

**2019 FINAL REPORT  
CHANGES TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART 1 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. The House of Delegates considered these amendments and the final disposition is noted.

Amendments which are adopted by the House of Delegates take affect January 1, 2020.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Final Action</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-1</u></a>	102.9	Failure to comply with rules regarding relay entries results in no consideration for records or top 10.	<b>Defeated</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-2</u></a>	102.9 104.5.4	Clarify rules regarding relay entries for both national championship meets and other sanctioned meets.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-3</u></a>	102.12.1	Rewrite the swimwear rules to include FINA guidelines.	<b>Defeated</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-4</u></a>	102.12.1	Clarify the prohibition of fasteners and ties in swimwear per FINA specifications.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-5</u></a>	103.3	Clarify organizations for qualification of officials.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-6</u></a>	104.3.4	Change bid deadline for national championship meets.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-7</u></a>	104.5.1B	Update language for consistency in national championship information.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-8</u></a>	104.5.3C	Modify options for requiring national qualifying times in distance events at national championship meets.	<b>Defeated</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-9</u></a>	104.5.4	Clarify the term “foreign swimmers” with respect to national championships.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-10</u></a>	106.4 106.13.2	Move requirement for 15-meter marks on the deck to a different article for greater clarity.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-11</u></a>	106.2.1	Clarify requirement that the length of the course must not be less than the minimum when touchpads are in place.	<b>Adopted</b>

### Housekeeping Amendments

<a href="#"><u>HK-1</u></a>	102.13.10	Change made in 2019 is needed in an additional section for consistency.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>HK-2</u></a>	103.8.5	Change made previously is needed in an additional section for consistency.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>HK-3</u></a>	103.18.1	Correct formatting.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>HK-4</u></a>	104.5.5	Correct language.	<b>Adopted</b>

### Pending USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS Rules

<b>Number</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Final Action</b>
<a href="#"><u>U-1</u></a>	103.8.6	Clarify wording on activation of recall signal at the start.	<b>Adopted</b>
<a href="#"><u>U-2</u></a>	103.18.1	Clarify that a relay team must be composed of four eligible members in order for a relay leadoff split to count for official purposes.	<b>Defeated</b>

## ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART ONE

**R-2 102.9 and 104.5.4** Rules Committee pages 9 and 35 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended as Amended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

*Articles 102.9.1 through Articles 102.9.4 are unchanged.*

**102.9.5** On the relay ~~card~~entry, relay teams must list the name of the club, ~~the each swimmer's~~ full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), ~~the~~ age, and for mixed relays, ~~the~~ gender ~~of each relay member~~. The name of the leadoff swimmer must be clearly designated. ~~The meet director is responsible for establishing procedures to verify compliance with this provision for all relay entries. At the meet director's discretion, the club may be afforded an opportunity to correct administrative errors discovered prior to the conduct of the event. Otherwise, non-compliant entries shall be removed from the event results.~~ The meet director shall establish a procedure that ensures entries are compliant with this provision prior to the start of the event.

**102.9.6** First and last names of eligible relay swimmers, their ages, and order of swimming shall be submitted to the clerk of course or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer prior to the start of the relay heat in which such relay team is entered. No changes will be permitted thereafter. ~~The meet referee is responsible for establishing procedures to verify compliance with this provision both prior to conduct of the event and in the administrative processing of meet results. Non-compliant entries shall be removed from the event results.~~ The meet referee is responsible for instructing the officials to ensure compliance with provisions of this article.

*Articles 102.9.7 through 102.8.9 are unchanged.*

*Add the following new article.*

**102.9.10** For National Championship relay entries, see article 104.5.4B(7).

**104.5.4 Entry Procedures**

*Section A is unchanged.*

### **B Entry Form Entries**

*Sections (1) through (6) are unchanged.*

**(7) Relay Cards**—~~On the relay card~~At the time of relay entry submission, relay teams must list the name of the club and each swimmer's ~~and the~~ full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), ~~and the~~ age, and for mixed relays, ~~gender of each relay member~~. Following relay submissions, no changes in the

age group or seed time are permitted. Changes in the order of swimming after submission of the relay entry must comply with article 102.9.6 or the relay entry will be removed from the event.

**Rationale:** Some confusion in the relay entry procedures have been noted in recent championship meets. Additionally, errors have been discovered in the post-processing of meet results or in the submission of records and top 10 times. This amendment clarifies the relay entry provisions for both national championships meets and other sanctioned meets.

**Note:** Amended from the original version drafted by the rules committee to clarify language.

**R-4 102.12.1** Rules Committee page 14 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

## 102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

### 102.12.1 Design

- D** Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition. Note: FINA specifications prohibit any zippers, ties, or any other fastener systems with the exception of a waist tie.

