

## **RULES COMMITTEE POLICIES**

### **Decision Making Between Annual Meetings of the House of Delegates (other than as provided in 102.14.4, 102.14.5, 504.2.9, 506.3.9, 601.4.7, and 601.4.8):**

All decisions made by the Rules Committee between the annual meetings of the House of Delegates are made by majority vote or consensus of committee members through meetings by teleconference or electronic meetings. The Rules Committee seeks input and expertise from committees that are impacted by the Rules Committee's work:

Article 103: Officials Committee

Article 104: Championship Committee

Article 105: Records & Tabulation Committee

The Rules Committee also seeks expertise and input from committees that would be experts on a topic of consideration and also alerts those committees to topics that may need to be dealt with in their committee work:

Championship Committee for issues relating to national championship meets

History and Archives Committee for establishing history of USMS rules

Legislation Committee for issues relating to Part 1 rules

Long Distance Committee for issues related to Part 1 rules

Officials Committee for officiating issues

Open Water Committee for issues that parallel Part 1 rules

Records and Tabulation for issues relating to Top 10 and Records

Sports Medicine & Science Committee for medical and disability issues

### **Disability Resolutions:**

Policy for resolving disputed disability cases:

The chair will seek information from the officials involved, the swimmer, the swimmer's physician(s) and/or health care professional(s), and consult with several doctors and/or health care professionals on the Sports Medicine Committee without divulging the names of those involved. The chair may also consult with the previous USMS Rules Committee Chair and the USA-S Disability Swimming Chair. The chair will share decisions rendered with the Officials Committee Chair.

September 2007

### **Rules Liaison at National Championship Meets:**

The Rules Committee provides a Rules Liaison at each national championship meet (see "National Championship Rules Liaison Duties"). The Rules Liaison attends officials' briefing meetings prior to each session of the meet to answer any rules questions or speak to the differences in rules, if asked, and clarify interpretations of any rules that are clearly being misinterpreted. The text of the rule must be presented when clarifying any interpretations. The Rules Liaison also will confirm that a pool length certification is on file with USMS or USA Swimming and, if splits are to be automatically retrieved from the results of the meet, make sure that a generic split request form for "all swimmers" has been submitted (see "USMS Rules Interpretation, Automatic Report of All Splits from National Championship Meets").

### **Swimwear Exemption Procedures:**

Following are the procedures for applying for an exemption to Article 102.12.1C regarding swimsuit design for medical or religious reasons in accordance with 102.12.1C (1)

– (4):

1. Swimmers seeking exemptions to the USMS swimwear rules, article 102.12.1C, for medical or religious reasons shall submit a written request to the Chair of the USMS Rules Committee.
2. The written request shall include either:
  - A. a detailed description of the medical condition for which the exemption is requested including:
    - i. its impact on the swimmer's daily life and
    - ii. written confirmation from a licensed, practicing doctor/health professional,
  - or shall include:
  - B. the religious denomination and
    - i. a detailed description of the religious restrictions affecting the clothing of the swimmer,
    - ii. its impact on the swimmer's daily life, and
    - iii. a written testamentary from the ordained/certificated religious leader/professional regarding the daily clothing practices of the swimmer.
3. For medical requests, the chair will consult with several doctors and/or health care professionals on the Sports Medicine Committee or outside of the Sports Medicine Committee, if registered with USMS, without divulging the names of those involved.
4. For religious requests, the chair may consult with religious experts.
5. In both cases, the chair may seek further information from:
  - A. the swimmer,
  - B. the swimmer's physician(s) and/or health care professional(s),
  - C. the swimmer's religious leader/professionals,
  - D. religious experts,
  - E. coaches, or
  - F. officials involved in the case.
6. The chair may also consult with:
  - A. the previous USMS Rules Committee Chair,
  - B. the USA-S Disability Swimming Chair, or
  - C. other experts in the area of the requested exemption.
7. Exemptions will be granted only for swimwear design including additional coverage or a separate garment or prosthesis under the swimsuit. An exemption for a zipper or other

fastening device may be considered at the discretion of the Chair. A swimsuit or garment for which an exemption has been granted must be made from textile materials. No exemption will be allowed that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

