

**FINAL REPORT WITH ACTIONS BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
AMENDMENTS TO USMS GLOSSARY AND PART 1 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were considered by the USMS House of Delegates at the 2020 Annual Meeting in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7 with the final action indicated.

Number	Section	Description	HOD Action
<u>R-1</u>	Glossary	Clarify definition of gender for competition in Part One.	Adopted
<u>R-2</u>	Glossary	To clarify what constitutes an official time.	Adopted
<u>R-3</u>	102.3.2	Change relay age groups for SCY meets to be the same as SCM and LCM meets.	Defeated
<u>R-4</u>	102	Update terminology to use “meet announcement” in article 102 for consistency with part 2.	Adopted
<u>R-5</u>	102.5.7	Clarify the intent of the rule that the meet announcement must be published following issuance of the sanction.	Adopted
<u>R-6</u>	102.7 104.5.4	Clarify that affiliation requirements apply to all meets.	Adopted
<u>R-7</u>	102.11.4 102.14.2 103.1 103.5	Adjust the responsibilities for a “meet committee” to better reflect current practice.	Adopted
<u>R-8</u>	103.18.2	Clarifies the timing for the approval for the automatic splits, why automatic splits are used and that the splits need to be included in the results.	Adopted
<u>R-9</u>	104.3 104.4	Delete requirements for awarding national championships and meet host agreements from the rules and move to policy.	Adopted
R-10	-	<i>At the request of the proposer, R-10 was withdrawn prior to the annual meeting.</i>	N/A
<u>R-11</u>	103.18.9	Clarify the intent of specifying which timing systems are being used and for what purposes the officials may be used.	Adopted as Amended

Pending USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS Rules

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
<u>U-1</u>	Glossary and 102.5	Add language and definitions regarding virtual meets.	Adopted

CHANGES TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART ONE

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the House of Delegates in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. Unless otherwise noted, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2021.

ADOPTED

The following proposed amendments were adopted by the USMS House of Delegates.

R-1 Glossary Rules Committee page xii add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

Gender—a competition category defined as male or female for the purpose of athlete swimming eligibility for official times, places, records, and other forms of recognition.

Rationale: Clarify that for purposes of competition, references to gender in Part One of the USMS rule book refer to male or female categories, although we know that gender identity may be more expansive. This proposal follows a review of the transgender inclusion policy (as required by rule) and awareness of gender inclusion issues that follow. It compliments a Legislation proposal to amend the equal opportunity statement (article 501.3) to include “gender identity” and add “gender identity” as a glossary definition recognizing the membership rights and privileges of members who may identify in ways other than male and female. In the case of other gender identities, members would still need to compete in either the male or female competition categories under the current rules.

R-2 Glossary Rules Committee page xiii add

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

Official Time – a time achieved in a USMS-sanctioned or -recognized competition in accordance with USMS rules.

Rationale: To clarify what constitutes an official time.

Note: Pending USA Swimming amendment to insert this identical definition in the USA Swimming glossary. Amendments to the glossary do not trigger automatic consideration of a USA Swimming amendment that applies to USMS rules, so this proposal from the rules committee is needed to duplicate the USA Swimming action.

R-4 102 (multiple) and 106 Rules Committee page 8 modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

102.4.2 Dual-Sanctioned Meets—If the meet is a dual-sanctioned meet with USA Swimming, the requirements of 102.4.1 may be adjusted depending on availability of warm-up space at the venue by agreement between the LMSC and LSC host clubs. If a continuous warm-up/warm-down lane(s) or area is not available in pools of five lanes or more, the ~~entry information~~meet announcement shall clearly state the availability of warm-up for USMS athletes. Once the ~~entry information~~meet announcement is published, changes which further restrict the availability of continuous warm-up/warm-down space are not permitted.

102.5.5 All short course meters events, long course meters events, and national championships shall be conducted on a timed-finals basis. Other short course yards events may be conducted on a timed-finals basis or another basis (e.g., preliminary heats and finals). If events are conducted in a format other than timed finals, the ~~entry information~~meet announcement shall state the process for seeding, contesting the event, and determining the final places.

102.9.4 Swimmers who will be competing only in relays must be entered in accordance with the procedures in the ~~official meet entry information~~meet announcement.

