



Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH PROPOSAL

(Complete text of all proposals follows page 2)

- R 1 Glossary Lane Line; add “or finish end”
- R 2 Glossary Lane Markers; add “or finish end”
- R 3 Glossary Session (new)
- R 4 Glossary Submitted Time; add “also known as seed time”
- R 5 Glossary Team (delete)
- R 6 Part 1, first paragraph; add reference to 601.5
- R 7 Part 1, second paragraph; add reference to 601.4.7
- R 8 Part 1, third paragraph; add reference to 202.1.1.F(1)
- R 9 101.1.1; front edge of starting platform
- R 10 101.4.3; allow kicking and gliding into backstroke turn
- R 11 102.2; make age determining date for short course yards as of Dec. 31 (same as for meters)
- R 12 102.3.2; make short course yard relays cumulative age (same as for meters)
- R 13 102.3.2; make scy relays cumulative age (same as for meters; no individual age change)
- R 14 102.5; put open water/long distance/nonconforming references at end
- R 15 102.10.4B(2); “remaining pairs of swimmers” (seeding two to a lane)
- R 16 102.13.3; delete reference to this article
- R 17 102.14; “For Pool Competition” (title), delete reference to open water swimwear
- R 18 102.14; no restrictions on material and coverage for short course yard swimwear
- R 19 102.14; shoulder to knee coverage for men & women, textile for short course yard swimwear
- R 20 102.15; add using device or substance to help speed, pace, etc. to list of disqualifications
- R 21 102.15.2; add “inform one or both” (swimmer or coach) of reason for disqualification
- R 22 102.15.11; change “made” to “given” for awards
- R 23 102.16.1; delete “scored”
- R 24 103.2; require referee training for certified starters or stroke/turn judges who serve as referees
- R 25 103.2; require officials certification or training for starters and stroke/turn judges (new)
- R 26 103.5; make the first sentence a complete sentence
- R 27 103.6.3; separate into 103.6.3 into 103.6.3 and 103.6.4
- R 28 103.6.7; replace “does” with “shall”
- R 29 103.10.6; add referee to the exception for raising one hand for a disqualification
- R 30 103.11.4; divide first sentence into two sentences
- R 31 103.12.2B; add “preferred order” and reverse the order of the number of buttons or watches
- R 32 103.13.1; add references to 202.1.1F(1) and 202.2.1E
- R 33 103.13.4; add “officially certified for length” to pools
- R 34 104.3.2; add reference to 107 for facility standards
- R 35 104.3.5; clarify that “annual meeting” is that “of the House of Delegates”
- R 36 104.5.1A; delete House of Delegates and the list of invitees from the general meeting
- R 37 104.5.2A; move relays from the end of the last day to an earlier time slot on the last day
- R 38 104.5.2A; delegates will select 3 new meet schedules for nationals in 2012-2015
- R 39 104.5.2B(4); change “approved” to “approval”
- R 40 104.5.2D; give Championship Committee the authority to make changes in the meet schedule



- R 41** 104.5.4A(3); allow swimmer to only declare unattached prior to the start of nationals
- R 42** 104.5.5A(7); clarify that remaining swimmers may be seeded with an “older age group”
- R 43** 104.5.5A(11); use swimmer’s recorded time “in the past year” for a realistic seed time
- R 44** 104.5.8B; change distribution of results from nationals
- R 45** 105.1.1; change “made” to “achieved”
- R 46** 105.1.2; change “made” to “achieved”
- R 47** 105.1.2; add “or designee” to “Records and Tabulation Committee chair”
- R 48** 105.2.2A; allow split times to be recorded by 2 buttons or 2 watches for official times
- R 49** 105.2.2B; request split times (except backstroke) up to 30 days after meet or by end of season
- R 50** 105.2.2; clarify legal splits from nonconforming events
- R 51** 105.3.8; clarify that proof of age is required for record applications
- R 52** 105.3.8; record applications and supporting data due within 90 days of the end of the season
- R 53** 105.4; delete “Recognition” from “All-American”
- R 54** 105.4.1; award All-American to the top five best times for each individual event
- R 55** 105.4.2; award All-American to the top three best times for each relay event
- R 56** 107.2.3B; change “championship meet committee” to “Championship Committee”
- R 57** 107.4.3; add how to number lanes when starting at the turn end of a 50-meter course
- R 58** 107.8.1; change “should” to “shall” and “They” to “Such portable equipment”
- R 59** 107.11.3; add “adjustable setting back plate” to starting platform description
- R 60** 107.11.5; add reference to 107.4.3 for lane numbering procedures
- R 61** 107.14; add reference to 108.3 for starting system for deaf and hard of hearing swimmers
- R 62** 108.2; change “visually impaired” to “vision loss” (title)

