.19	4.95	9.90	22.77	1.58	6.93	14.85	32.18
35-39	0.51	2.53	5.05	11.11	1.21	5.05	10.10	23.23	1.62	7.07	15.15	32.83
40-44	0.52	2.58	5.15	11.33	1.24	5.15	10.30	23.69	1.65	7.21	15.45	33.48
45-49	0.54	2.68	5.35	11.77	1.28	5.35	10.70	24.61	1.71	7.49	16.05	34.78
50-54	0.56	2.78	5.55	12.21	1.33	5.55	11.10	25.53	1.78	7.77	16.65	36.08
55-59	0.58	2.88	5.75	12.65	1.38	5.75	11.50	26.45	1.84	8.05	17.25	37.38
60-64	0.59	2.95	5.90	12.98	1.42	5.90	11.80	27.14	1.89	8.26	17.70	38.35
65-69	0.63	3.13	6.25	13.75	1.50	6.25	12.50	28.75	2.00	8.75	18.75	40.63
70-74	0.68	3.40	6.80	14.96	1.63	6.80	13.60	31.28	2.18	9.52	20.40	44.20
75-79	0.73	3.63	7.25	15.95	1.74	7.25	14.50	33.35	2.32	10.15	21.75	47.13
80-84	0.84	4.20	8.40	18.48	2.02	8.40	16.80	38.64	2.69	11.76	25.20	54.60
85-89	0.98	4.88	9.75	21.45	2.34	9.75	19.50	44.85	3.12	13.65	29.25	63.38
90-94	1.15	5.73	11.45	25.19	2.75	11.45	22.90	52.67	3.66	16.03	34.35	74.43

Adjustments for women's National Qualifying Times for swims at altitude

Age Group	3000-4249 ft				4250-6499 ft				6500+ ft			
	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m	200 yd/ m	400-500 yd/m	800- 1000 yd/m	1650 yd/ 1500 m
19-24	0.57	2.83	5.65	12.43	1.36	5.65	11.30	25.99	1.81	7.91	16.95	36.73
25-29	0.55	2.75	5.50	12.10	1.32	5.50	11.00	25.30	1.76	7.70	16.50	35.75
30-34	0.56	2.78	5.55	12.21	1.33	5.55	11.10	25.53	1.78	7.77	16.65	36.08
35-39	0.55	2.75	5.50	12.10	1.32	5.50	11.00	25.30	1.76	7.70	16.50	35.75
40-44	0.59	2.93	5.85	12.87	1.40	5.85	11.70	26.91	1.87	8.19	17.55	38.03
45-49	0.60	3.00	6.00	13.20	1.44	6.00	12.00	27.60	1.92	8.40	18.00	39.00
50-54	0.65	3.25	6.50	14.30	1.56	6.50	13.00	29.90	2.08	9.10	19.50	42.25
55-59	0.70	3.48	6.95	15.29	1.67	6.95	13.90	31.97	2.22	9.73	20.85	45.18
60-64	0.72	3.60	7.20	15.84	1.73	7.20	14.40	33.12	2.30	10.08	21.60	46.80
65-69	0.77	3.83	7.65	16.83	1.84	7.65	15.30	35.19	2.45	10.71	22.95	49.73
70-74	0.82	4.10	8.20	18.04	1.97	8.20	16.40	37.72	2.62	11.48	24.60	53.30
75-79	0.92	4.58	9.15	20.13	2.20	9.15	18.30	42.09	2.93	12.81	27.45	59.48
80-84	1.00	5.00	10.00	22.00	2.40	10.00	20.00	46.00	3.20	14.00	30.00	65.00
85-89	1.23	6.13	12.25	26.95	2.94	12.25	24.50	56.35	3.92	17.15	36.75	79.63
90-94	1.47	7.33	14.65	32.23	3.52	14.65	29.30	67.39	4.69	20.51	43.95	95.23

✓ R16 102.10.4 A (1c) p.22 Championship

c. If, in the slowest/fastest heat there are not enough swimmers to fill the lanes with two swimmers each all heats with two swimmers in each lane, those swimmers with the fastest submitted times may be seeded one-to-a-lane.

Rationale: Waves, records, quality competition.

✓ R21 103.12.1 p. 31 Rule Book

C Manual A timing system operated by individual lane timers, each of whom operates a manual watch that is both started and stopped by the timer as described in article ~~103.6.3~~ 103.11.3. ...

Rationale: Wrong article reference

✓ R26 104.3.2B p. 36 Rule Book

B Eligible bidders - A national championship ... LMSC. In either event, the facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards ~~which have been adopted by USMS, Inc.~~ defined in article 107.

