

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS RULES

The following proposals have been submitted for consideration by the rules committee under the process defined for emergency proposals.

- R1 **103.11** p. 30 Pacific
.5 Relay Take-Off Judges
- A After the start of the race, the relay take-off judges shall position themselves with a clear view of the relay exchange area. Relay exchanges shall be observed by a minimum of two officials acting independently of each other. One of them shall be assigned to the side of the course. The other may be assigned next to the lane, on the other side of the course, or next to the first official.
- B When automatic relay take-off judging equipment is available and in use, take-off judges ~~will~~ shall be assigned to each lane and stationed as described above. A team ~~will~~ shall be disqualified only when there is dual confirmation of an illegal take-off (i.e., visual and automatic equipment).

Rationale: Housekeeping - standard wording for requirements

- R1 **103.11** p. 31 Pacific
.6 **Infraction Signal**—Either the referee or the stroke, turn, or relay take-off judge shall immediately raise one hand overhead with open palm upon observing an infraction within that judge's jurisdiction. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.
- Exception:** Relay take-off judges as outlined in article 103.5.5B.

Rationale: A unique term that should be defined.

- R3 **104.5.4A2** p. 41 San Diego Imperial
2. **Foreign swimmers**—National championship meets ~~will~~ shall include and welcome foreign swimmers on the same basis as U.S. swimmers, except that ~~they~~ foreign swimmers may not qualify for USMS Top Ten and All-American awards, nor set USMS national records.

Rationale: In addition to the housekeeping, the proposed change clarifies who “they” are, and also prohibits foreign swimmers from setting USMS national records, an oversight error which should be corrected immediately.

- R4 **104.5.5A** p. 43 Indiana
insert and renumber
9. If a swimmer enters a deck seeded event with a time significantly slower than his/her recently recorded time, the meet director may, after notifying the swimmer, change the seeded time to a realistic time.

Rationale: “Fast” swimmers who enter the distance events with a slow time are unfair to the older/slower swimmers. Also, due to the seeding principles, they make the whole distance day longer as each successive heat has one slower person to make the heat last longer. In shorter events, swimmers who enter inordinately slow give themselves a possible competitive advantage by having clear water competitors do not have.