

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with article 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2009 Convention.

Since this is not a “Rules” year, proposed rules changes are considered as described in article 601.4.6 and may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates if the proposed amendments are deemed an emergency by and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee.

The following proposed amendments were deemed an emergency by and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

R 1 **104.5.6B(3)** Rules Committee page 34 Modify

Action: Adopted

- (3) The Championship Committee shall publish a list of Regional and Local Clubs no later than February 15 of each year. A club may contest its designation or the designation of another club by filing an appeal with the chair of the Championship Committee at least 45 days prior to the first day of competition at the national championship meet.

Rationale: Add missing information: it currently does not address other clubs protesting a club’s designation as Regional or Local at nationals for club awards, and it doesn’t state exactly when the 45 days before nationals start.

R 2 **104.2** Championship Committee page 26 Modify

Action: Adopted

104.2 MEET NAME

The official name shall be ~~–(insert year)– United States~~ include the following words: “U.S. Masters Swimming” and “National –(insert short or Long)– Course Championship”s. The name shall also include the year of the event and may include a title sponsor and any other wording approved by the Championship Committee.

Rationale: Championship Committee supports national staff in its desire to obtain title sponsors for a variety of events that would include national pool championships and the current rule does not allow this to happen. This rule proposal does not mandate it but allows it as an option.

The rule book text is copied and pasted below with the amendments incorporated in the text as it would appear in the 2010 rule book.

104.2 MEET NAME

The official name shall include “U.S. Masters Swimming” and “National (insert Short or Long) Course Championship”. The name shall also include the year of the event and may include a title sponsor and any other wording approved by the Championship Committee.

USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS rules

The following amendments have been approved by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and will be automatically adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject them (see text of 601.4.6 below). The USA Swimming amendments appear in this document as they would in the USMS Rule Book with the USMS Rule Book reference number and page number. The corresponding USA Swimming reference number and page number are listed in parentheses.

601.4.6-USA Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules

Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, “Individual Strokes and Relays,” 102, “Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition” and 105, “Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USA Swimming Meets,” shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments. Votes to reject shall not be considered emergency amendments. Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the House of Delegates. Votes to accept shall not be considered emergency amendments.

U 1 The Rules Committee recommends approval ADOPTED
(USA-S R-3)

USMS 103.8.1, p. 17; 103.12.1, p.21; and 107.14, p. 44 (USA-S 101.1.1, p. 17; 102.16.1, p. 34; and 103.15, p. 45) USMS 107.14 and USA-S 103.15 “Facilities Standards”, are included in U1 as an indivisible package with the approval of the USMS Rules Committee.

103.8.1 Equipment—A loudspeaker start system conforming to article 107.14, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all manual timers and for forward and backstroke starts, shall be the preferred starting device. ~~A .22 caliber starting pistol may be used.~~

103.12.1 Timing System Definitions—Every race in a swimming competition shall be timed with one or more of the following systems, listed in their preferred order of use.

A Automatic—A timing system ~~started by an electric impulse generated~~ whose start is activated by a starting device ~~or a transducer capable of detecting a gun report~~ and stopped at the finish by the swimmer touching the touchpad.

B Semiautomatic—A timing system ~~started by an electric impulse generated~~ whose start is activated by a starting device ~~or transducer capable of detecting a gun report~~ and stopped by buttons pushed by timers at the finish touch of the swimmer.

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 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 deaf and hard of hearing swimmers. The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and ~~gun~~final-lap signal option. [NC]

U 2 The Rules Committee recommends approval ADOPTED
(USA-S R-4)

USMS 103.8.6A, p. 18 (USA-S 101.1.3A, p. 18)

103.8.6 False Starts

- A Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the starting blocks shall be relieved from their starting positions with the "Stand up" command and may step off the blocks. ~~The starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee.~~

U 3 The Rules Committee recommends approval as amended ADOPTED
(USA-S R-17)

USMS 108.1.2B(3)(b), p. 46 (USA-S 105.1.3, p. 51)

USA-S Purpose: To clarify that having a personal assistant(s) can be a reasonable accommodation for a swimmer with a disability.

- (3) **Modifications**—Aids to buoyancy and speed are not allowed (see 102.15.9). Some of the modifications that the referee may make to accommodate the athlete with a disability are:

- (a) A change in starting position.
- (b) Reassignment of lanes within a heat (e.g., exchanging lanes two and seven).
- (c) Allowing the athlete's to have a personal assistant(s) on the deck or in open water to assist with a start and/or a finish. A personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming.

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

U 4 The Rules Committee recommends approval ADOPTED as amended
(USA-S R-18)

USMS 108.3.1, p. 46 (105.3.1, p. 52)

USA-S Purpose: The recall rope is seldom set up at facilities, so advance notice is necessary when the rope will be needed for a deaf swimmer.

108.3 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

- 108.3.1 Visual Starting Signal**—Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal (i.e., a strobe light and/or starter's arm signals). The referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat (i.e., exchanging one lane for another) so that the strobe light or starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard starter's arm signals are shown in Figure 1. **A recall rope is required in the event of a recall provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.**

U 5 The Rules Committee recommends approval ADOPTED
(USA-S R-19)

USMS 108.5.3, p.48 (USA-S 105.5.3, p. 53)

USA-S Purpose: To provide authority for necessary modifications in the rules regarding a swimmer with no leg function.

108.5.3 Turns/Finishes—

- A Touches shall be judged in the same manner as strokes and kicks (i.e., on the basis of the arm(s) and/or hand(s) that the swimmer can use). In breaststroke and butterfly events, the competitor must reach forward as if attempting a simultaneous two-handed touch. When

a swimmer has different arm lengths, only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. 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.

B At the turn and finish of the butterfly, an athlete with no leg function is permitted to perform a partial stroke with the arm(s) recovering forward under the surface of the water in order to touch the wall.

U 6 The Rules Committee recommends approval as amended ADOPTED
(USA-S HK-3)

USMS 102.15.9, p. 14 and 102.14.1, p. 13 (USA-S 102.10.10, p. 29 and 102.9.1, p. 28)

USA-S Purpose: The passage currently listed under disqualifications would be better placed under Swimwear. (Listed as a housekeeping proposal)

~~102.15.9 Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace or buoyancy during a race. Goggles may be worn and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee.~~

102.14 SWIMWEAR

102.14.1 Design—The swimsuits worn for competition shall be nontransparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

102.14.2 Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance or swimsuit to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.

102.14.23 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.

U 7 The Rules Committee recommends approval ADOPTED
(USA-S HK-5)

USMS 108.2.2, p. 46 (USA-S 105.2, p. 51)

108.2.2 Turns and Finishes—A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have a personal assistants (“tappers,” ~~which is who use a poles with a soft-tipped ends, to tap~~ ~~the swimmer is tapped with the “tapper”~~ as notification of turns and the finish. Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper(s) ~~and operator(s)~~, who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.