HOUSEKEEPING

- HK 1** 102.13.4A; correct grammar and punctuation
- HK 2** 102.14.6; use the singular throughout
- HK 3** 102.14; change the numbering and organization of the text
- HK 4** 103.6.4; replace semicolon with “and”
- HK 5** 103.6.6; move phrase to the noun it describes
- HK 6** 103.6.8; move the last phrase to the beginning of the sentence
- HK 7** 103.8.1; begin the sentence by stating what the type of equipment is (starting device)
- HK 8** 103.10.3; add comma after “finishing”
- HK 9** 103.12.4F; reorganize the instructions for easier understanding



Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2010 Convention.

Please note that many of the proposed changes are from review work done by the Rules Committee and are a matter of clarifying, reorganizing, maintaining consistency, and updating rules.

The substantive proposals are R 3, R 5, R 9, R 10, R 11, R 12, R 13, R 18, R 19, R 24, R 25, R 36, R 37, R 38, R 40, R 41, R 43, R 44, R 48, R 49, R 52, R 54, R 55, and R 59.

R 50 is an indivisible package and must also be considered by the Legislation Committee for recommendation to the House of Delegates in accordance with 601.4.5.

R 1	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Lane Line—continuous floating markers attached to a line stretched from the starting end to the turning end or finish end for the purpose of separating adjacent lanes.

Rationale: There is no turn end for 50s in a 50-meter pool.

R 2	Glossary	page xii	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Lane Markers—the guide lines on the bottom of the pool and in the center of the lanes running from the starting end to the turning end or finish end.

Rationale: There is no turn end for 50s in a 50-meter pool.

R 3	Glossary	page xiii	Rules Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Session – any portion of a meet distinctly separated from other portions of a meet by locale, time, day, or type of competition, i.e., first day and second day, morning and evening, etc, exclusive of a short break between events such as before the start of distance events or relays.

Rationale: Define session to eliminate confusion about when a bulkhead pool measurement has to be confirmed.

R 4	Glossary	page xiv	Championship Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled



Submitted Times--those filed with an entry as having been previously achieved or reasonably estimated, also known as seed time.

Rationale: Make it clear that “submitted time” and the common term, “seed time”, are the same.

R 5	Glossary	page xiv	Rules Committee					Delete
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

~~**Team**—a group of swimmers representing the same club in a competition.~~

Rationale: When “team” is used in the rule book, it is defined for that particular use in each instance (e.g., relay team or All-Star Team).

R 6	Part 1	page 1	Rules Committee					Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Part 1, first paragraph

All provisions under *Part 1: Swimming Rules*, unless otherwise specified, are effective beginning January 1, 2011, (article 601.5) and until changed. Rules in effect on the first day of a meet shall govern throughout the meet.

Rationale: Reference the rule governing the effective date of the rules.

R 7	Part 1	page 1	Rules Committee					Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Part 1, second paragraph

Part 1: Swimming Rules is based upon 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,” of the USA Swimming Technical Rules, which, as amended, will govern all Masters swimming competitions (article 601.4.7).

Rationale: Reference the rule that states USMS swimming rules are based on USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105.

R 8	Part 1	page 1	Rules Committee					Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Part 1, third paragraph

All competitive swimming events held under corporate sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules, which are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition (article 202.1.1.F[1]).



Rationale: Reference the rule governing this statement.

R 9	101.1.1	page 1	Officials Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

101.1.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck, or a push from the wall. 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 should take their positions with at least one foot at the front edge of the starting platform, the edge of the pool, or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.” Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block.

Rationale: To be more specific in the foot position required for forward starts from the blocks and to be consistent with “edge of the pool” for deck starts.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

(R 9) 103.8.5A page 17

103.8.5 A At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a series of short whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front edge of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall and remain there. (Rest of this section is unchanged.)

(R 9) 103.8.5C page 17

103.8.5 C On the starter’s command “Take your mark,” the swimmers shall immediately assume their starting position with at least one foot at the front edge of the starting platform, the edge of the pool or on the wall. (Rest of this section is unchanged.)

R 10	101.4.3	page 3	Arizona				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Backstroke

101.4.3

Turns-Upon completion of each length, some part of the swimmer must touch the wall. During the turn the shoulders may be turned past the vertical toward the breast, after which a continuous simultaneous single arm pull or a continuous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. ~~Once the body has left the position on the back, any kick or arm pull must be part of the continuous turning action.~~ After the initiation of the turning action, no additional arm pulls may be started; however, kicking and gliding actions are permitted. The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall.

Note: The swimmer who turns past vertical and, ~~in a continuous motion,~~ grabs the wall before pushing off with the feet while on the back is considered to have executed a “continuous proper turning action.”



~~A. Short Course (25) yards—18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+.....(10 year increments ... 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 is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.~~

Rationale: The age groups as defined for all meters competition offer more flexibility for clubs to field relay teams while preserving other advantages of the short course yard age group definition (competition, camaraderie). (**Note** that Pacific did not change the age determining date for short course yards [102.2.1] when submitting this proposed amendment.)

R 14	102.5	page 6	Rules Committee	Modify and add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.5 Events

In planning any meet,...rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.

~~Any of the following events may be conducted.~~ Any event conducted must be offered for all groups and both genders. Any of the following events may be conducted. ~~For open water and long distance events, see article 302.~~

102.5.1 Unchanged (List of events for short course yards)

102.5.2 Unchanged (List of events for short course and long course meters)

102.5.3 For nonconforming events see article 202.1.1F(3). For open water and long distance events, see article 302.

Rationale: Move the first sentence to the end of that paragraph, so the list of events follows that sentence. Move the reference to open water and long distance events to the end of 102.5. Add the reference for nonconforming events at the end of 102.5, so as not to imply that nonconforming events must be offered for all groups and both genders; e.g., a nonconforming event might be a 25 yard freestyle for novice swimmers.

R 15	102.10.4B(2)	page 11	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Methods of seeding two-to-a-lane

(2) Swimmers of similar speed in the same lane—Groups of swimmers equal in number to twice the number of lanes of the pool (e.g., groups of 12 swimmers for a six-lane pool) shall be created. Each group of swimmers shall be divided into odd and even heats. The fastest swimmer in each group shall be assigned to a middle lane in the odd heat. The second-fastest swimmer shall be assigned to the same



middle lane in the even heat. The remaining pairs of swimmers shall be assigned to lanes in accordance with article 102.10.2A.

Rationale: Original language of the last sentence was misleading.

R 16	102.13.3	page 13	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.13.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement (~~except as permitted in article 102.13.3~~) and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated in the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Affected swimmers or coaches may and should file a written protest with the referee prior to the running of the event or the meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

Rationale: Not necessary to reference the same article number.

R 17	102.14	page 13 & on line	Long Distance Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.14 SWIMWEAR FOR POOL COMPETITION

102.14.3 In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. ~~Except for open water competitions,~~ 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.

Rationale: Open water swimwear will be defined in Part 3. Adding “For Pool Competition” to this title will make it clear that open water swimwear rules are not in 102.14. The proposed corresponding title for 303.6 is “Swimwear for Open Water Competition”.

R 18	102.14	page 13 & on line	Pacific				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

(See online version of rule book)

102.14.3 Composition and Style

A Short Course (25) Yards

In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. ~~All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. Except for open water competition,~~ 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.~~ There are no restrictions on the material used or the maximum coverage of the swimsuit.

B Short Course (25) Meters and Long Course (50) Meters

In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. ~~Except for open water competition,~~ 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.

102.14.4 Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any U.S. Masters Swimming sanctioned or recognized short course (25) meters or long course (50) meters competition.

Rationale: Allow USMS members to continue using technical suits for short course yards competition as technical suits are still being used in USMS open water competitions, and also remove any restrictions on material or maximum coverage of swimwear. As FINA does not address short course yards competition, USMS is not bound to follow FINA directives for short course yards competition.

R 19	102.14	page 13 & on line	Pacific				Modify
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled							

(See online version of rule book)

102.14.3 Composition and Style

A Short Course (25) Yards

In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. ~~Except for open water competition, 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.

B Short Course (25) Meters and Long Course (50) Meters

In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. ~~Except for open water competition,~~ 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.

102.14.4 Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USMS sanctioned or recognized short course (25) meters or long course (50) meters competition.

Rationale: Allow USMS members to wear technical suits for short course yards competition only, with restrictions on material and maximum coverage including equal coverage for men and women. Technical suits are still being used in USMS open water competitions. As FINA does not address



short course yards competition, USMS is not bound to follow FINA directives for short course yards competition.

R 20	102.15	page 14	Rules Committee	Add and renumber the rest			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.15.9 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.

Rationale: This potential disqualification used to be in 102.15 (it's currently 102.14.2 in the rule book and 102.14.6 in the on line version). It should be in both 102.14 and 102.15, the list of disqualifications, just as 102.10.4A(6)(b) is also included in 102.15.6.

R 21	102.15.2	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Disqualifications

102.15.2 The referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or the swimmer's coach and inform ~~them~~ one or both as to the reason for the disqualification.

Rationale: Change "them" to "one or both"; otherwise, in the middle of the sentence, the rule changes the requirement from trying to inform one or the other to trying to inform them both.

R 22	102.15.11	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.15.11 The time, place and/or initial splits of any swimmer or relay team disqualified either during or following an event shall not be recorded in the results of that event. If awards have been ~~made~~ given prior to the decision to disqualify, they shall be returned and ~~made~~ given to the proper recipient(s), and if points have been scored by those disqualified, the event shall be rescored.

Rationale: Change "made" to "given" so it is the same language as in 102.16.1.

R 23	102.16.1	page 14	Rules Committee	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.16.1 The official results of any protested race shall not be announced, the affected awards shall not be given and points ~~scored~~ shall not be allocated until the protest is resolved or is withdrawn in writing.

Rationale: The word "scored" is unnecessary.



R 24	103.2	page 16	Officials Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.2 CERTIFICATION QUALIFICATION OF OFFICIALS

103.2.1 Referees shall be certified as ~~a stroke and turn judge, starter or referee~~ in this capacity by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). 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. Such training shall include all aspects of Articles 102, 103, 105, 107, and 108 for which the referee has responsibility.

Rationale: Currently, certified starters and stroke and turn judges are permitted to serve as referees at USMS meets. Since their training may not have covered all relevant technical, administrative, and facility aspects under the jurisdiction of the referee, this change ensures that starters and stroke and turn judges who serve as referees receive sufficient training to perform the duties of a referee.

R 25	103.2	page 16	Officials Committee				Add
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.2.2 Starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in these capacities by USA-Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). 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. Such training for starters/stroke and turn judges shall include all aspects of Articles 101, 103, 107, and 108 for which starters/stroke and turn judges have responsibility.

Rationale: Add a requirement for certification of starters and stroke and turn judges, but provide a provision for continuing to use uncertified officials under certain circumstances.

