

Official Interpretation Issued by the USMS Rules Committee
Dual Sanction Meets Run in a Combined Meet Format

Appendix B of the USMS Rule Book provides guidelines for conducting USMS meets as dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming. A dual-sanctioned meet is a USMS sanctioned meet conducted simultaneous with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

When dual-sanctioned meets are conducted in a “combined meet” format, meaning swimmers from both organizations are competing together in the same heats without specific lanes assigned to either organizations, the guidelines indicate that all swimmers are “competing according to USA Swimming rules”. The phrase “competing” is interpreted as follows:

In accordance with USMS 202.1.1G(1), the applicable USA Swimming rule shall be substituted for the following USMS rules when a USMS sanctioned meet is held as a dual-sanctioned meet (simultaneously in conjunction with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet) and events are swum in a “combined meet” format as described in Appendix B.

- Article 101 in its entirety (Strokes, Starts, Turns, and Relays) and 107 (Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability)
- Article 102.10.2 (Heat and Lane Assignments)
- Article 102.10.6 (Counters)
- Articles 103.2, 103.3, and 103.4. (Duties and Qualifications of Officials)
- Article 103.8.5 (Start Commands)

If a rule is not listed here, the applicable USMS rule will apply.

When dual-sanctioned meets are conducted using other formats (see appendix B) that do not combine swimmers from both organizations in the same heats, all USMS rules apply to the USMS portion of the meet and to all USMS athletes participating in the meet.

Charles Cockrell
USMS Rules Committee Chair
October 2017