Rationale: Makes more sense to tell people where to find the facilities standards.

✓ R27 104.3.2B p.36 Championship

B Eligible bidders - ~~A national championship meet shall be awarded only to an LMSC or a club with the endorsement of its LMSC.~~ Any club, LMSC, or organization may bid. In either event, ~~t~~ The facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards which have been adopted by USMS, Inc. The Championship Committee shall consider LMSC endorsement as a selection criteria. *shall strongly*

Rationale: There is nothing wrong with any business entity or organization profiting from providing Masters swimming with a necessary service. This in no way would prevent the Championship Committee or the House of Delegates from favoring bids from an LMSC or a club with the endorsement of its LMSC.

R35 104.5.3 C-2 p. 40 Colorado

2. Altitude Adjustment - Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or higher may be adjusted for NQT purposes by subtracting the adjustment times (in seconds) from the actual time achieved. The specific adjustments for each age group and sex are found in Appendix B. The adjustments shall be determined annually by multiplying the time adjustment in following table by the ratio of the 200-yard freestyle national record for the age group and sex to that of the men's 19-24 200-yard freestyle. The values in following table shall be those determined and used for the same purpose by USS.

every four years starting in 1998

Note: Records and Top Ten, etc., are to be actual times swum, not adjusted for altitude.

	3000-4249 ft	4250-6499 ft	6500+ ft
200 yards/meters	0.50	1.20	1.60
400-500 yards/meters	2.50	5.00	7.00
800-1000 yards/meters	5.00	10.00	15.00
1650 yards/1500 meters	11.00	23.00	32.50

Rationale: The above table is based on the performance of college age men. For example, it is unreasonable to expect that 50-year-old women should be able to swim (for example, a 1650) as fast as a 21-year old man.

Rules

R57 102.2 p.19 International Committee

X 102.2. Age Determining Date - The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of ~~the last day of the meet~~ December 31st of the year of competition.

Rationale: This is the current method used by FINA. Currently some swimmers are missing world records and positions in Top Ten because we are not tracking our swimmers based upon the FINA rule

R58 102.2 p19 International Committee

✓ 102.2. Age Determining Date -

A For Short Course Yards, ~~t~~The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet.

B For Short Course Meters and Long Course Meters, the eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of December 31st of the year of competition.

Rationale: If R57 does not pass, then this compromise proposal is presented relying upon the same rationale as R57.

R59 104.5.5.A1 p42 Championship

✓ Move 104.5.5.A1 to 104.5.4.B4 and renumber

4 Information on entry - All information regarding seeding must be stated on the entry form.

Rationale: This information should be part of the entry form section of the national championship description.

The Committee recommends the following proposals as amended for adoption by the House of Delegates:

✓ R1 Glossary p. 12 Ozark

Add after "Heat":

Horizontal - parallel to the level surface of the water.

Rationale: Removed at suggestion of Legislation Committee in 1997. Experience with "interpretation" new breaststroke rule suggests that this clarification is still needed.

✓ R6 Glossary p. 13 Florida Gold Coast

Seeding- distributing swimmers among the required number of heats and/or lanes, based on submitted times.

- Deck seeded seeding - all events are seeded at the meet time of the event with entries received prior to or at the meet.
- Confirmed seeding - events are seeded after a confirmation (check-in) time.
- Pre seeded seeding - all events are seeded prior to the day of competition according to submitted times.

Rationale: We actually use the above three methods of seeding.

✓ R14 102.10.1A p. 20 Championship

A All Masters events conducted in short course meters ^{ALL events} or long course meters shall be conducted on a timed final basis. ^{events and national champ} ~~Masters events conducted in short course yards may be conducted on a timed final basis. In a trials/finals format, competitors shall be limited to three individual events per day.~~

Rationale: While it is doubtful that many meet organizers would wish to offer heats and finals, why should we preclude some creative and interesting possibilities?

- ✓ R46 104.5.10B p.44 Rule Book
B Officials — The minimum number of officials ... An official may serve in only one officiating position during any event. ~~For, except that during freestyle events 400 meters and longer, the referee and starter may double as stroke and turn judges.~~

Rationale: The two sentences are contradictory without this change.

- ✓ R47 105.1.2 p. 44 Records & Tabulation
.2 Times to be considered for records and Top Ten times must be made on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times, and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation chairman by ~~July 15~~, June 30, October 20, and ~~February 5~~, January 26, respectively.

Rationale: This would put all three courses on the same schedule and allow the Top-Ten SCY and SCM books to be published one month earlier. It also solves a problem with publication deadlines for SWIM magazine.

- ✓ R51 107.16 p.50 Championship ~~Swimming~~
107.16. PACE CLOCKS - ~~There may~~ shall be at least two large, accurate timing devices or clocks, preferably located one on each side of the course, clearly visible to all swimmers. ~~Dial-type clocks shall be at least 3 feet in diameter with sweep second and minute hands. If digital readout clocks are provided, minimum height of the digits shall be 6 inches. [M*,NC]~~ *for each warm up area*

Rationale: We already qualify this rule with a M*. Let's require that there shall be pace clocks at our National Championships, not that it is mandatory that there "may" be pace clocks at our National Championships.

- ✓ R52 107.17.2 p. 50 Rule Book
.2 Power Source—See article ~~103.7~~ 103.12 ...

Rationale: Housekeeping. Wrong article reference.

- ✓ R53 108.1.1 p. 51 Rule Book
.1 Authority—The USMS rules and regulations grant the referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability (see article 103.6.6). ...

Rationale: We should state where the rule book says this.

The following proposals were submitted during the convention by standing committees.

- ✓ R55 103.7 p. 27 Rules (new section; insert and renumber)
103.7 ADMINISTRATIVE REFEREE
The administrative referee shall resolve errors in entries and seeding, make adjustments as required and verify timing (see article 103.12.4), verify record documentation, and perform other duties as assigned by the meet referee.

Rationale: Introduced in R45 as a required official at national championships

- ✓ R56 103 p103 Rule Book
Change title of article:
MEET PERSONNEL AND THEIR DUTIES PROCEDURES

Rationale: Article contains more than personnel and their duties.

- ✓ R31 104.5.2C p. 39 Rule Book
Alternative meet schedules—A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a different schedule from those defined in ~~section A~~ above article 104.5.2A.

Rationale: This is the style followed throughout the rest of the rule book.

- ✓ R32 104.5.3(A)p.40 Championship
A Individual events - Competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of six individual events (or five individual events, if deemed necessary by the Championship Committee) ~~in a 4-day national championship meet,~~ with a maximum of three individual events per day.

Rationale: we need to include other formats such as a 5-day meet.

- ✓ R33 104.5.3(B)p.40 Championship
B Relays - ~~Each competitor~~ shall be allowed to swim in only one freestyle relay, one medley relay, one mixed freestyle relay, and one mixed medley relay of each distance per meet.

Rationale: we need to provide for the 400 and 800 relays.

- ✓ R34 104.5.3(C2) p. 40 Championship
2. Altitude adjustment - Times achieved at an altitude of 3000 feet or higher may be adjusted, for NQT purposes only, by subtracting the times (in seconds) in the following table from the actual time achieved.

Rationale: altitude adjustments are to be made for no other purpose.

- ✓ R40 104.5.8A p. 43 Rule Book
A Posting of meet results—Photocopies of event/heat tapes shall be posted for each heat and lane before or simultaneously with the posting of the results (see article ~~103.6.6C~~ 103.11.6C).

Rationale: Wrong article reference.

- ✓ R43 104.5 C.9B p. 43 Championship
B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual or a team to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host team by the protest panel chairman or Championship Committee liaison. . . .

Rationale: In practice, this is what happens.

- ✓ R44 104.5.10 p. 44 Rule Book
104.5.10 Personnel (Also see articles ~~102.18~~ and 103)

Rationale: Housekeeping. All personnel were combined under article 103 a couple of years ago, and this reference (to an article that no longer exists) was accidentally left in.

- ✓ R45 104.5.10 p.44 Championship
B Officials- The minimum number of officials at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:
One meet referee
One deck referee for each course
One administrative referee. . . .

Rationale: This should be mandatory because we need an administrative referee to run an efficient meet.

R17 102.10.4A6a. p. 22 Rule Book

6 Lane etiquette

- a. The starter shall instruct the swimmers to swim on one side of the lane during the entire race (e.g. i.e., no "circle" swimming).

Rationale: The abbreviation "e.g." means "for example. In this case, we are not giving an example. We're defining what we mean by swimming on one side of the lane. So the correct abbreviation should be "i.e.," which means "that is."

R18 102.13.3A p. 24 Rule Book

.3 Postponement or Cancellation

- A If, prior to the start of a meet or event, unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or event, the meet committee (see article 103.5) may cancel or postpone it.

Rationale: At this point in the rule book we haven't defined the meet committee yet.