R 26	103.5	page 16	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.5 Meet Committee

The meet Committee is ~~a~~Appointed by the meet sponsor. The committee consists of a minimum of the meet director, 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: ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing a summary of results within 14 days after the meet; and filing an LMSC report.

Rationale: Change the fragment to a complete sentence.

R 27	103.6.3	page 16	Rules Committee				Modify, add, and renumber the rest
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6.3 The referee shall signal the starter before each race that all officials are in position, that the course is clear and that the competition can begin; ~~shall assign marshals with specific instructions.~~

103.6.4 The referee shall assign marshals with specific instructions.

Rationale: The start and assigning marshals are two unrelated duties; list them separately.

R 28	103.6.7	page 33	Rules Committee			Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

103.6.7 The referee may modify any rule for a swimmer who has a disability. Any such modification shall be in accordance with article 108, shall affect only the current meet and ~~does~~ shall not set precedent. It shall be the responsibility of the swimmer or a representative to notify the referee of the disability prior to competition.

Rationale: Replace “does” with “shall”.

R 29	103.10.6	page 19	Rules Committee			Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

103.10.6 Infraction Signal—Either the referee or the stroke, turn or relay takeoff judge shall immediately raise one hand overhead with open palm upon observing an infraction within that judge’s jurisdiction. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.

Exception: Relay takeoff judges as outlined in article 103.10.5B and the referee as outlined in article 103.6.2.

Rationale: The referee also has an exception to raising the hand for a disqualification as noted in 103.6.2.

R 30	103.11.4	page 20	Rules Committee			Modify	
Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

103.11.4 Timing Equipment Operator—The timing equipment operator shall be responsible for the automatic or semiautomatic timing equipment, including the electronic starting system and scoreboard (if used), ~~and~~ The timing equipment operator shall also advise the referee of any system problems that might affect the accuracy of times or whenever the touchpad is observed to have failed to record the finish when the swimmer completed the race. The timing equipment should be placed so that the operator is able to observe the finish of each race.

Rationale: Divide first sentence into two sentences.

R 31	103.12.2B	page 21	Rules Committee			Modify	
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.12.2B

B Secondary system—If manually operated watches are not the primary system, a secondary system of precedence equal to or lower than the primary system shall be used. The secondary system may be one of the following, listed in their preferred order of use:

- (1) Backup timing cameras recording a minimum of 100 images per second. The cameras must be fully integrated with the timing system.
- (2) Semiautomatic with ~~one, two or three~~, two or one buttons, each operated by a separate timer.
- (3) Manual with ~~one, two or three~~, two or one watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

Rationale: Add “listed in their preferred order of use” for consistency with 103.12.2A, and reverse the order of the number of buttons or watches per lane to reflect the preferred order of buttons/watches.

R 32	103.13.1	page 24	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.13.1 An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules (articles 202.1.1F[1] and 202.2.1E). It may be achieved in:

A A 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 the swimmers complete the event without being disqualified.

D The swimmer’s relay leadoff split shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.

Rationale: Add the reference numbers that require following applicable rules for sanctioned competition and recognized events.

R 33	103.13.4	page 25	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.13.4 Only those results from events conducted in pools officially certified for length in conformance with article 107.2.1 shall be acceptable for record applications or Top 10 submissions.

Rationale: Clarify that the pool must actually be measured.

R 34	104.3.2	page 26	Rules Committee	Modify
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Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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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 107). The Championship Committee shall strongly consider LMSC endorsement as a selection criteria.

Rationale: Add the reference number for facility standards.

R 35	104.3.5	page 27	Rules Committee			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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 107).

Rationale: Clarify that the annual meeting is the House of Delegates’ meeting.

R 36	104.5.1A	page 27	Georgia			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.1 Information for Participants

A General meeting—A general meeting of the House of Delegates, members of the Championship Committee, organizing personnel, interested officials, coaches and swimmers shall be held the evening prior to the first day of the meet.

