

USMS Rules Committee
Recommendations on Proposed Changes to the Rules of Competition
September 18, 2004

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, to the Rules Committee for consideration and are **recommended for approval** by the House of Delegates.

R2 101.3.3 P.17 Virginia Modify

101.3.3 – Kick

All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs and feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. However, when the breaststroke or whip kick is used, the arms must be recovered over the top of the water with each breaststroke or whip kick, except after the last such kick before the turn or finish. Only one breaststroke or whip kick is permitted per arm pull, except that a single breaststroke or whip kick is permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull. After the start and after each turn, a single breaststroke or whip kick is permitted prior to the first arm pull. A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rational: Several problems with interpretation of this rule have been noted at USMS meets and the wording has left the door open to some unintended interpretations by meet officials. Some scenarios have included the following:

1. The rule has been interpreted at several meets as allowing multiple breaststroke kicks off the wall after the start and turn.
2. The phrase “with each breaststroke or whip kick” has created some confusion. Some meet officials have interpreted this wording to mean that a breaststroke kick following by a downward butterfly kick would be illegal since the arms did not recover “with” the kick before the dolphin kick was initiated. Others have interpreted this phrase as allowing two breaststroke kick in succession since the first kick could be associated with the previous pull and the next kick could be associated with the following pull. Neither interpretation is consistent with the intent of the rule.
3. The phrase “except after the last such kick...” could be interpreted as permitting an underwater recovery on the last stroke into the wall when the breaststroke kick is used.

The proposed wording does not change the application of the rule, but attempts to clarify the intent.

R5 102.17 p 28 Pacific Modify

102.17. TOBACCO

Smoking and use of other tobacco products is prohibited on the pool deck, in locker rooms, in spectator seating ~~or~~ and standing areas, and in all areas used by swimmers, during the meet ~~or~~ and during the warm-up periods in connection with the meet.

Rationale: The current provision allows some ambiguity regarding the limitations of smoking and use of tobacco products. This modification removes any doubt about the intention of this rule. It is possible this modification may be considered as “housekeeping”.

R12 102.4.2 P.20 Safety Education Modify

102.4.2 – Procedure

Swimmers must enter the pool feet first in a cautious and controlled manner. Diving shall be permitted only in the designated lanes. No hand paddles are allowed.

Rationale: Already in the LMSC Handbook, p9 of Sanctions Sections “Guidelines for Warm-up/Warm-down. Hand paddles are a potential source of injury during warm-ups.

R14 104.5.5 P. 45 Championship Modify

104.5.5—Seeding A (4) ~~The 400meter/500yard freestyle events shall be deck seeded by age group, with the oldest age group first, slowest heats seeded first within each age group. The 400 yard/meter IM, 800/1500 meter, and 1000/1650 yard freestyle events—~~ Events 400 yards/meters and longer shall be deck seeded by one of the following methods: (a) by

entry time only, (b) by age group, the oldest age group first slowest heats seeded first within each age group, then by time, or (c) by a combination of (a) and (b). The USMS Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.

Rationale: allows the 400meter/500free to be seeded with the same options as the other longer events instead of mandating seeding by age group.

R16 104.5.6 P. 46 Championship Modify

104.5.6 C Divisions Eliminate entire section.

104.5.7 Awards C Club Team awards—The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first, second, and third through tenth place winners in the women’s, men’s, and combined categories ~~in each division~~.

Rationale: The Championship Committee wants to eliminate size divisions for team scoring because it is difficult to make fair breaks among the old size divisions. Too many times in the past, a very large conglomerate team brings a small group and can win a small or medium award.

R17 104.4.5 P. 40 Championship Modify

104.4.5—Meet Report

The meet director of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Championship Committee within 60 days of the end of competition. This report shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, ~~heat sheets~~, final results (an electronic file plus hard copy), and any other information that may be helpful to future meet directors.

Rationale: Heat sheet require a large number of pages. The Championship Committee and future meet directors do not use them.