102.10.1 Seeding Principles for Masters Competition

A All short course meters events, long course meters events, and national championships shall be conducted on a timed-final basis. Other short course yards events may be conducted on a timed-final basis or other basis (e.g., preliminary heats and finals). In such cases, the ~~entry information~~meet announcement shall state the process for seeding.

D Seeding at meets other than national championship meets may be either fast-to-slow or slow-to-fast. Seeding may differ for sprint and distance events (events 400 yards or longer) within a meet. Women's and men's heats may be alternated in the distance events. The meet ~~information~~announcement shall state the seeding for all events.

102.10.4 Two-to-a-Lane Seeding in Distance Freestyle Events

A General principles of seeding two-to-a-lane

(1) Options to swim two-to-a-lane

(a) At the discretion of the meet director, competitors in the freestyle events over 200 meters may be required to swim two-to-a-lane when only one course is available for the event. The meet ~~information~~announcement shall state the criteria under which such events are to be swum two-to-a-lane.

106.1.3 [M:]—Mandatory requirement; sanctioned events may be conducted in facilities not meeting these requirements but the results of those events shall not count for USMS records and Top 10. It must be noted in the meet announcement information that events conducted in these facilities are noncompliant.

Rationale: Fix inconsistent terminology in parts one and two by using “meet announcement” consistently in articles 102 and 106. A glossary definition already exists for this term.

R-5 102.5.7 Rules Committee page 8 modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted

102.5 Events

102.5.7 ~~The order of events must be published in the meet announcement at least one week prior to the entry deadline.~~ Following the issuance of a sanction, the order of events must be published in the meet announcement and made available to all eligible swimmers at least one week prior to the entry deadline. The LMSC may establish a minimum period of time longer than one week for which the meet announcement must be made available to all eligible swimmers. (See article 102.11 for change of program or postponement.)

Rationale: The intent of the one-week deadline was to ensure that all eligible swimmers are notified of the meet and provided information so they can make a decision to participate. However, this change clarifies that the sanction must be issued first, followed by publication of the meet announcement, followed by the entry deadline. An LMSC may establish additional deadlines for sanction applications and publication of the meet announcement to conform to local conditions.

R-6 102.7, 104.5.4 Legislation Committee pages 9 and 35 add & delete

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended
HOD Action: Adopted

102.7 Entries

102.7.1 Entry Name—Each competitor shall enter with the full name as it appears on the USMS registration card.

102.7.2 Entry Fees—Entry fee policies for local Masters events shall be set by the LMSC.

102.7.3 Club Affiliation - A swimmer’s club affiliation as stated on the entry form shall apply throughout the meet. If the club on the entry form and the club listed in the USMS membership database do not match, the swimmer shall correct the error or notify the meet

host of a valid change in club affiliation by presenting proof of the new club affiliation prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes. If at any time there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer shall be switched to unattached status for the entire meet, regardless of actual club affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status only prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes.

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

A Eligibility/~~affiliation~~

(1) **USMS membership**—USMS individual membership numbers and club names and abbreviations must be submitted on all entry forms together with entry times. “Pending” as a membership number shall not be permitted except for 18-year-olds as follows: A swimmer who will turn 18 by the day prior to the beginning of competition must enter the meet by the entry deadline as a 17-year-old, provided the swimmer registers with USMS no later than the day prior to competition. An 18-year-old may register for USMS membership at the championship venue on the day prior to the beginning of competition and must be 18 by that date.

(2) **Foreign swimmers**—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 may not qualify for USMS Top 10 and All-American awards nor set USMS records.

~~(3) **Affiliation**—A swimmer’s affiliation as stated on the entry form shall apply throughout the meet. If the club on the entry form and the club listed in the USMS membership database do not match, the swimmer shall, prior to the first day of competition, submit a new USMS membership card showing the new affiliation. The swimmer shall notify the meet host of a valid club transfer prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes. If at any time there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer shall be switched to unattached status for the entire meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status only prior to the first event in which that swimmer competes.~~

Rationale: The rule regarding changes of affiliation is only listed in article 104 and pertains to national championship meets. However, swimmers should not be able to switch clubs in the middle of any competition, so moving the rule to article 102 would apply the same requirements to all sanctioned meets.

