
PART 6: AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 601: AMENDMENTS

601.1 COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

- 601.1.1 Executive Committee**—Proposed changes to all other sections of the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* shall be considered by the Executive Committee or committee designated by the president. Such proposals are not subject to the provisions of articles 601.2, 601.3, 601.4 and 601.5.
- 601.1.2 Legislation Committee**—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2: Administrative Regulations of Competition, Part 4: Athletes' Rights, Hearings and Appeals, Part 5: United States Masters Swimming Inc.: Organization and Bylaws, and Part 6: Amendment Procedures) shall be considered by the Legislation Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.3 LMSC Development Committee**—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries) shall be considered by the LMSC Development Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.4 Long Distance Committee**—Proposed changes to Part 3: Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules and the Glossary shall be considered by the Long Distance Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.5 Rules Committee**—Proposed changes to Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary shall be considered by the Rules Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.

601.2 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 601.2.1 Authorization**—Changes to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* may be proposed only by an LMSC, a standing committee of the House of Delegates, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.
- 601.2.2 Format**—Proposed changes shall be in such form as to show the section as it will read if adopted, with any changes in language underlined if new and lined out if deleted.
- 601.2.3 Submission Deadline**—The deadline for changes submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the LMSC Development Committee is February 1. Proposed changes to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* by an LMSC must be submitted to the chair of the Legislation, Long Distance or Rules Committee not later than July 10 to be considered as described in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2 and 601.4.3. The Board of Directors, Executive Committee or standing committees of the House of Delegates, may propose changes to the USMS code after July 10. Such proposed changes shall be

considered by the committee of jurisdiction as emergency amendments as described in article 601.4.6, unless the committee of jurisdiction determines by two-thirds vote that the proposed changes should not be considered as emergency amendments. Such proposed changes will be amended in accordance with the voting requirements in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2 or 601.4.3, as applicable.

601.2.4 Publication of Proposed Amendments—All proposed changes shall be published and distributed to each LMSC and each member of the House of Delegates not later than August 15.

601.3 MODIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments may be modified in any manner by the Legislation, LMSC Development, Long Distance or Rules Committee, where appropriate, while under consideration by said committee. Such modification must be germane to the subject matter and intent of the proposed change.

601.4 ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* may only be altered, amended, repealed or otherwise changed at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates and only as follows:

601.4.1 Rules—In even-numbered years, Part 1 and the Glossary may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the Rules Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the Rules Committee.

601.4.2 Long Distance—In even-numbered years, Part 3 and the Glossary may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the Long Distance Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the Long Distance Committee.

601.4.3 Legislation—In odd-numbered years, the Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2, Part 4, Part 5 and Part 6 may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the Legislation Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the Legislation Committee.

601.4.4 LMSC Development—In odd-numbered years, Appendix D may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the LMSC Development Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the LMSC Development Committee.

601.4.5 Proposed Amendments Requiring Action of More Than One Committee—In any year, proposed amendments to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* that fall within more than one jurisdiction, as

described in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2, 601.4.3 and 601.4.4, may be submitted as an indivisible package to be considered by the House of Delegates, subject to the following:

- A** Each and every committee under whose jurisdiction the amendment proposals fall votes by a two-thirds majority to accept the proposed amendments as a package to be considered in the whole.
- B** If the conditions of article 601.4.5A are met, the indivisible package may be approved by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if recommended by all committees with jurisdiction, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the indivisible package fails to receive the recommendation of all committees with jurisdiction.

601.4.6 Emergency Amendments—Emergency amendments (amendments not submitted in conformity with articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2 and 601.4.3) may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if they are properly submitted to, deemed an emergency by and recommended by the appropriate governing committee as defined in article 601.1.

601.4.7 USA Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules

A Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, “Individual Strokes and Relays,” 102, “Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition,” and 105, “Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USA Swimming Meets,” shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments. Votes to reject shall not be considered emergency amendments. Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the House of Delegates. Votes to accept shall not be considered emergency amendments.

B If amendments to USA Swimming articles 101 and 102 are adopted between the annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall automatically be adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

601.4.8 FINA Masters Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules—If amendments to the FINA Masters Technical Rules are adopted between the annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

601.5 EFFECTIVE DATE

Unless otherwise specified, all changes approved as prescribed shall become effective on January 1 of the year following their adoption.

Summary of Amendment Procedures		
	Even Years	Odd Years
Rules (Part 1 and Glossary)		
If recommended by committee	Majority	*
If NOT recommended by committee	2/3	
Long Distance (Part 3 and Glossary)		
If recommended by committee	Majority	*
If NOT recommended by committee	2/3	
Legislation (Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2, Part 4, Part 5 and Part 6)		
If recommended by committee	*	Majority
If NOT recommended by committee		2/3
LMSC Development (Appendix D)		
If recommended by committee	*	Majority
If NOT recommended by committee		2/3
* Emergency Amendments: by a 9/10 vote ONLY if properly submitted to, deemed an emergency by, and recommended by the appropriate committee.		