R19 103.1 p. 26 Rule Book

- 103.1 ~~REQUIRED OFFICIALS PERSONNEL~~—The minimum number of officials-personnel at USMS sanctioned Masters Swimming meets or recognized events shall include the following for each course:

Rationale: It doesn't make sense to define officials as a type of officials (103.1.1). Instead, officials are a type of personnel.

R20 103.10.6 p. 30 Rule Book

.6 Infraction Signal

- ...
Exception: Relay take-off judges as outlined in article ~~103.5.5B~~ 103.10.5B.

Rationale: Housekeeping. Incorrect article reference.

R25 103.13. 6 p. 35 Rule Book

- .6 A backup time adjusted for system timing errors in accordance with the methods described in articles ~~103.7.4C, 103.7.4D, 103.7.4E, and 103.7.4F~~ 103.12.4C, 103.12.4D, 103.12.4E, and 103.12.4F may be used as an official time equal to the level of the timing system to which it has been adjusted.

Rationale: Housekeeping. Incorrect article reference. Note: if R20 passes, then the new articles should be 107.17.4C-F instead of 103.12.4C-F.

R28 104.5.1A 2. p. 38 Championship

2. The chairman of this meeting shall be the president of USMS, or an individual designated by the president ~~and the governing body shall be the House of Delegates of USMS.~~

Rationale: More consistent with actual procedure.

R30a 104.5.2B p. 39 Rule Book

- B Rotation of meet ~~formats-schedules~~ —The particular ~~format-schedule~~ shall be rotated in order (1, 2, and 3) among the three basic schedules shown in article 104.5.2A without regard to course.

Rationale: Not a good idea to mix terminology. If we called them schedules in 104.5.2A, we should call them schedules in 104.5.2B. Also, we should make it clear which three schedules were talking about.

Additional proposals from the Rules Committee

The following proposal was received after the completion of the rules committee meeting. The committee recommends approval of this proposal.

✓ R60 104.5.4.B4 p41 Championship

4. **Relay entry cards**—On the relay card, relay teams must list the name of the registered swim club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS registration card), the age, and the meet ID number of each relay member. ~~The age group of the relay team may be changed prior to the relay check-in deadline.~~

Rationale: Delete this sentence only if the relay entry deadline proposal, R36, passes. Relays may then be entered until the afternoon prior to the relay being swum and there will no longer need to be a later, i.e. next day, relay check-in.

The following proposals have been passed by USA Swimming and are recommended for approval by the House of Delegates.

✓ U1 Glossary p. 14

Add after "Wall":

Warning Signal - a starting pistol, bell, whistle, air horn or other appropriate audible device.

Rationale: This is a term used but not defined.

✓ U2 102.9.5 p.20

- .5 First and last names of competing eligible relay swimmers, ^{form or card} their ages, and their order of swimming shall be declared submitted on a Relay Entry Form to the clerk of course (if used) or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer immediately prior to the start of the relay heat in which such team is entered. No changes will be permitted thereafter.

Rational: To correct the omission of the requirements to submit a Relay Entry form; currently, the rules require only that the relays be listed on the "entry blank" and are silent on how the swimmers actually competing in a relay are to be "declared".

✓ U3 102.14 p.25

102.14. ~~COSTUME~~ Swimwear

.1 Design—Swimmers' costumes The swimsuits worn for competition shall be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition under this rule until they appear properly costumed comply with this rule.

.2 Advertising—Products involving tobacco, alcohol, or pharmaceuticals containing drugs 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: We have been wearing swimsuits since the mid-1920's.

✓ U4 107.11 p.25

107.11. STARTING PLATFORMS

Rationale: There are more than one type of platforms governed by this rule.

U5 107.14 p. 49

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

Rationale: This is language preferred by the disabled sports organizations.

U6 103.8 p.29

✓
103.8. RECALL STARTER—A recall starter may be assigned to immediately discharge a recall sound device (a) if the automatic equipment is not properly functioning on the starting signal or (b) if a false start has been observed, and (c) to assist the Starter in any desired manner. The position of the recall starter and the type of signal to be used shall be made known to the swimmers. ~~The recall starter may also be assigned to assist the starter in any desired manner.~~

Rationale:

U7 107.15 p.50

✓
107.15. FALSE START RECALL ROPE—A recall rope to be dropped across the course in case of a false start shall be provided approximately ~~11 meters (36 feet)~~ 15 meters (49 feet) from the starting end in both short course and 15 meters (49 feet) in long course competition.

Rationale: To change the location of the false start rope.

Not recommended
U8 107.15 P.50

CHANGE [NC] TO [M]