Note: Amended from the version submitted by the Legislation Committee to consistently use the term “club affiliation”.

R-7 102.11.4, 102.14.2, 103.1, 103.5 Rules Committee pages 14, 16, 18 modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

102.11 Change of Program and Postponement

(Articles 102.11.1 through 102.11.3 are unchanged)

102.11.4 Postponement or Cancellation

- A If, prior to the start of a meet or event, unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or event, the meet ~~committee~~ director (article 103.5) may cancel or postpone it after consultation with the host organization, LMSC leadership, the meet referee, and/or facility management.
- B Should a meet or event have actually commenced, and in the judgment of the referee cannot safely and effectively continue because of weather conditions or for some other compelling reason, the meet or event may be suspended at the referee's sole discretion until conditions warrant continuance. If circumstances do not warrant continuance, the referee may cancel the meet or event or postpone it to a future date or time, with the approval-concurrence of the meet ~~committee~~ director.
- C A decision to cancel or postpone shall be final.
- D Should an event have actually commenced but be terminated prior to an official finish and be postponed to another time or date, it shall then be conducted among the swimmers who were officially competing in the event at the time of termination.
- E Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with articles 103.17 and 103.18 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.
- F Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet ~~committee~~ director, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet ~~committee~~ director on refunding may be appealed to the officers of the LMSC (local or regional meets) or the USMS Championship Committee (national championship meets).

102.14 Protests

(Article 102.14.1 is unchanged)

- 102.14.2 Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization in any race shall be made in writing to the meet director or referee before the race is held, and if the meet ~~director~~ ~~committee~~ deems it advisable, and with the concurrence of the meet referee, the swimmer may compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race. The meet ~~committee~~ director shall immediately refer such protest to the LMSC officers (local meets) or championship meet protest committee (national championship meets; see article 104.5.9B) having jurisdiction for adjudication at the earliest possible time.

(The rest of Article 102.14 is unchanged)

103.1 Meet Director

The meet director shall be the chair of the meet committee and, on behalf of the host organization, is responsible for the overall operation of the meet. (see article 103.5). The meet director is expected to consult with the host organization, USMS leadership (LMSC, zone or national leadership depending on the meet), the meet referee, facility management, and other stakeholders to ensure efficient operations.

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet committee is appointed by the meet host. The committee consists of ~~a minimum of the meet director and a sufficient number of members to implement the committee functions, referee, or starter, and a participating athlete, as appointed by the meet director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to~~ The meet committee is responsible for all meet operations on behalf of the host organization, including, but not limited to: obtaining a sanction; publishing the meet announcement; arranging for personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary for meet operation; ordering awards; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; processing entries; printing programs; preparing the facility; verifying proper certification of pool length as described in 105.1.7; completing record applications; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; ~~and~~ filing an LMSC report; and other administrative duties necessary to comply with USMS rules and regulations for sanctioned meets.

Rationale: Clarify the provision for a “meet committee” which is outdated and seldom used under the present definition. However, retain the responsibilities of the Meet Director and the host club and allow for a committee of sufficient size depending on local conditions and needs. Changes to article 102 are necessary to clarify the responsibilities of the Meet Director and the Meet Referee with respect to protests of eligibility and postponement of meets before and after the competition has commenced.

Updates to Appendix B Differences for Consistency:

Page 115: Personnel (103.1, 103.5)

USMS ~~has a meet committee rather than~~ does not use a meet jury. A protest committee is used at national championships. At LMSC sanctioned meets, the meet director and meet referee are responsible for ensuring that the provisions of article 102.14 for protests are followed.

Page 117: Protests of Eligibility (102.14.2, 104.5.9B)

Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization in any race shall be made in writing to the meet director or referee before the race is held, and if the meet ~~committee~~ director deems it advisable, the swimmer may compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race. The meet ~~committee~~ director shall immediately refer such protest to

the LMSC officers (local meets) or championship meet protest committee (national championship meets) having jurisdiction for adjudication at the earliest possible time.