**Rationale:** Adds a note to address a common question from meet officials. The prohibition of zippers, ties, and other fasteners appears in the FINA swimwear specifications and not readily available for swimmers, coaches, and officials to reference at meets.

**R-5 103.3** Rules Committee page 18 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

## 103.3 Qualification of Officials

**103.3.1** Referees shall be certified in this capacity by a USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B), as defined by the USMS Officials Committee. Starters or stroke and turn judges certified by one of these bodies may serve as referees if they receive training on specific duties of the referee.

**103.3.2** Starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in said capacities by a USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B), as defined by the USMS Officials Committee. However, uncertified officials may perform the duties of such positions if they receive training in the specified duties of their positions and are under the direct supervision of a certified official.

**Rationale:** Correct oversight from 2018 when this information was deleted from Appendix B. The rules committee chair issued an official interpretation in January 2019 defining “USMS-approved certifying body” as USMS, USA Swimming, YMCA, NCAA, and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). Subsequent policies approved by the officials committee and ratified by the USMS House of Delegates may supersede this interpretation.

**R-6 104.3.4** Championship Committee page 32 modify

<b>Committee Action: Recommended</b> <b>HOD Action: Adopted</b>
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**104.3.4 Bid Deadline**—All bids for a national championship meet shall be submitted to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than ~~June 1~~May 1 (or the next business day if ~~June 1~~May 1 falls on a Sunday). If no timely certifiable bid is received, the Championship Committee shall continue to solicit bids.

**Rationale:** This change in the timing provides (1) additional time for the Championship Committee to review and award national championship meets and (2) provides the National Office additional time to negotiate with hosts prior to convention. Assuming the contract is finalized and signed prior to convention, it allows future meets to be formally announced at convention.

**R-7 104.5.1B** Rules Committee page 33 modify

<b>Committee Action: Recommended</b> <b>HOD Action: Adopted</b>
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#### **104.5.1 Information for Participants**

**B Heat sheets**—For preseeded events, heat sheets listing the name, age, club, seed time, and heat and lane assignments shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of ~~registration~~ check-in. For deck-seeded events, entry lists with the name, age, club, and time, by time or age group, except relays, shall be made available to all swimmers at the time of ~~registration~~ check-in. If instead the host chooses to make heat sheets available for deck-seeded events, then the heat sheets for each day, except relays, shall be made available in the morning before those events are swum.

**Rationale:** Updates terminology for current use. The term “register” is defined in the glossary as “to enroll a member of USMS”.

**R-9 104.5.4** Rules Committee page 35 modify

<b>Committee Action: Recommended as Amended</b> <b>HOD Action: Adopted</b>
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#### **104.5.4 Entry Procedures**

##### **A Eligibility/affiliation**

(section (1) is unchanged)

(2) **Foreign swimmers**—~~National championship meets shall include and welcome foreign Masters swimmers, who are members of other Federations shall be permitted to participate in National championship meets. Swimmers who enter and participate as members of other Federations except that they~~ may not qualify for USMS Top 10 and All-American awards nor set USMS records.

**Rationale:** Clarify the meaning of “foreign swimmers” in conformance with the Glossary definition of the term.

**Note:** The committee amended the original version for further clarity of terms and to make clear the distinction between swimmers who enter as members of other federations (e.g., not USMS) and swimmers who enter as USMS members who may or may not also be from other countries.

**Note:** Also add p. 57 to the index entry for “foreign swimmer”.

**R-10 106.4 and 106.13.2** Rules Committee pages 45 and 47 add and modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

## 106.4 Pool and Bulkhead Markings

*Articles 106.4.1 through 106.4.3 are unchanged. Add new 106.4.4*

**106.4.4 15-meter marks--** Fixed distinctive marks shall be placed on either the pool wall or deck surface adjacent to any outside lane at a distance of 15 meters from each end wall of the course. These marks should also be used to correctly align the distinctive floats on the lane dividers, but the fixed marks on the deck or walls take precedence for judging. [M]

## 106.13 Floating Lane Dividers and Marking

**106.13.2 Size, Color, and Safety--**Dividers shall consist of contiguous floats having a minimum diameter of 5 centimeters (2 inches) to a maximum diameter of 15 centimeters (6 inches). The color of the floats extending from the walls the distance of 5 meters (16 feet, 6 inches) for long course and short course meters, and 15 feet for short course yards, shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. Distinctive colored floats, or markers extending around the full circumference of the floats, shall be placed at 15 meters (49 feet, 2½ inches) from each end wall in both short course and long course pools. ~~Fixed distinctive marks shall be placed on either the pool wall or deck surface adjacent to any outside lane at a distance of 15 meters from each end wall of the course. These marks should also be used to correctly align the distinctive floats on the lane dividers, but the fixed marks on the deck or walls take precedence for judging.~~ Damaged or broken floats shall be removed and/or replaced to the extent possible. [M]

**Rationale:** Moves the provision for fixed marks on the deck (added in 2019) to a more logical location for clarity. Note: USA Swimming is adopting the same change as a housekeeping amendment.

