

Rules Committee

Note after the HOD meeting: The HOD accepted all of the recommendations of the Rules committee.

The following were deemed to be housekeeping changes by the committee. Except where noted, they were submitted by the rule Book Committee.

R2 **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 103.11.5B.

Rationale: Clarifies the exception so as to refer to the entire section on relay take-off judging.

R8 **Glossary** p.12

Aggregate Time - times achieved by four individuals in separate starts ~~which~~ that are added together to arrive at a relay time for entry purposes.

R9 **Glossary** p.12

Foul - an instance of obstruction, interference, collision, or equipment malfunction ~~which~~ that prevents the successful completion of a race.

R10 **Glossary** p.12

Open Competition -competition ~~which~~ that any qualified individual, club, or organization may enter.

R11 **Glossary** p.13

Timed Finals - competition in which only heats are swum and final placings are determined by the times ~~performed~~ achieved in the heats.

R12 **Glossary** p.13

Short course (25) yards ...

Short course(25) metersu and long course (50) metersu ...

R13 **102.6** p.20

EVENT LIMIT - A swimmer may compete in not more than five individual events per day (or three individual events if the meet is a trials/finals format). If, however, due to conditions ... such postponed events shall not be included in the five (or three) events per day limit.

Rationale: Needs to reflect the individual event limit in SCY trials/finals format.

R14 **102.10.1A** p.21

... Other short course yards events may be conducted on a timed final basis or other basis (e.g. trials/finals). In a trials/finals format, competitors shall be limited to three individual events per day.

Rationale: We haven't said that trials/finals are allowed, yet we define how many individual events are allowed in a trials/finals format.

R15 **103.3** p.27

... all officials and meet personnel accepting an invitation to work at a swimming~~ing~~ meet should arrive promptly and report immediately to the meet director or meet referee.

Rationale: Most of us attend *swim* meets, not *swimming* meets.

- R16 **104.4.5** p.38
 ... This report shall include a complete financial report, copies of meet information, entry forms, heat sheets, ~~and~~ final results, and any other information that may be helpful to future meet directors.
- R17 **104.5.3C(3)** p.41
 ... Competitors may enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past 2 years ~~swum~~ achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying time for those events.
Rationale: You don't *swim* a time, you *achieve* it.
- R18 **104.5.4D** p.43
3. \$8 12 each for relays.
Rationale: Missed this change last year.
- R19 **104.5.10B** p. 45
B Officials - The minimum number of officials at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:
 One meet referee
 ...
 One safety marshall for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.
~~The referees, starters, and stroke and turn judges~~ All officials shall be certified by ...
Rationale: Timers, recall rope operators, and marshals are not considered officials. We changed this in article 103 for "regular" meets, but neglected to make the same change to the championship section. In addition, "marshals" has been misspelled all these years!
- R20 **105.1.2** p. 46
 ... These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation Committee chairman by June 30, October 20, and January 26, respectively.
Rationale: Correct terminology.
- R21 **105.4.2** p. 47
Relay Recognition - The registered USMS swimmers from each relay with the fastest listed ~~USMS Top Ten~~ time for that season shall be declared the Relay All-Americans in that event for the year.
Rationale: Eliminate excess verbiage and for conformity with 105.4.1.
- R22 **105.5** p. 47 **WORLD RECORDS** - Applications and documentation for world records (25 meter and 50 meter courses only) shall be supplied to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chairman as detailed in Appendix B (see also article 103.14.3). ~~Swimmers eligible for world records in older age groups than their current USMS age groups are responsible for informing the meet director of their eligibility.~~
Rationale: (a) Correct terminology. (b) We should tell people where the requirements for submitting world records are. (c) Delete last sentences because now that we've gone with the FINA racehorse rule, we no longer need this warning.
- R23 **106.2** p.47 **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT** - Meet directors are encouraged to investigate the use of appropriate emergency medical ~~technician~~ equipment and personnel for all meets.
Rationale: Unnecessary word. It's redundant to say "medical technician personnel."

The following were deemed to be housekeeping changes after amendment by the committee. Except where noted, they were submitted by the rule Book Committee.

- 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 may not qualify for USMS Top Ten and All-American awards, nor set USMS national records.

Rationale: The proposed change clarifies who “they” are as well as includes the current prohibition preventing non-USMS members from setting national records (see 105.3.1). This section is in the Championship portion of the rules and since readers of this section often expect it to be complete, the inference, by its absence, could incorrectly be made that non-USMS swimmers are allowed to break USMS national records.

The following proposals were deemed to be an emergency and are recommended for adoption by the House of Delegates.

R1A	103.11	p. 30 Rules (Replace current wording with the following)			
	Approve	Approve as Amended	Fail	Withdrawn	

. 5 Relay Take-Off Judges

- A Relay take-off judges shall be assigned by the Referee and shall stand so that they can clearly see both the touch of the incoming swimmer(s) and the feet of the departing swimmer(s) as they leave the starting platform, and shall judge whether the swimmer is in contact with the platform when the incoming swimmer touches the end of the pool.
- B If dual relay take-off judging is used, the lane and side take-off judges shall independently report infractions in writing without the use of the infraction hand signal. A relay will be disqualified only if the lane take-off judge has reported an infraction and the assigned side take-off judge has confirmed the same infraction.

Rationale: This change should have been made in 1995 when USA Swimming changed their rules to the above wording. The number of questions and concerns about the current wording has increased this year. Our current wording does not adequately define the procedures when dual confirmation is being used.

R4	104.5.5A	p. 43 Indiana			
	Approve	Approve as Amended	Fail	Withdrawn	

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..

R5	101.3 p. 16 Rules				
	Approve	Approve as Amended	Fail	Withdrawn	

- .2 Stroke**—After the start and after each turn, the swimmer’s shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast. One or more leg kicks are permitted, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface. From the beginning of the first arm pull, the swimmer’s shoulders shall be in line with the water surface. Both arms must be brought forward over the water and pulled back simultaneously...

Note: After the start and after each turn, only one breaststroke kick is allowed prior to the arm pull which brings the swimmer to the surface.

Rationale: While the rules already prohibit more than one kick prior to the first pull, there has been some confusion with the interpretation of our modification of the butterfly through the use of the breaststroke kick.

R6	104.5.4D1 p. 42 Championship				
	Approve	Approve as Amended	Fail	Withdrawn	

A \$2030 surcharge may be charged to be used by the meet sponsor to help pay meet expenses.

Rationale: Championship Committee believes that a major factor contributing to the lack of a reasonable number of Championship bids is the financial burden in hosting a National Championship meet. It is imperative that we rectify this situation if USMS desires to continue to have first class facilities host our championship meets. Several long course meet hosts have experienced financial difficulties with either very low profit margins or losses. We also have concern regarding our next long course host whose budget shows a loss and our next short course host who has stepped in at the last minute to host the meet but was unable to secure ideal dates without other conflicting meets, thereby possibly jeopardizing attendance.

R7	104.5.4A p.41 Championship				
	Approve	Approve as Amended	Fail	Withdrawn	

- 1. USMS Registration** - USMS individual ... ~~Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of the swimmer’s current USMS registration card.~~

Rationale: Championships will no longer be required to have a card copy for each swimmer due to the change in the USMS registration process at the national office. This will take effect for the 2000 nationals.

The following proposals were not deemed to be an emergency and no action is required of the House of Delegates.

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