

## **Instructions for Submitting Proposed Amendments to the USMS Rule Book**

The 2010 USMS convention is a “Rules” year, whereby the Rules and Long Distance Committees consider proposed amendments to the code. The Legislation and LMSC Development Committees will only consider emergency changes. Use the *Proposed Amendment to the USMS Rule Book* form following to submit proposed changes to any part of the rule book. Copy the form freely, and submit one change per form. You may submit proposals in electronic format as well, preferably using a popular word processing format (Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect). **The USMS standing committee chair must endorse your proposed amendments. If the proposal is from the LMSC, the LMSC chair’s endorsement indicates that the LMSC has approved submission of the proposal.**

### **Guidelines for Writing Proposed Rule Book Amendments**

1. List the current rule book reference number (article, section, and subsection numbers and letters).
2. List the affected page number(s).
3. List the LMSC or standing committee that will be submitting the proposal (example following).
4. Write the change as it will show if adopted. Strike through ~~existing text and punctuation~~ to be deleted. Insert and underline new text and punctuation as appropriate. Use correct spelling, grammar, and sentence structure. Pay attention to parallel sentence construction, keep verb tense in agreement, and maintain uniform singular or plural structure. If the existing language is lengthy and the proposed change affects only a small section, use an ellipsis (...) in place of unaffected text to simplify the redefinition.
5. Include a brief rationale for the amendment, describing the reasoning as to why the House of Delegates should consider this proposal.
6. Find all references in the rule book that may be affected by the proposal and indicate these as well.

It is wise to seek other voices and views by sharing the proposal with others who are well versed in the rule book and its change process before submitting it to the appropriate USMS committee.

### **Examples of Proposed Rules Changes**

#### **Example 1 (not adopted):**

102.2 p. 19 **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 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.

#### **Example 2 (adopted):**

102.5 p. 19 **Championship**

102.5 **Events**—In planning ... 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.

**Deadline—July 10, 2010**

## ***U.S. Masters Swimming***

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1. Proposed changes to geographic boundaries must be submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the LMSC Development Committee by February 1. Proposed changes to the USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition must be submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the Legislation, Long Distance or Rules Committee not later than July 10.

Submit proposed changes to Part 1 (Swimming Rules and the Glossary) to:

Kathrine Casey, Chair  
USMS Rules Committee  
11114 - 111<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Tacoma, WA, 98498-1331  
253-588-4879  
Rules@usms.org

Submit proposed changes to Part 3 (Long Distance Swimming Rules and the Glossary) to:

Heather Hagadorn, Chair  
USMS Long Distance Committee  
246 S. Ogden St.  
Denver, CO 80209  
303-744-6381  
LongDistance@usms.org

Submit emergency proposed changes to the code (Preamble, Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, Parts 2, 4, 5, and 6, and the Glossary) to:

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair  
USMS Legislation Committee  
847 Wildwood Rd NE  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
404-817-0889  
Legislation@usms.org

Submit emergency proposed changes to Appendix D (LMSC Boundaries) to:

Doug Adamavich, Chair  
USMS LMSC Development Committee  
1032 N. Alvaro  
Mesa, AZ 85205  
480-510-1224  
LMSCdevelopment@usms.org

## **Proposed Amendment to the USMS Rule Book**

Rule book reference number \_\_\_\_\_ page \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(proposals must be submitted by an LMSC or USMS committee)

Body of the text with deletions noted by ~~strikeout~~ and additions noted by underlining:

Brief Rationale:

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency (please include appropriate changes)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LMSC or USMS Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature