

HOUSE OF DELEGATES VERSION SEPTEMBER 2020
TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to by the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7.

Comments are invited from delegates at the annual meeting on all proposed amendments. The committee may entertain motions to reconsider at the annual meeting in order to accommodate comments from delegates and additional actions before presentation to the House of Delegates.

Amendments which are recommended by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt. Amendments which are not recommended by the committee require a 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Changes from the August pre-convention version are highlighted in yellow.

Color Key:

Black: 2020 Rule Book text

Green: Changes recommended by Long Distance Committee prior to August 1, 2020

Blue: Amendments approved by the Long Distance Committee after August 1, 2020

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
LD-1	301.2	Remove specific “Open Water Guide to Operations” and “Postal Guide to Operations” document names	Recommended
LD-2	302.2.1C	Adjust language pertaining to removing hazards on the course	Recommended as Amended
LD-3	302.3B	Remove requirement for recertification of permanent cable courses	Recommended
LD-4	302.4.2, 302.4.3, 307.11.1	Explicitly allows ties in open water relays and for Long Distance All-American honors	Recommended
LD-5	303.4.2A	Clarify that Category I swim caps may have a chin strap	Recommended
LD-6	303.7.3	Remove requirement for tenths and hundredths in non-cable open water times	Recommended as Amended
LD-7	303.10.3A	Change to whom requests for disability accommodations are made & change "athlete" to "swimmer"	Recommended as Amended
LD-8	305.3.1	Remove conflict with 307.2	Recommended
LD-9	306.3	Define and clarify officials’ duties for Postal events	Recommended as Amended
LD-10	307.8.1 307.8.2	Change information required in results of LD National Championships	Recommended as Amended
LD-11	308.1.1, 308.1.2	Explicitly state who/how to set a USMS LD record & renumber following sections	Recommended as Amended
LD-12	308.1.3	Clarify timing precision for USMS LD records	Recommended as Amended

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Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
LD-13	308.1.4 308.1.5	Specify requirements for Cable and Postal swim records	Recommended as Amended
LD-14	Glossary	Modify definition of Event Director and define Event Host	Withdrawn
LDHK-1	301.1.1	HK; correct internal reference	Recommended
LDHK-2	302.2.2A	HK; update temperature formatting and add missing hyphens	Recommended as Amended
LDHK-3	302.2.3.B(1)	HK; add leading zero	Recommended as Amended
LDHK-4	303.2.3B	HK; add missing word “with”	Recommended
LDHK-5	303.3.1B(1)	HK; add missing period	Recommended
LDHK-6	303.5.2	HK; fix awkward phrasing	Recommended
LDHK-7	303.8.1	HK; eliminate unnecessary word “the”	Recommended
LDHK-8	303.9.2- 303.9.5	HK; move current 303.9.4 to 303.9.2 and renumber and change reference due to reordering above	Recommended
LDHK-9	305.2	HK; add “of” and “a”	Recommended as Amended
LDHK-10	305.3.3	HK; fix awkward phrasing and provide parallel construction to 305.3.2	Recommended
LDHK-11	306.1	HK; specify that postal swims are also subject to article 305	Recommended
LDHK-12	306.11.1 306.11.2	HK; provide parallel construction with other articles and proposed articles in Part 3	Recommended
LDHK-13	307.2.2	HK; fix grammar and punctuation	Recommended as Amended
LDHK-14	307.2.3E	HK; fix a typo, “swimt”	Recommended
LDHK-15	307.3.4	HK; update National Championship Bid Rotation Table	Recommended as Amended
LDHK-16	307.7.4A	HK; provide parallel structure within article 307.7.4	Recommended
LDHK-17	307.7.5	HK; provide parallel structure with 307.7.6	Recommended
LDHK-18	307.7.6B	HK; remove unnecessary comma	Recommended
LDHK-19	307.7.7A	HK; remove unnecessary comma	Recommended
LDHK-20	307.9	HK; parallel structure within article 307.9	Recommended
LDHK-21	307.9.1A	HK; remove extraneous word “swim”	Recommended
LDHK-22	307.9.1B	HK; clarify that only individual swims are included in Postal club scoring	Recommended
LDHK-23	307.10.1	HK; match word order to the rest of article 307.10	Recommended
LDHK-24	307.11.2	HK; clarity and parallel construction with article 307.11.1	Recommended
LDHK-25	307.12.3	HK; change “long distance” to “postal” to match 307.12.1	Recommended
LDHK-26	308	HK; add “USMS” to article title	Recommended

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted by the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2021.

RECOMMENDED and RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

LD-1 301.2 Long Distance Committee p. 65 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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301.2.1 Open Water Guide to Operations—The Open Water Committee shall develop and maintain ~~the Open Water Guide to Operations~~ a guide for conducting open water events for the use of USMS open water officials and event hosts. The guide shall contain the governing policies, management of rules, and links to education applying to open water swims.

301.2.2 Postal Guide to Operations—The Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a USMS Postal Guide to Operations guide for conducting postal events. The guide shall contain the manner of implementation, governing policies, and management of the rules applying to postal swims.

Rationale: Maintain the requirement for a guide without explicitly calling out the name to provide flexibility. Also add missing word in 301.2.1.

LD-2 302.2.1C Long Distance Committee p. 66 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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The event host ~~should~~ shall eliminate known hazards on the course wherever ~~possible~~ feasible. Known hazards that cannot be eliminated shall be marked and reported to all participants.

Rationale: Provides stronger language that parallels the style of the rest of Part 3 without placing undue burden on event hosts.

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to provide greater flexibility by replacing “possible” with “feasible.”

LD-3 302.3B Long Distance Committee p. 67 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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The course shall be certified by a licensed surveyor before initial use and every year if the turning points are not permanent and every five years if they are. For permanent courses, certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since the original certification.

Rationale: USMS does not require continuing measurement for permanent non-bulkhead pools (refer to article 105.1.6C). Hiring surveyors to remeasure existing permanent courses on a periodic basis is expensive and thus another barrier to building permanent cable courses. Using language found in article 105.1.6C, this proposal seeks to remedy this requirement.

LD-4 302.4.2, 302.4.3, & 307.11.1 Long Distance Committee p. 67, 83 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.4.2 Time/Distance Basis—A specified number of swimmers on each relay shall be considered in the computations for club scoring. The relay whose specified number of swimmers has the lowest cumulative time or the greatest cumulative distance shall be declared the winner. A similar method shall be used to determine second, third, and subsequent places. Ties shall be allowed.

302.4.3 Point Basis—Points are awarded on the basis of overall finishing position, with one point for first place, two points for second place, etc. The points of specified relay members are added, and the lowest cumulative score determines the winning relay; the second lowest score, the second place, etc. Ties shall be allowed.

307.11.1 The highest placing USMS member in each age group of each individual open water and long distance pool national championship event shall qualify as a USMS Long Distance All-American for the calendar year in which the event was conducted. Ties shall be allowed.

Rationale: Although we have always assumed that ties would be honored, it has not been stated here before. This proposal corrects that omission.

LD-5 303.4.2A Long Distance Committee p. 70 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap or caps (including those made of neoprene when the water temperature is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit), and goggles. Swim caps shall be defined as head gear conforming to a traditional swim cap design, may have a chin strap, and shall not extend to protect the neck and/or shoulders. Nose clips, ear plugs, and wristwatches are also allowed.

Rationale: There has been some confusion about whether chin straps protect necks and shoulders, or simply hold caps on heads. This proposal clarifies the intent of the rule.

LD-6 303.7.3 Long Distance Committee p. 72 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Final Time—For cable swims, wWhen a final time has been submitted to the nearest second, 0.99 second shall be added to the time submitted. When a final time has been submitted to the nearest tenth of a second, 0.09 shall be added to the time submitted. For other open water swims, this timing adjustment is not required.

Rationale: USMS cable swim records are kept to the one-hundredth of a second (see article 308.1.2) so cable swim event directors are strongly encouraged to time all swimmers to the one-hundredth of a second to avoid having a potential record being erased in the rounding up. USMS records are not kept in other open water events, so reporting results to the one-hundredth of a second—required in the current rule—is unnecessary.

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to add a bold subtitle for consistency with the rest of 303.7 and leading zeros for clarity.

LD-7 303.10.3A Long Distance Committee p. 74 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Athlete Swimmer—The ~~athlete–swimmer~~ (or the ~~athlete–swimmer’s~~ coach) is responsible for notifying the event ~~host~~ **director**, prior to the competition, of any disability of the ~~athlete–swimmer~~ and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment if required.

Rationale: The event director—not the host—would be tasked with making a swimmer-with-disability situation work. Use “swimmer” to match the rest of Part 3.

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to update the third instance of “athlete.”

LD-8 305.3.1 Long Distance Committee p. 76 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Event Host—Except for national championship swims, I event host shall have the discretion to decide the time/distance of the swim(s) and, in the case of postal swim(s), the size(s) of the pools in which the event is to be swum.

Rationale: This proposal eliminates conflict between this article and article 307.2, which describes national championship events in which the event host does not have such discretion.

LD-9 306.3 Long Distance Committee p. 77 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

306.3 Officials

~~**306.3.1**—There shall be at least one adult acting as a referee and starter present at all times, having no additional responsibilities during the swim other than acting as a timer if necessary.~~

~~**306.3.2**—Each swimmer shall have a timer who shall time and count lengths by recording split times for every two lengths during the swim. A timer may also serve as referee and starter if necessary. One person may serve as timer for no more than two swimmers at the same time.~~

306.3.1 Referee—An adult acting as referee shall be present at all times to ensure that the swim(s) is safe and conducted according to the rules.

306.3.2 Starter—An adult acting as starter shall ensure the swim(s) begins with a legal start.

306.3.3 Timer—Each swimmer shall have a timer who shall time, count lengths, and record times and length counts. One person may serve as timer for no more than two swimmers simultaneously.

306.3.4 One adult may serve as referee, starter, and timer simultaneously.

Rationale: Define the duties of each official and clarify that one adult can act as all three.

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to add an Oxford comma in 306.3.3.

LD-10 307.8.1 & 307.8.2 Long Distance Committee p. 82 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
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HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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307.8.1 Individual results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women’s results shall be shown first, followed by men’s results. ~~For each swimmer, the following information must be reported in this order:~~ As a minimum, the following information shall be reported for each swimmer:

A ~~B~~ Age group.

~~A~~ B Age group place.

~~B-C~~ B Swimmer’s name (as it appears on the USMS membership card).

~~C~~ D Age.

~~D~~ E Club (official USMS club abbreviation).

~~E~~ F USMS number.

~~F~~ G Official time/distance or disqualified.

~~G~~ H ~~Special information (USMS records, overall place, place among gender, etc.):~~ Whether the time or distance is a USMS record.

307.8.2 Relay results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women’s results shall be shown first, followed by men’s results, then mixed-gender relays last. ~~For each relay, the following information must be reported in the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:~~ As a minimum, the following information shall be reported for each relay team:

A ~~B~~ Age Group.

~~A~~ B Age group place.

~~B~~ C Team’s full name (USMS club followed by blank, A, B, etc.).

~~C~~ D Official time/distance or disqualified.

~~D~~ E Names, ages, and official time/distance for each member of the team.

~~E~~ F ~~Special information (national records, overall place, place among gender, etc.):~~ Whether the total time or distance for the relay team is a USMS record.

Rationale: We need to include the Age Group in the results. The USMS number will give us unique identification. We need to require whether or not it’s a USMS record, but other information is optional. The order in which the information is reported should be up to the LDC and National Office and not part of a rule.

Note: Amended 307.8.1C from August pre-convention version to continue to require the swimmer’s name as it appears on the USMS membership card.

LD-11 308.1.1 Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

Committee Action:	Recommended as Amended		
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

308.1.1 The fastest official time or farthest distance achieved, as applicable, by a USMS member in a USMS-sanctioned competition, as verified by a fully completed USMS Long Distance Record Application, shall be designated as a USMS record. For records for pool meets, see article 105.3.

~~**308.1.1**~~ **308.1.2** Individual and relay USMS records will be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway swims (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (1-hour, 3000-yard, 6000-yard, and 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer postal).

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~~308.1.2~~ **308.1.3** To be considered for a USMS record, individual participants and relays must enter and complete the swim in a sanctioned event conducted in compliance with USMS rules.

Rationale: This has always been presumed but not previously stated. This proposal does that in language that parallels article 105.3.1. Renumber: 308.1.1 to 308.1.5 become 308.1.2 to 308.1.6.

Note: Amended 301.1.1 from August pre-convention version to account for the 1-hour ePostal records being measured in distance.

LD-12 308.1.4 Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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308.1.4 Timing for Records

A Record times shall be listed in hundredths of a second (two decimal places). If times are tied to the hundredth of a second, the results shall be declared a tie and records should be shared by all swimmers thus tied.

308.1.3 B When a record attempt has been timed to the nearest second, 0.99 second shall be added to the time submitted. When a record attempt has been timed to the nearest tenth of a second, 0.09 second shall be added to the time submitted.

Rationale: This clarifies the desired two-decimal precision of the timing requirement, using language that largely parallels article 105.3.8, while recognizing that results from postal swims are often timed and/or submitted to the second without decimals.

Note: Amended part B from August pre-convention version to include leading zeros.

LD-13 308.1.5 & 308.1.6 Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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308.1.5 Cable Swims

A Cable swim records may be made only in stationary, fresh water. No cable swim records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.

B The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 303.7.1A and 303.7.4.

C Swimmers must wear category I swimwear as defined in article 303.4.2 to be eligible for USMS records.

308.1.4 D USMS records for cable swims may not be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event.

308.1.6 Postal Swims

A Postal swim records can be made only in fresh water. No postal swim records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.

B The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with article 306.6.

C Swimmers applying for a USMS postal record in an individual or relay event must submit a copy of their split sheets in addition to their event entries.

~~308.1.5 USMS records for individual postal swims may be established by using a~~

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~~swimmer's split time in an individual event if:~~ **D** An individual may use the split time in one event to establish a USMS record in a different event if:

- (1) **A** The split is swum as an initial distance within an event,
- (2) **B** The swimmer completes the full distance of the event,
- (3) **C** The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
- (4) **D** A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.56.

E A relay team may use their split times in one event to establish a USMS record in a different event if:

- (1) Each split is swum as an initial distance within an event,
- (2) Each swimmer completes the full distance of the event,
- (3) The intent to record a split time for each swimmer is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
- (4) A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.6.

Rationale for A, B, and C: This proposal defines specific requirements for both cable and postal swims, all of which follow current practice.

- Stationary water is already required for cable swim course in article 302.3A, but is included here for information and emphasis using language that parallels article 105.3.4. Fresh water is not currently required for cable swim courses, but this issue is moot because there are no current or likely future salt water cable courses.
- Fresh water is already required for postal swims in article 306.1, but is repeated here for information and emphasis using language that parallels article 105.3.5.

Rationale for D and E: Paragraph E provides for use of split times to establish relay records in different events with the same caveats that apply in individual events. The change in D is to provide parallel language with E.

Note: Amended 308.1.5A and 308.1.6A from August pre-convention version to improve grammar and parallel the wording of Part 1. Amended 308.1.6D to use “the” instead of “their.”

HOUSEKEEPING – RECOMMENDED and RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

LDHK-1 301.1 Long Distance Committee p. 65 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

The conduct and organization of open water and long distance swimming for Masters shall be governed by USMS through its Long Distance Committee and LMSCs. The chair and committee members shall be appointed as provided in articles 507.1 and 507.1.78.

Rationale: Correct an internal rules reference.

LDHK-2 302.2.2A Long Distance Committee p. 66 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

A Water Temperature

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- (1) A swim shall not begin if the water temperature is less than ~~60.8° Fahrenheit (16° Celsius)~~ 16 degrees Celsius (60.8 degrees Fahrenheit), unless heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers or a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place.
- (2) A swim in which heat-retaining swimwear is required of all swimmers shall not begin if the water temperature is less than ~~57° Fahrenheit (13.9° Celsius)~~ 13.9 degrees Celsius (57 degrees Fahrenheit) unless a USMS-approved thermal plan is in place.
- (3) A swim of 5 kilometers or greater shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds ~~85° Fahrenheit (29.45° Celsius)~~ 29.45 degrees Celsius (85 degrees Fahrenheit). A swim of less than 5 kilometers shall not begin if the water temperature exceeds ~~87.8° Fahrenheit (31° Celsius)~~ 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

Rationale: Housekeeping: add dash to heat-retaining in (2) to match (1) and remove extra period in (3).

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version write out “degrees” and put Celsius before Fahrenheit to match Part 1.

LDHK-3 302.2.3B(1) Long Distance Committee p. 66 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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B Water depth for swims starting from a platform (dock, pier, or ship):

- (1) For platforms 0.75 meter or less above the water surface, the water depth shall be no less than 2 meters for the first 5 meters of the course.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Add a leading 0 for clarity.

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to add the leading zero and remove the proposed “s” on “meter.”

LDHK-4 303.2.3B Long Distance Committee p. 69 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Relay—Open and 18+, 25+, 35+... (10-year age groups as high as necessary), with the age of the youngest relay member determining the age group.

Rationale: Housekeeping: add missing word

LDHK-5 303.3.1B(1) Long Distance Committee p. 69 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Completing and complying with the approved safety plan.

Rationale: Housekeeping: add missing period

LDHK-6 303.5.2 Long Distance Committee p. 72 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

When wave starts are used in straightaway swims, the swimmers shall be seeded in order of time, with the fastest swimmers receiving the preferred positions in seeded order. If subsequent rows are needed, they shall be seeded ~~in a similar method~~ similarly.

Rationale: Housekeeping: replace awkward phrase

LDHK-7 303.8.1 Long Distance Committee p. 73 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Or their personal escort intentionally delay the progress of another swimmer. Accidental contact, especially at the start, shall not be considered a disqualification. However, ~~the~~ flagrant disregard of another swimmer's rights shall result in disqualification.

Rationale: Housekeeping: eliminate unnecessary word

LDHK-8 303.9.2 - 303.9.5 Long Distance Committee p. 73-74 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

~~303.9.4~~ 303.9.2 If a swimmer's escort craft becomes disabled as per article 303.9.1, an escort craft for another swimmer may assume responsibility for the swimmer with the disabled escort craft, subject to the following conditions:

- A** Any one escort craft may escort no more than two swimmers.
- B** The two swimmers must stay within 3 meters of each other. Failure to stay within 3 meters shall result in immediate disqualification of the second swimmer assigned to the escort craft and the immediate exit of that person from the water.

~~303.9.2~~ 303.9.3 Swimmers may receive the following assistance from any escort craft:

- A** The escort craft may pass to and receive from the swimmer food, drink, and/or legal swim equipment.
- B** The escort craft may assist the swimmer with navigation, including verbal and written communication.
- C** The escort craft may verify the swimmer's compliance with the rules.
- D** At the discretion of the event host, the escort craft may support the swimmer without forward progress being made.
- E** The escort craft may perform emergency rescue.

~~303.9.3~~ 303.9.4 Swimmers shall not receive the following assistance from any escort craft:

- A** Swimmers shall not receive forward progress from any escort craft.
- B** Swimming directly behind non-motorized escort craft shall not be permitted when other open water is readily available. Swimming directly behind motorized escort craft shall not be permitted at any time.
- C** Escort craft shall not obstruct other swimmers in the swim.

Rationale: Housekeeping: For better organizational order, move current 303.9.4 to 303.9.2 and renumber.

303.9.5 In any swim in which individual escorts are required and motorized escorts are allowed, drafting from any craft or other swimmers is prohibited. Swimmers must attempt to

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remain 3 meters or more from other swimmers, except when rounding buoys, when overtaking other swimmers when space is not readily available, when unescorted at the start and finish of the swim, and when the swimmer’s escort craft becomes disabled as per articles 301.9.1 and ~~303.9.4~~ 303.9.2. Incidental or accidental incursion into the 3-meter zone of another swimmer shall not be the basis for disqualification.

Rationale: Housekeeping. Change in reference created by the reordering of paragraphs 303.9.2 – 303.9.4.

LDHK-9 305.2 Long Distance Committee p. 76 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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A long distance pool event is any swimming event that contains a distance-based swim(s) of more than 1650 yards (1508.8 meters) in length or a time-based swim(s) equal to or longer than 60 minutes in time.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Provide parallel construction with a time-based swim(s) and add missing word

Note: Amended from August pre-convention version to add the a in front of “distance-based” instead of removing the a in front of “time-based.”

LDHK-10 305.3.3 Long Distance Committee p. 76 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Time-Based Swims—The object of a time-based swim is to determine who can swim the greatest distance in ~~the specified time period~~ a specific amount of time.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Fix awkward phrasing and provide parallel construction

LDHK-11 306.1 Long Distance Committee p. 78 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Long distance events conducted in pools must comply with all applicable pool event rules in Part 1 of the rule book and in article 305, except as noted in article 306.

Rationale: This proposal corrects a long-standing oversight by stating (rather than assuming as we have for so long) that postal swims are also subject to article 305.

LDHK-12 306.11.1 & 306.11.2 Long Distance Committee p. 78 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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306.11.1 In distance-based events, the person or relay swimming the fastest time shall be declared the winner. ~~If two or more swimmers achieve the same time, a tie shall be declared~~ Ties shall be allowed.

306.11.2 In time-based events, the person or relay swimming the farthest shall be declared the winner. ~~If two or more swimmers swim the same distance, a tie shall be declared~~ Ties shall be allowed.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Leaner rules language that parallels languages in other existing articles and proposed articles in Part 3.

LDHK-13 307.2.2 Long Distance Committee p. 78-79 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

307.2.2 At the discretion of the Long Distance Committee, national championships may be awarded in the following categories:

- A One-mile Sprint-Distance Championship (quarter-mile straightaway or open water course).
- A Two-mile~~s~~ Cable Championship (quarter-mile straightaway).
- B Open water Middle-Distance Championship (greater than 1 mile and less than or equal to 3 miles).
- C Open water Long-Distance Championship (greater than 3 miles and less than 6 miles).
- D Open water Marathon-Distance Championship (greater than or equal to 6 miles and less than 9 miles).
- E Open water ~~Ultra-Marathon~~ Ultramarathon-Distance Championship (greater than or equal to 9 miles).
- F Postal 1-hour Championship (in a pool 25 yards or longer).
- G Postal 5- and 10-kilometer Championship (each event swum separately on a 50-meter course in a pool).
- H Postal 3000- and 6000-yard Championship (each event swum separately on a 25-yard or 25-meter course in a pool).
- I Other national championship events and distances may be awarded at the discretion of the Long Distance Committee chair.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Grammar and punctuation

Note: Amended part H from August pre-convention version to remove an extra space between “6000-“ and “yard.”

LDHK-14 307.2.3E Long Distance Committee p. 79 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same-gender and one mixed-gender relay per championship swim.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Fix typo.

LDHK-15 307.3.4 Long Distance Committee p. 80 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

A three-area award system may be followed for the bidding of open water championships (see Appendix D for map and description of areas). In this system, suitable bids from a qualifying area shall receive preference over bids from other areas.