**R-11 106.2.1** Rules Committee page 44 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

## 106.2 Racing Course Dimensions

### 106.2.1 Length

**D Touchpads**—When automatic officiating touchpads are used ~~as part of an automatic timing system at one or both ends of the course, the thickness of these pads shall not cause the length of the racing course in any lane to fall below the minimum required length~~the length of the course with the touchpads in place shall not be less than the required minimum. [M~~±~~]

**Rationale:** Clarifies that when automatic touchpads are used, the times may not be used for official purposes if the length of the course is reduced below the minimum required length because of the thickness of the touch pads. The updated wording conforms to the corresponding USA Swimming rule.

### ADOPTED HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments are recommended to the House of Delegates by the Rules Committee and require a simple majority vote to be adopted.

**HK-1 102.13.10** Rules Committee page 15 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

**102.13.10** No swimmers ~~are~~is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neoprene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

**Rationale:** Correct oversight. Article 102.12.1E was modified in the 2019 rule book, but we failed to modify article 102.13.10 with the same language for consistency.

**HK-2 103.8.5** Rules Committee page 20 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

Modify 101.1.1 for consistency (get rid of the comma after platform).

### 103.8.5 Start Commands

- A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they may take and maintain their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck, or in the water, and remain there (article 101.1.1). ~~Swimmers-Each swimmer~~ starting in the water must take ~~their~~ the positions on the wall with at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and one foot in contact with the wall. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee's first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall take their positions on the wall without undue delay (article 101.1.2).

*(Paragraph B is unchanged)*

- C On the starter's command, "Take your mark," each swimmer shall immediately assume ~~a-the~~ starting position that maintains at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or ~~at the front of the pool~~-deck. ~~A-Each~~ swimmer starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and at least one foot on the wall ~~and at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform~~. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

**Rationale:** Correct oversight. Article 101.1.1 was modified previously. The rules for start commands are duplicated in article 103.8.5 since this article covers the duties of the starter. The previous modifications to article 101.1.1 were not extended to article 103.8.5 for consistency.

**HK-3 103.18.1** Rules Committee page 27 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

### 103.18 Official Time

**103.18.1** An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1G~~(+)~~[1] and 202.2.1E). It may be achieved in:

**Rationale:** Use brackets inside parentheses rather than another set of parentheses.

**HK-4 104.5.5** Rules Committee page 36 modify

**Committee Action: Recommended**

**HOD Action: Adopted**

### 104.5.5 Seeding

A General Principles for seeding (also see article 102.10)

*(Paragraphs 1-7 are unchanged)*

- (8) At the discretion of the Championship Committee, a swimmers whose entry times will inordinately delay the progress of the meet may be seeded individually in an outside lane with manual timing, thus allowing the continued sequence of the regularly scheduled heats, unless the meet referee concurs that the swimmer has the potential to break a USMS or world record(s).

**Rationale:** Grammatically correct language (avoids mixing singular and plural in the same paragraph).

### DEFEATED

R-1 102.9 Indiana LMSC page 9 modify

**Committee Action: Not Recommended**

**HOD Action: Defeated**

### 102.9 Relays

**102.9.5** On the relay card, relay teams must list the name of the club, the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and for mixed relays, the gender of each relay member. The name of the leadoff swimmer must be clearly designated (penalty for violation: the leadoff split time and the relay time shall not be submitted for USMS Top 10 and record consideration).

**102.9.6** First and last names of eligible relay swimmers, their ages, and order of swimming shall be submitted to the clerk of course or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer prior to the start of the relay heat in which such relay team is entered-, and ~~No~~-no changes will be permitted thereafter. (Penalty: the relay time shall not be submitted for USMS Top 10 and record consideration.)

**Rationale:** DQs for a swimmer-name or order-of-swimming violation can happen hours or days later. This change would allow a relay team to keep the place, points, and award earned at a meet if the order of swimmers or the names were not accurate, but the relay time and the leadoff split time would not be submitted for USMS Top 10 and record consideration. If we wait to have the changes submitted before each heat, it may delay the meet. Make the deadline the start of the event.