R19 105.2 and 105.3 P. 49 Rules Modify

105.2. TOP TEN TIMES

~~105.2.2—Individual s~~Split times and relay leadoff split times shall be considered for Top Ten times if:

- A Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment,
- B ~~In an individual event other than backstroke. The intent request to have to record~~ a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet.
- C ~~In a relay event the written request for relay leadoff split times and initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events is made prior to the swim, and or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the swim, and . . .~~

105.3. USMS NATIONAL RECORDS

~~105.3.7—Records established by a swimmer’s split time in an individual event or by a swimmer’s leadoff split time in a relay shall be acceptable as an individual performance for all purposes if:~~ Split times shall be considered for USMS national records if:

- A Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment,
- B ~~The intent to record a split time is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet;~~
- C ~~The written request for relay leadoff split times and initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events is made prior to the swim, and~~
- B In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet.
- C In a relay event or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the swim, and . . .

Rationale: Clarify that splits from individual events other than backstroke can be requested prior to the conclusion of the meet and that those for relay and backstroke events require prior notification.

R20 – 102.10.6 –Counters

102.10.6—Counters

A A swimmer in any individual swimming event of ~~400 yards/meters~~ 16 lengths or more, except the individual medley, may appoint one counter to call lengths or indicate lengths by visual sign.

Rationale: Maintain consistency with USA-Swimming

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, to the Rules Committee for consideration and are **recommended for approval as amended** by the House of Delegates.

R4 102.1, 102.3.1 P.20 Michigan Modify

102.1.1 – To be eligible for competition including participation in warm-ups, ~~swimmers-members~~ must be ~~19~~ 18 year of age or over ~~as determined by article 102.2.~~

102.3. AGE GROUPS**102.3.1—Individual Events**

~~19~~18–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, 45–49, 50–54, 55–59, 60–64, 65–69, 70–74, 75–79, 80–84, 85–89, 90–94, 95–99, 100–104 ... (5-year age groups as high as is necessary).

102.3.2—Relay Events

A Short course (25) yards—~~19~~18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+ ... (10-year increments as high as is 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) meters and long course (50) meters—~~76~~72–99, 100–119, 120–159, 160–199, 200–239, 240–279, 280–319, 320–359, 360–399 ... (40-year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.

Rationale: A lot more people that are 18 years old are swimming in USMS on college campuses. Some of them can swim meets that are meters because of the FINA rule and can swim some recognized events. It does not make sense to send them to USA swimming for spring championships when they have been members working out with their masters clubs for the whole season.

R6 104.5.2 p.43 Championship Modify

104.5.2B Rotation of Meet Schedules

(4) The three basic schedules shall be chosen every 4 years, starting in 1990, by a vote of the House of Delegates, from at least four alternatives presented by the Championship Committee. The selected schedules shall apply to the period starting two years after approved by the House of Delegates.

Other Articles that Require Changing: 104.5.2A Page 42:

A Meet schedules (2004-2006 2005-2007)

Add 2007 Short Course to Schedule 3 and 2007 Long Course to Schedule 1

Rational: Currently, the host of the National Short Course Championship for the year following the selection of new schedules does not know the schedule of events until after the meet information is due for review by the Championship Committee. This often results in problems about deciding the best way to run the meet.

R7 104.5.3 P. 44 Championship Modify

104.5.3 – Event Limit

C National qualifying times

(2) Event Limit—When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying standards. The Championship Committee may limit either the 800-meter or the 1500-meter freestyle to only those who meet the National Qualifying Time for that event. Competitors may ...

Rationale: The Championship Committee need “a whole bag of tricks” upon which they can call when a long course meet is held in a suspected impacted area (high number of entries expected). This rule would allow non-NQT swimmers to enter a distance event, but will save time as these slower swimmers will be swimming 800 rather than 1500 meters.

R10 105.1.5 P.49 Oregon Modify

105.1.5 – Publication of Records

Results from events conducted in pools that do not meet the minimum pool length requirement (minus 0.00 meter) in all lanes used in competition shall not be acceptable for record applications or Top Ten submissions.

107.2.1 – Length

D Dimensional tolerance – Against the required length, a tolerance of minus 0.00 meter in each lane used for competition on both end walls at all points from 0.3 meter above ...