National Championship Bid Rotation (see 307.2.2 for distance definitions)			
Year	Area 1 West	Area 2 Central	Area 3 East
2020	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultra Marathon Distance	2-mile cable Marathon Distance
2021	2-mile cable Marathon_ Distance	Sprint_Distance Long_Distance Festival	Middle-Distance Ultra Marathon Ultramarathon- Distance
2022	Middle_Distance Ultra Marathon Ultramarathon- Distance	2-mile cable Marathon_ Distance	Sprint_Distance Long_Distance Festival
2023	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival	Middle Distance Ultramarathon- Distance	2-mile cable Marathon- Distance

Rationale: Annual update and update formatting in keeping with 307.2.2

Note: Amended 2023 East from August pre-convention version to add the missed hyphen in “Marathon-Distance.”

LDHK-16 307.7.4A Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

~~A swimmer~~ Swimmers with one-event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status, or any other USMS special awards. Such swimmers may be allowed to participate in a separate non-championship category in these swims.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Provide parallel structure within article 307.7.4.

LDHK-17 307.7.5 Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended			
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Age Groups—Age groups in open water swims shall be the standard USMS age groups as defined in article 303.2.3.

Rationale: Housekeeping: parallel structure with 307.7.6

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LDHK-18 307.7.6B Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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At the discretion of the event host, swimmers wearing category II swimwear as defined in articles 303.4.1 and 303.4.3 may participate in events containing national championship swims, but shall be excluded for the purposes of articles 307.8 through 308.1. In addition, category II competitors shall have a separate start time, unless drafting is prohibited under article 303.9.6.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Remove unnecessary comma – no subject after “but”

LDHK-19 307.7.7A Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Feeding is permissible, but use of alcohol or illegal drugs is forbidden.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Remove unnecessary comma – no subject after “but”

LDHK-20 307.9 Long Distance Committee p. 82 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Club ~~scores~~ scoring shall be officially tallied for postal national championships. At the discretion of the event host, club scoring may be officially tallied for open water national championships.

Rationale: Housekeeping: parallel structure within article 307.9

LDHK-21 307.9.1A Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Club scoring for the 1-hour ~~swim~~ postal national championships shall be calculated based on total club yardage for individual swims.

Rationale: Housekeeping: remove extraneous word

LDHK-22 307.9.1B Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Club point scoring for the 3000- and 6000-yard and 5- and 10-kilometer postal national championships shall be calculated for individual swims using a formula, approved by the Long Distance Committee, based on percentage of time differences from the age group national record times.

Rationale: Housekeeping: This clarifies our current practice that only individual swims are included in the scoring for these events, using parallel language found in articles 307.9.1A and 307.9.1C.

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LDHK-23 307.10.1 Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to at least ~~to~~ the first six place winners of individual championships in each age group. In national championship events with 1,000 or more entrants, individual awards shall be awarded to at least the first 10 place winners of individual championships in each age group.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Match word order to the rest of article 307.10

LDHK-24 307.11.2 Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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The members of the highest placing USMS relay in each age group of each open water and long distance pool national championship event shall qualify as USMS Long Distance Relay All-Americans for the calendar year in which the event was concluded.

Rationale: Housekeeping: Clarity and parallel construction with article 307.11.1.

LDHK-25 307.12.3 Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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A swimmer shall earn points for a top 10 finish in each open water and long distance postal national championship event in the following manner: 1st: 11 points, 2nd: 9 points, 3rd: 8 points, 4th: 7 points, 5th: 6 points, 6th: 5 points, 7th: 4 points, 8th: 3 points, 9th: 2 points, 10th: 1 points.

Rationale: Specify postal to match 307.12.1

LDHK-26 308 Long Distance Committee p. 84 Modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Article 308:
USMS Records

Rationale: Housekeeping: This proposal specifies USMS Records only, allowing LMSCs and Zones the flexibility to develop their own record events and/or distances, requirements, and application process.

WITHDRAWN

LD-14 Glossary Long Distance Committee p. xii Modify

Committee Action: Withdrawn

HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated
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Event Director—In open water or pool events, the person responsible primary representative of

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the event host to whom the host has delegated the responsibility for the ~~administration and conduct~~ overall operation of the event.

Event Host—In open water or pool events, the organization that is granted a sanction and is responsible for the administration of the event.

Rationale: Clarifies the distinction between the Event Director and the Event Host and adds a definition for Event Host