**Rationale for Committee Recommendation:** The committee feels that the penalty for non-compliance with these administrative requirements should remain disqualification or removal of the relay team from the event. This proposal would relax the current penalty to the point where the result would be only exclusion from USMS record or top ten consideration. The committee vote was unanimous (0-12).

**R-3 102.12.1 San Diego-Imperial LMSC pages 14-15 modify**

**Committee Action: Not Recommended**

**HOD Action: Defeated**

## **102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition**

### **102.12.2 Design**

~~A The swimsuits worn for competition shall be nontransparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The referee shall have authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.~~

~~Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, no more than two caps, and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.~~

~~In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor extend below the knees.~~

~~Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs, verified medical conditions, or other reasons as deemed appropriate by the chair of the Rules Committee.~~

~~Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the USMS website.~~

~~No exemption to these restrictions will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.~~

~~The decision of the Rules Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.~~

~~Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized competition.~~

~~No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neo prene caps, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.~~

A Swimsuit shall include only one swimsuit, no more than two caps, and goggles. A nose clip and ear plugs are allowed. Swimwear shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the sports discipline. Swimwear shall not carry any symbol which may be considered offensive.

B Swimsuits worn in USMS-sanctioned or recognized competitions shall comply with FINA specifications, including:

- (1) Being non-transparent and made from textile materials.
- (2) Being in one piece for men and in one or two pieces for women.
- (3) Having no armbands or legbands.
- (4) For men, not extending above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, not covering the neck, nor extending past the shoulder, nor extending below knee.
- (5) Not using zippers or other fastening systems. Waist ties are permitted. Women's one and two-piece swimsuits that tie in the back are prohibited.

C The referee shall have the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimwear does not comply with 102.12.1 (A) and (B).

D Exemptions to swimwear restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case-by-case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions may be granted for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs, verified medical conditions, or other reasons as deemed appropriate by the chair of the Rules Committee.

- (1) Procedures for applying for an exemption shall be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the USMS website.
- (2) No exemption to these restrictions shall be granted for a swimsuit that will give a swimmer a competitive advantage.
- (3) The decision of the Rules Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neoprene caps, etc.). Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

**Rationale:** The major criteria for determining if a swimsuit is FINA-approved are currently not clear. Language was added and the section reorganized. (Revision of this section was prompted by a meet situation where clarification was sought on the legality of a woman's swimsuit with ties in the back. The rulebook did not clarify, and web access to FINA rules was not available on deck.)

**Rationale for Not Recommend:** The committee feels that it would be impractical to include all of the FINA guidelines in code. Moreover, some of the language of the FINA guidelines would make part one inconsistent with open water swimwear restrictions in part three and would make USMS wording inconsistent with USA Swimming wording. The only systemic issue appears to be questions regarding suits with ties. The committee recommends R-4 as a simpler way of clarifying the FINA requirements for fasteners and ties in swimwear.

**R-8 104.5.3C** Championship Committee page 34 modify

**Committee Action: Not Recommended**

**HOD Action: Defeated**

### 104.5.3 Event Limit

*(Paragraphs A and B are unchanged)*

- C National ~~Q~~qualifying times**—There shall be qualifying times for national championship meets unless otherwise determined by the Championship Committee. The procedure for determining the qualification times shall be established by the Championship Committee with the approval of the House of Delegates.

*(104.5.3C[1] is unchanged)*

- (2) **Event limit**—When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying times. Competitors may also enter up to three additional events (or two if the maximum event limit is five) in which they have in the past two years achieved a time equal to or better than the qualifying times for those events. The Championship Committee may choose to specify one or more of the following entry limitations for the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 freestyle:
- (a) Each competitor may enter only one of these events.
  - (b) Each competitor may enter both of these events.

~~(e) Only competitors who meet the qualifying times in both events may enter both events.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) One or both of these events may be restricted to only competitors who meet the qualifying times in ~~that~~ these events.

**Rationale:** Occasionally national meet timelines for the two longest distance events are almost too long to fit into a day in an 8 lane pool with one course. This rule change would allow an option to restrict the 3 event non-NQT events to not include the two longer events. This will assist with keeping timelines more palatable, especially in long course pools, when competition lanes are scarce. The intent would be to only implement this for those meets with a high number of entries and limited lanes for competition.

**Note:** The rules committee originally recommended R-8 prior to convention. During convention, the committee voted to reconsider R-8 and, after further discussion, voted (5-7) not to recommend R-8 to the House of Delegates. At the time of initial consideration, some committee members did not feel they understood the intent of the proposal. The committee also took into account additional comments from delegates during convention.

## USA SWIMMING AMMENDMENTS THAT AFFECT USMS RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.7, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments.

### ADOPTED CHANGES TO PART ONE

The following amendments were adopted by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and were then considered by the USMS House of Delegates.

U-1 103.8.6 page 21 Modify

<b>Committee Action: Recommended</b> <b>HOD Action: Adopted</b>
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#### **103.8.6 False Starts**

*Paragraphs A and B are unchanged.*

- C If the recall signal is activated ~~inadvertently~~, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee.

**Rationale:** To eliminate confusing language. It does not matter if the recall signal is activated intentionally or inadvertently.

## DEFEATED

U-2 103.18.1 (and 105.2.2 for consistency) pages 27 and 42 Modify

**Committee Action: Not Recommended**

**HOD Action: Defeated**

### 103.18 Official Time

**103.18.1** An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1G(1) and 202.2.1E). It may be achieved in:

A Any timed heat.

B An initial distance within a longer event or relay, provided the swimmer:

- (1) Notifies the meet referee in writing of the intent to record an initial split time prior to the conclusion of the meet,
- (2) Makes the written request prior to the swim for relay leadoff splits and for initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events,
- (3) Completes the initial distance with a legal finish, and
- (4) Completes the event without being disqualified.

C A relay leadoff leg, provided:

- (1) the second swimmer does not start in the water when automatic timing is used,
- (2) the second swimmer does not invalidate the pad touch by standing on an active touchpad at the exchange if starting from the deck when automatic timing is used, ~~and~~
- (3) the relay is swum by four eligible relay members, and that the leadoff swimmer completes the initial distance swimmers complete the event without being disqualified. (Note: A swimmer's leadoff time shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of the second, third, or fourth relay team member.)

**The following sections may also need modification for consistency.**

**105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:**

A The time meets the requirements for an official time,

- B** In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the conclusion of the meet. A written request is not required for individual events (other than backstroke) in national championship meets or other meets, in accordance with article 103.18.2, when the meet referee has approved automatic splits.
- C** In a relay event or in an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought to the attention of the meet referee in writing prior to the swim. A written request is not required for relay leadoff splits (other than initial splits within a backstroke leadoff distance) in national championship meets or other meets, in accordance with article 103.18.2, when the meet referee has approved automatic splits.
- D** The swimmer(s) completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.
- E** For a relay leadoff split time, the first swimmer completes the initial distance as part of a legally composed relay team and the second swimmer does not start in the water when automatic timing is used. Should the first swimmer complete the initial distance without disqualification, the leadoff split shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of the second, third, or fourth relay team member.
- F** In nonconforming individual or relay events, the initial distance corresponds to an event listed in article 102.5. The relay event itself and the individual event itself need not conform to article 102.5 as long as the distance and stroke are clearly defined.

**Note that we also have the following provision for USMS records that would allow for consistency:**

**105.3.7** Split times shall be considered for USMS records if:

- A** They are recorded by automatic timing equipment.
- B** They meet the requirements of articles 105.2.2B–F.

**Rationale:** USA Swimming rules permit relay leadoff splits to be accepted for official purposes even if the second, third, or fourth swimmer is disqualified for a stroke or turn infraction or an early takeoff. USMS rules do not permit relay takeoff splits to be accepted for official purposes if there is a subsequent disqualification. This amendment to USA Swimming rules is only intended to clarify that the relay team must be comprised of four eligible swimmers in order for the split to be accepted. Adoption of the USA Swimming amendment into USMS rules would effectively change the USMS rule to permit the relay split to be accepted even in the event of a subsequent disqualification.

**Rationale for Not Recommend:** The committee feels that the existing rule should remain in place. Relay leadoff splits should not count unless the entire relay is completed with no infractions.

**INFORMATIONAL NOTES REGARDING USA SWIMMING AMENDMENTS**

USA Swimming adopted a change to clarify the prohibition of therapeutic elastic tape in USA Swimming article 102.8.1. The updated wording is identical to USMS article 102.12.1E, so no action is needed.

**Pursuant to USMS article 601.4.7, changes USA Swimming article 103 (facilities standards) may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.**

USA Swimming adopted a housekeeping change to article 103 is identical to R-10. No action is needed.

**MODIFICATIONS TO APPENDIX B THAT REQUIRE NO FURTHER CONCURRENCE**

<b>Swimwear</b> 102.12.1C 102.12.1E 102.13.10	<i>No Difference</i>	Swimwear may be in one or two pieces. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of <del>type-tape</del> on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.
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