R-8 103.18.2 Records and Tabulations Committee page 28 modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

103.18.2 Upon a recommendation from the meet host, the meet referee may approve the automatic recording of individual initial splits and relay leadoff splits for official times without the requirement for a written request subject to the following conditions:

A The meet announcement shall state the events approved for automatic split recording.

AB Initial splits from ~~specific individual events or from all~~ or more specified individual events, with the exception of backstroke events, may be approved.

BC Relay leadoff splits from specific relay events or from all relay events, with the exception of initial splits within a backstroke leadoff distance, may be approved provided that:

- (1) Officials are assigned to judge the exchanges,
- (2) Officials confirm that the second swimmer does not start in the water when automatic timing is used, and
- (3) Officials confirm that the second swimmer does not invalidate the pad touch at the exchange by standing on an active pad.

D The specified splits for all swimmers in the approved event(s) shall be included separately in the meet results for all meets other than national championship meets. The meet announcement shall specify the process for identifying valid splits at national championship meets for official times.

CE For national championship meets, automatic splits shall be automatically recorded in accordance with 103.18.2CB.

Rationale: Clarifies the timing for the approval for the automatic splits so that all swimmers have the information to plan their swims. Also clarifies why automatic splits are used and that the splits need to be included in the results.

Note: Amended from the initial proposed wording to (D) as proposed by Records and Tabulation Committee (“*The specified splits for all swimmers in the approved event(s) at non-national championship meets shall be included in the results as a separate event(s)*”). The recommended wording conforms to the current wording of rules regarding inclusion of (non-automatic) split times in the official results (see 105.2.2) and eliminates possible confusion with use of the term “separate event”. The amended wording also reflects that the splits shall be included separately in the results at all meets, not just national championship meets.

R-9 104.3, 104.4 Championship Committee pages 32-33 modify

Committee Action: Recommended

HOD Action: Adopted

104.3 Awarding of National Championship Meet

The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for soliciting eligible bidders to host national championship meets, providing bid information to eligible bidders, establishing appropriate bid deadlines, certifying eligible bidders, and awarding the national championships to host organizations one to three years in advance of the national championship meet. The facilities to be used must comply with the facility standards for competition (article 106). The Championship Committee shall establish a policy for awarding of the championships with the approval of the Board of Directors.

~~104.3.1 Solicitation of Bids—The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of bids with an emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country~~

~~104.3.2 Eligible Bidders—Any club, LMSC, or organization may bid. The facility to be used must be in accordance with the facility standards (article 106). The Championship Committee shall strongly consider LMSC endorsement as a selection criteria.~~

~~104.3.3 Bid Information—The Championship Committee shall provide a bidder with the appropriate bid documents, financial statements, meet contract, previous championships' meet reports, and all other information pertaining to the policies and procedures of running a national championship meet.~~

~~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 May 1 (or the next business day if May 1 falls on a Sunday). If no timely certifiable bid is received, the Championship Committee shall continue to solicit bids.~~

~~104.3.5 Certification of Bids—Prior to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, the Championship Committee shall certify each bid for compliance with its policies and procedures, including facilities standards (article 106).~~

~~104.3.6 Awarding of Bids—National championship meets shall be awarded by the Championship Committee. The committee may award championships one to three years in advance of the national championship meet.~~

104.4 USMS Assistance and Agreements

The USMS Championship Committee, National Office, and legal counsel shall be responsible for establishing written contract requirements between USMS and the host organization of national championship meets. The Championship Committee shall establish policies, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for financial payments and providing assistance to the meet host. The Championship Committee shall also establishing policies for evaluating meet operations and receiving post-meet reports to document financial operations, lessons learned, and any other

information that may be helpful to future meet hosts. The Officials Committee shall establish requirements for and receive a post-meet report from the meet referee.