8. All exemptions will be assigned an expiration date or permanent status at the discretion of the Chair. The exemption will include the notice of permanent status or the expiration date and the assigned deadline to apply for renewal of the exemption.
9. The chair may refer an exemption request to the USMS Rules Committee, as needed.
10. Notification:
  - A. The chair shall give the swimmer and others, as appropriate, written notice of the decision regarding the exemption request.
  - B. The chair will share decisions rendered with the Officials Committee Chair, as appropriate.
11. The swimmer is responsible for presenting a copy of the USMS exemption letter to the meet referee prior to the competition. The swimwear exemption letter presented to the meet referee at USMS-sanctioned meets must be that granted by USMS.

September 2012

### **Automatic Report of all Splits from National Championship Meets**

It is possible to search for and report all splits (except those from individual backstroke events and the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay) for official USMS times from a national championship meet if:

1. The technology is available to process splits automatically.
2. The officials agree to watch all relays for second swimmers starting in the water or from the edge of the pool if the tops of the touch pads are on the edge of the pool.
3. The meet host agrees to offer automatic recording of splits.
4. A written request for all splits for all swimmers, except for individual backstroke events and the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay, is submitted.
5. The head lane timer in each lane verifies that the name of the lead swimmer on the card is the first swimmer competing.

Note: No backstroke splits will be generated from individual events or from the 50 split of the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay unless a swimmer has submitted a written request for such a split prior to the swim, so officials can verify that there is a legal finish at the initial distance requested.

### **AUTOMATIC SPLIT TECHNOLOGY:**

Processing splits automatically is not a requirement for each national championship meet. It is an option. Walt Reid, USMS Records Administrator, has written a program that uses the Hy3 file from Hy-Tek to:

1. search all legitimate splits; except those from individual backstroke events, the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay, and DQs; for national records,

2. produce the official split times from the national championship meet in a USMS top ten format separate from that produced from the official results, and
3. submit the top 10 split times in each event for USMS Top 10 consideration.

**ADVANTAGES:**

The advantages of processing all splits except individual backstroke are:

1. It is easier to automatically process all splits rather than a select group of 100 or so from split requests.
2. Officials often find it easier to report all relays in which the second swimmer started in the water or from the edge of the pool, if the tops of the touch pads are on the edge of the pool, than to consciously watch only those relays that requested leadoff splits.
3. The automatic split program eliminates any DQs.

**RULES;** Regarding 103.13.1B and 105.2.2B & C:

There were three reasons for the USMS rules requiring all split requests in writing:

1. It is too much work to expect a meet director or top ten recorder to search **all** the splits from meet results for records and top ten times because it usually has to be done manually.
2. Relay split requests require the officials to watch those specific relays to make sure the second swimmer does not start in the water.
3. Individual backstroke split requests require officials to verify that the swimmer does a legal finish at the initial distance.

**POSSIBLE AUTOMATIC SPLITS:**

The splits that can be automatically searched and reported include all the “legal” splits from individual events, except backstroke, and from relays, except the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay.

For example from individual events:

The 1650 Free generates a 50 Free, 100 Free, 200 Free, 500 Free, and 1000 Free.

The 1000 Free generates a 50 Free, 100 Free, 200 Free, and 500 Free.

The 500 Free generates a 50 Free, 100 Free, and 200 Free.

The 100 Free, Breast, and Fly each generate a 50 split for each stroke.

The 200 Free, Breast, and Fly each generate a 50 and 100 split for each stroke.

The 200 IM generates a 50 Fly.

The 400 IM generates a 50 Fly and a 100 Fly.

And so on.

From relays:

The 200 Free Relay generates a leadoff 50 Free.

The 200 Medley Relay generates a leadoff 50 Back.

The 400 Free Relay generates a leadoff 50 Free and 100 Free.

The 400 Medley Relay generates a leadoff 100 Back.

The 800 Free Relay generates a leadoff 50 Free, 100 Free, and 200 Free.