Rationale: If a pool has a lane that is known to be short and is therefore not used for competition, e.g. used for warm-up/warm-down only, it should be acceptable to accept times from these pools (and in fact, is being done).

R11 105.1.7C P.49 Oregon Modify

105.1.7 – Pool Measurement

C Where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved. **NOTE: it is recommended that the bulkhead placement be confirmed prior to the start of the meet.**

Other sections affected: Appendix B.

Rationale: Once a bulkhead is placed for the competition, it is prudent to measure the lanes prior to the start of competition so that any problems will be recognized and rectified prior to swims being done. It is also necessary to measure the course length at the end of each day’s session to ensure continued proper placement and adding the word ‘each’ clarifies that this must be done each day.

R13 102.15.14 p.28 Championship Add

102.15.14 A swimmer who misrepresents a seed time causing a significant delay of the meet, may be disqualified at the discretion of the referee. The disqualified swimmer shall be removed from the lane as soon as practical.

Rationale: Swimmers who swim an extraordinarily slow time in these events will be discouraged from entering them at Nationals and can be stopped prior to completing the swim. Another option for the CC to save time in a long meet.

R15 104.5.5 P. 46 Championship Modify

104.5.5 B Distance events (3) For any freestyle event 800-400 meters or longer, men and women may be seeded together at the discretion of the Championship Committee. Two-to-a-lane seeding shall not be used.

Rationale: Gives the Championship Committee another tool to use if necessary to cut the timeline of a Nationals. In

addition, the feedback from people who have swum men and women mixed in the longer events has been generally very positive.

R18 104.5.5 P. 46 Championship Modify

104.5.5 B Distance events (3) For any event 800 meters or longer, men and women may be seeded together at the discretion of the Championship Committee. Competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two-to-a-lane in the meet day is projected to last longer than 12 hours.

Rationale: Gives the Championship Committee another tool to use if necessary to cut the timeline of a Nationals. In addition, the feedback from people who have swum men and women mixed in the longer events has been generally very positive.

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, to the Rules Committee for consideration and are **not recommended for approval** by the House of Delegates.

R1 101.3.3 P.17 Oregon Modify

101.3.3 – Kick

All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs and feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. However, when the breaststroke or whip kick is used, the arms must be recovered over the top of the water ~~with each~~ prior to the next breaststroke or whip kick, except after the last such kick before the turn or finish. After the start and after each turn, if the breaststroke or whip kick is used, only one kick is allowed prior to the arm pull that brings the swimmer to the surface. A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rationale: The problem is the association of the recovery with each kick. A strict literal reading would lead one to conclude that two breaststroke kicks could be made in-between recoveries because the first kick could be associated with the preceding stroke and the second kick with the subsequent stroke. This rule has been interpreted this way at a local USMS meet, thus it is believed that this is necessary as emergency clarification.

Current wording leaves the sequencing to misinterpretation. Clarifying the sequence as proposed would eliminate the potential for misinterpretation. Specifying a sequence is done in breaststroke so doing so in butterfly would not be a unique solution nor precedent setting.

R3 102 P.20 New England Modify and add

102.1.1 – To be eligible for competition, swimmers must be ~~19~~ 18 year of age or over as determined by article 102.2.

102.2.3 – For swimmers that are younger than 19 years of age as determined by sections 102.2.1 or 102.2.2 they must be at least 18 years of age as of the first day of the meet.

Rationale: The change will help USMS reach out more effectively to incoming college students.

R8 104.5.4 p.45 Championship Modify

104.5.4C Entry Deadline

(2) Relay entry deadline—~~A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum.~~ The relay entry deadline is the day before the first relay is scheduled. Participants therein must have entered the meet by the individual entry deadline.

Rationale: Currently, the Host must enter relays into the Meet Management System the night before the relays are scheduled to be swum. This often requires the Host to work late into the night to enter all the relays. This rule change would ease the burden on the Host during the meet and also allow the team coach or team representative to set up relays by checking the meet program to see whom on their team entered the meet.

R9 Withdrawn