~~104.4.1 Contract—Successful bidders of national championship meets shall sign a written contract with USMS specifying the responsibilities of the meet host and of USMS.~~

~~104.4.2 Payments—Prior to the meet, USMS shall withhold from payments to the meet host an amount per entrant to be determined by the Championship Committee and stipulated in the contract. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the meet contract, an amount per entrant shall be returned to meet host as stipulated in the contract. Noncompliance with said conditions, as determined by the meet evaluation committee, shall result in forfeiture of part or all of the final payment.~~

~~104.4.3 Assistance to Meet Host—The Championship Committee shall provide such assistance and guidance necessary to provide uniformity in national championship meet production. Out-of-pocket expenses for services provided by the Championship Committee shall be reimbursed by USMS Inc.~~

~~104.4.4 Meet Evaluation Committee—A five-member meet evaluation committee shall be composed of at least three Championship Committee members and two additional USMS members who are knowledgeable in championship procedures. No member of the protest committee, host club, or host LMSC shall serve on the meet evaluation committee. A written evaluation shall be submitted to the meet host.~~

~~104.4.5 Meet Report—The meet director of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Championship Committee within 60 days of the end of competition. This report shall include a complete financial report, lessons learned, suggestions, and any other information that may be helpful to future meet directors.~~

~~104.4.6 Meet Referee Report—The meet referee of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Officials Committee within 60 days of the end of the competition. The report format and content shall be defined by the Officials Committee.~~

Rationale: To move the specific requirements for awarding national championship meets and agreements with the host from the Rules and Regulations to policy, making it more efficient to update and make changes to policy requirements and best practices between annual meetings, but require the Championship Committee to develop and maintain such policies.

R-11 103.18.9 Legislation Committee page 29 modify

Committee Action: Recommended
HOD Action: Adopted as Amended

Note: R-11 was submitted after the June 10 deadline. Pursuant to article 601.2.4, the submission received a 2/3 vote of the Rules Committee on the motion to recommend to the House of Delegates.

Amended by the House of Delegates to insert sentence (b) and renumber subsequent sentences.

103.18.9 Except when the primary system consists of watches, backup timing shall be provided for all competitors. No swimmer shall be required to reswim a race due to equipment failure that results in unrecorded or inaccurate time or place. It is the meet director's responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of articles 103.18.5-103.18.7. ~~If it is not possible to satisfy the requirements of articles 103.18.5-103.18.7, the meet announcement must include a statement which informs swimmers that the official times cannot be submitted for world records, USMS records, and/or Top 10. The meet announcement shall include a description of the timing systems intended to be used at the meet and one of the following statements for each course:~~

- ~~(a) Times from this competition will be eligible for world record, USMS record, and Top 10 consideration.~~
- ~~(b) Times from this competition will be eligible for USMS records and Top 10 consideration, but not for world records.~~
- ~~(c) Times from this competition will be eligible for USMS ~~and~~ Top 10 consideration, but not for world or USMS records.~~
- ~~(d) Times from this competition will not be eligible for world record, USMS record, or Top 10 consideration.~~

If a change in primary timing system is necessary before or during the meet, the meet director shall ensure that all swimmers are notified of the change.

Rationale: To clarify for swimmers which type of timing system is being used and for what official purposes their times should qualify.

ADOPTED 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.

The following amendment was adopted by the USMS House of Delegates. This amendment takes affect immediately following the annual meeting of the House of Delegates (September 27, 2020).

U-1 Glossary and Article 102 pages xiii and 8 Add and Modify

Committee Action: Recommended as Amended

HOD Action: Adopted

102.5.8 Virtual meets may be held as competitions at multiple venues (sanctioned by each respective LMSC) with the same order of events and all results merged. Virtual meets may be held on different days at the multiple venues. All of the events must be completed

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within a maximum 10-day period in the same calendar year. The age determining date shall be the same for the entire meet and in accordance with article 102.2.

Meet—an event or series of events held under sanction or recognition and conducted within 10 consecutive days at the same venue, ~~except for postal meets, or multiple venues for virtual meets.~~ Postal meets may be conducted over periods longer than 10 days.

Note: Amended from the initial version that was developed following the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee meeting in June (see below).

DEFEATED

The following proposed amendments were defeated by House of Delegates.