**SPLIT REPORT:**

The type of split report can be agreed to by the meet host and Walt Reid, USMS Records Administrator. There are several options for split reports:

1. Split times that broke USMS and/or World records,
2. Split times to be submitted for USMS Top 10,
3. Split times that would have placed at nationals, or
4. All of the official split times.

#### **PREVIOUS AUTOMATIC SPLIT REPORTS:**

Walt Reid, USMS Records Administrator, has automatically processed reports of all splits for twelve championship meets:

1. FINA Worlds at Stanford (August, 2006)
2. SCY Nationals at Federal Way (May, 2007)
3. FINA Worlds at Perth (April, 2008)
4. SCY Nationals at Austin (May, 2008)
5. LC Nationals at Mt. Hood (August, 2008)
6. SCY Nationals at Clovis, CA (May, 2009)
7. LC Nationals at Indianapolis, IN (August, 2009)
8. SCY Nationals at Atlanta, GA (May, 2010)
9. FINA Worlds at Gothenburg, Sweden (August, 2010)
10. LC Nationals at Puerto Rico (August, 2010)
11. SC Nationals at Mesa, AZ (April-May, 2011)
12. LC Nationals at Auburn, Alabama (August 3 – 5, 2011)
13. SC Nationals at Greensboro, North Carolina (April 26 – 29, 2012)
14. LC Nationals at Omaha, Nebraska (July 5 – 8, 2012)

Note of interest:

There were no in-the-water starts for the second legs of relays at Federal Way, Austin, Mt. Hood, Greensboro, or Omaha.

#### **INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS:**

The following is suggested text for information about automatic splits to be published in the meet program and/or posted/distributed at the national championship meet (check with the Championship Liaison or Championship Committee Chair for final text):

“Split requests for Records or Top Ten are required for an initial distance of an individual backstroke event. The swimmer is responsible for picking up the Split Notification Form from the Administrative Referee, filling it out, and presenting it to the Administrative Referee prior to the swim. A split request for initial distances of all other individual events (excluding individual backstroke events) and for all relay leadoff splits has been submitted on behalf of all swimmers, and swimmers need not submit split requests for those events. Automatic split times will be submitted for USMS Top Ten, however automatic split times from individual events may not appear in the USMS event rankings database.”

If the 400 medley relay is offered, the suggested text below includes that information (check with the Championship Liaison or Championship Committee Chair for final text):

“Split requests for Records or Top Ten are required for an initial distance of an individual backstroke event and the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay. The swimmer is responsible for picking up the Split Notification Form from the Administrative Referee, filling it out, and presenting it to the Administrative Referee

prior to the swim. A split request for initial distances of all other individual events (excluding individual backstroke events) and for all relay leadoff splits (except the 50 split from the backstroke leg of the 400 medley relay) has been submitted on behalf of all swimmers, and swimmers need not submit split requests for those events. Automatic split times will be submitted for USMS Top Ten, however automatic split times from individual events may not appear in the USMS event rankings database.”

**If automatic splits are NOT offered at nationals:**

1. Each swimmer must submit split notification forms for each split desired from individual events prior to the conclusion of the meet (except individual backstroke events and relay events),
2. Each swimmer must submit split notification forms for each split desired from relay events prior to those relay swims, and
3. Each swimmer must submit split notification forms for each split desired from individual backstroke events prior to those swims.
4. Officials must look up split times by hand for the split request forms and watch specific relays for a second swimmer starting in the water.
5. The head lane timer in each lane must verify that the name of the lead swimmer on the card is actually the first swimmer competing.
6. A separate report of the requested splits must be included in the official meet results.

**CORRESPONDING INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS:**

When automatic splits are NOT offered, the following is suggested text for information about splits to be published in the meet program and/or posted/distributed at the national championship meet (check with the Championship Liaison or Championship Committee Chair for final text):

“For splits to count for records or top ten, you, the swimmer, are responsible to pick up a split notification form from the Clerk of the Meet, fill it out, present it to a referee and have him sign it prior to the conclusion of the meet. The request for relay leadoff split times and initial backstroke distance times in individual backstroke events must be made prior to the swim.”