
PART 6: AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 601: Amendments

601.1 Committee Jurisdiction

- 601.1.1 Legislation Committee**—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2: Administrative Regulations of Competition, Part 4: Athletes’ Rights, Hearings, and Appeals, Part 5: United States Masters Swimming Inc.: Organization and Bylaws, and Part 6: Amendment Procedures) shall be considered by the Legislation Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.2 LMSC Development Committee**—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries) shall be considered by the LMSC Development Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.3 Long Distance Committee**—Proposed changes to Part 3: Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules and the Glossary shall be considered by the Long Distance Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.4 Rules Committee**—Proposed changes to Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary shall be considered by the Rules Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.
- 601.1.5** The Rules Committee, Legislation Committee, or committee designated by the president, in consultation with committees that have related areas of responsibility, shall review and update the sections of Appendix B (or other appendices) that provide information related to their areas of jurisdiction as defined in articles 601.1.1 and 601.1.4.
- A** With the exception of Appendix D (see article 601.1.2), changes to the appendices may be made by the committee or officer of jurisdiction without further concurrence by the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, or House of Delegates, except as described in articles 601.1.5 B and C.
 - B** Guidelines for the conduct of dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming may not be modified without the consent of the Executive Committee and the concurrence of USA Swimming. The chairs of the Rules and Legislation Committees are authorized to use the guidelines to interpret provisions of Parts One and Two for USMS-sanctioned meets held in conjunction with USA Swimming-sanctioned meets.
 - C** Any changes to the organization of the appendices, including additions, deletions, or renumbering, must be approved by the Executive Committee.

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601.1.6 Executive Committee—Proposed changes to all other sections of the USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition and appendices (except for Appendix D) shall be considered by the Executive Committee or committee designated by the president. Such proposals are not subject to the provisions of articles 601.2, 601.3, and 601.4.

601.2 Submission of Proposed Amendments

601.2.1 Authorization—Changes to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* may be proposed only by an LMSC, a standing committee of the House of Delegates, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.

601.2.2 Format—Proposed changes shall be in such form as to show the section as it will read if adopted, with any changes in language underlined if new and lined out if deleted.

601.2.3 Submission Deadline—The deadline for changes submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the LMSC Development Committee is February 1 to be considered as described in article 601.4.4. Proposed changes to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* by an LMSC must be submitted to the chair of the Legislation, Long Distance, or Rules Committee not later than June 10 to be considered as described in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2, and 601.4.3.

601.2.4 Submissions After the Deadline—The Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or standing committees of the House of Delegates may propose changes to the USMS code after June 10. Submissions after the deadline may be adopted in accordance with articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2, or 601.4.3 by a two-thirds vote of the committee of jurisdiction, provided the proposed amendment is made available to all members of the House of Delegates in advance of the annual meeting. All other submissions after the deadline shall be considered as emergency amendments and adopted in accordance with article 601.4.6.

601.2.5 Publication of Proposed Amendments—All proposed changes shall be published and distributed to each LMSC and each member of the House of Delegates not later than 30 days before the start of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates.

601.3 Modification of Proposed Amendments

Proposed amendments may be modified in any manner by the Legislation, LMSC Development, Long Distance, or Rules Committees, or the House of Delegates, where appropriate, while under consideration by said body. Such modification must be germane to the subject matter and intent of the proposed change. Such modification by the Legislation, LMSC Development, Long Distance, or Rules Committees requires a majority vote. Such modification by the House of Delegates requires a two-thirds vote.

601.4 Adoption of Proposed Amendments

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

601.4.1 Rules—Part 1 and the Glossary may be amended by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the proposed amendments are submitted to and recommended by the Rules Committee, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the

proposed amendments are submitted to and NOT recommended by the Rules Committee.

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

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

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

601.4.5 Proposed Amendments Requiring Action of More Than One Committee—In any year, proposed amendments to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* that fall within more than one jurisdiction, as described in articles 601.4.1, 601.4.2, 601.4.3, and 601.4.4, may be submitted as an indivisible package to be considered by the House of Delegates, subject to the following:

A Each and every committee under whose jurisdiction the amendment proposals fall votes by a two-thirds majority to accept the proposed amendments as a package to be considered in the whole.

B If the conditions of article 601.4.5A are met, the indivisible package may be approved by a majority vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if recommended by all committees with jurisdiction, or by a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if the indivisible package fails to receive the recommendation of all committees with jurisdiction.

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

601.4.7 USA Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules

A Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, “Individual Strokes and Relays,” 102, “Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition,” and 105, “Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USA Swimming Meets,” shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments. Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” may

be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the House of Delegates.

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

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

601.5 Effective Date

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