R-3 102.3.2 Potomac Valley LMSC page 6 modify

Committee Action: Not Recommended

HOD Action: Defeated

102.3.2 Relay Events

~~**A Short course (25) yards**—18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+... (10-year increments as high as necessary). The age of the youngest relay team members shall determine the age group. Relay teams must swim in the oldest age group for which they are eligible.~~

~~**B Short course (25) meters and long course (50) meters**— 72-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319, 320-359, 360-399... (40-year increments as high as necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.~~

Rationale: Using a consistent relay age calculation across both yards and meters allows for all swimmers on a relay team to be considered equally, instead of arbitrarily determining the relay age group based on the youngest member of the relay team. With this proposed rule change, each relay swimmers' age contributes only 25% to the "team age". This proposal also encourages camaraderie among swimmers of all age groups, instead of making older swimmers feel like a disadvantage to their team.

Rationale for Not Recommend: The rules committee does not feel that it is the best interests of the organization to adjust the rules for age groups. An identical proposal was defeated by a clear majority of the membership at the 2018 Annual Meeting and the committee does not observe significant changes in membership sentiment that would warrant reconsideration only two years later. The rules committee vote on the motion to recommend was 1-11.

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA SWIMMING FACILITIES STANDARDS

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.

There are no amendments to the USA Swimming facilities standards proposed for the 2020 annual meeting.

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO FINA RULES

Pursuant to USMS Article 601.4.8, if amendments to the FINA Masters Technical Rules are adopted between 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.

There are no pending FINA amendments to consider for the 2020 annual meeting. The next FINA Congress is scheduled for May 2022 in conjunction with the World Aquatics Championships.

Modifications to Appendix B that do not require further concurrence from the House of Delegates but do require concurrence from the Executive Committee per article 601.1.5.

The following modifications to the Guidelines for Dual Sanctioned Events with USA Swimming have been agreed to by the USMS Rules Committee and the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee. Changes will appear in both rule books in 2021.

Dual Sanctioned Events (Combined, Parallel, and Interwoven Meets)

The number of inquiries as to what mechanisms are available for combining USA Swimming and USMS swimming meets has been increasing. The reasons for combining these meets are many, ranging from the limited availability of pool time and officials to the desire to promote the sport as a lifelong activity. There are several ways of accomplishing this goal within the rules and insurance policies of each organization. This document outlines these options.

It is assumed that all competitors are a member of USA Swimming, USMS, or both. Those that are members of both must select one organization with which to compete for the entire meet. Dual membership cannot be used to exceed the daily event limits imposed by either organization. Automatic recognition of times achieved by a USMS swimmer competing in the USA-S portion is still available. Any of the joint meets described below must have sanctions from both USA Swimming and USMS. Both sanctions must be held by the host organization. The host organization cannot be required to accept a participant from either USMS or USA Swimming that would otherwise be barred from participation by their respective organizations.

USMS Record and Top Ten submissions must comply with all USMS documentation requirements.

Combined Meets—With the consent of all (co-)hosting teams and the LSC and LMSC, a combined meet may be sanctioned by both USA Swimming and USMS and all swimmers competing according to USA Swimming technical rules (articles 101, 102, 103 and 105) for individual strokes, relays, and the conduct and officiating of the competition with the exception that USMS regulations governing events, eligibility, protests of applicable rules, and meet results shall apply to USMS members. Otherwise, each organization's rules and administrative regulations apply to their members. This mechanism allows the meet host(s) to seed the event as they normally would, based upon times, with USA Swimming and USMS members combined in heats without specific lanes allocated to one organization or the other. Relay teams must consist of members of the same organization USMS or USA Swimming club. Note that all USMS events held in 25-meter and 50-meter pools must be conducted as timed finals, but USMS members may compete in preliminary heats if they are not competing for slots in the finals session(s). USMS does not permit time trials in 25-meter and 50-meter pools.

Parallel Meets—The two meets may be swum in parallel by assigning some number of lanes to USMS competitors and a different set to USA Swimming competitors. If possible, separate stroke and turn officials for each set is preferred. It is permissible to adjust, for example, the makeup of the USMS heats so that competitors in a given heat have approximately the same seed times. Each organization's rules would apply to their members.

Interwoven Meets—The two meets may be swum with complete heats of swimmers from both organizations alternating. There would be no need for separate stroke and turn officials. Each organization's rules would apply to their members.

Meet announcements for dual-sanctioned meets or open water events must contain information for USMS and USA Swimming athletes in accordance with each organization's rules and administrative regulations. The safety plans for open water events must be approved by both organizations.