Rationale: This meeting has never, in recent memory, been conducted as a meeting of the House of Delegates. The list of invitees is deleted because 104.5.1A(1-3) define what is covered in the meeting; defining it as a general meeting and describing the topics covered eliminates the need to list the invitees.

R 37	104.5.2A	page 29	Championship Committee			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

A Meet schedules (2010–2011)

Schedule 1	Schedule 2	Schedule 3
2010 Long Course	2011 Short Course	2010 Short Course
		2011 Long Course
1st Day**	1st Day**	1st Day**
800/1000 free	800/1000 free	800/1000 free
1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free	1500/1650 free
2nd Day	2nd Day	2nd Day
400 IM	400 IM	400 IM
50 fly	50 fly	200 free
200 free	200 back	50 breast
100 back	100 breast	200 back
200 breast	50 free	100 fly
200 mixed medley relay	200 mixed free relay	200 mixed free relay



200 free relay

3rd Day

400/500 free (women)
200 back
50 free
100 breast
200 IM
100 fly
200 medley relay

4th Day

400/500 free (men)
200 mixed free relay
50 breast
100 IM*
200 fly
100 free
50 back
~~200 mixed free relay~~

3rd Day

400/500 free (women)
100 IM*
200 fly
100 back
50 breast
200 free
200 mixed medley relay
200 free relay

4th Day

400/500 free (men)
200 medley relay
200 breast
100 fly
50 back
200 IM
100 free
~~200 medley relay~~

3rd Day

400/500 free (men)
200 mixed medley relay
100 breast
50 fly
200 IM
100 free
50 back
200 free relay

4th Day

400/500 free (women)
200 medley relay
100 IM*
200 fly
100 back
200 breast
50 free
~~200 medley relay~~

Rationale: Referees have recommended not ending the last day with a relay because there are far more name changes than normal on relays if they are the last event of the meet (swimmers leave early to catch flights). It takes extra time for officials to sort through all the handwritten changes on the relay cards, delaying the announcement of the final scores and the distribution of medals. Moving the relay to the morning of the last day, after the distance event, solves this problem.

R 38	104.5.2A	page 29	Championship Committee					Modify
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

104.5.2A Meet schedules (2012-2015)

(Look for an email to all delegates prior to convention with proposed meet schedules for consideration by the House of Delegates for national championship meets.)

Rationale: See 104.5.2B(4), p. 30. Three meet schedules will be selected by a vote of the House of Delegates and those three schedules will apply to the rotation of meet schedules for national championship meets beginning in 2012.

R 39	104.5.2B(4)	page 30	Rules Committee					Modify
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled								

104.5.2 B

(4) The three basic schedules shall be chosen every four years, starting in 1990, by a vote of the House of Delegates, from at least four alternatives presented by the Championship Committee. The selected schedules shall apply to the period starting two years after ~~approved~~ approval by the House of Delegates.



Rationale: Grammatical correction; “two years after approved” should be “two years after approval”.

R 40	104.5.2D	page 30	Championship Committee			Modify and add	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.2

D Alternative meet schedules—Alternative meet schedules may be approved as follows:

- (1) A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a national championship meet with a different schedule from those defined in article 104.5.2A.
- (2) The Championship Committee has the authority to approve other changes in the meet schedule, as necessary, prior to the publication of the meet entry form in order to improve the efficiency of a particular national championship meet.

Rationale: Currently the Rules Committee has to recommend that a request for a change in the order of events be approved. There are certain situations, such as R 37, when changes would make a particular meet run more efficiently and be an improvement for all participants.

R 41	104.5.4A(3)	page 31	Championship Committee			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.4 Entry Procedures

A Eligibility/affiliation

(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. If there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer shall be switched to unattached status for the duration of the meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may only declare unattached status prior to the start of the meet ~~at any time~~.

Rationale: The last sentence conflicts with the rest of the paragraph and infers the swimmer may change to unattached during the middle of the meet. The intent is to have a swimmer affiliated with one club or be unattached throughout the whole meet. Finally, most meet management software programs cannot accommodate one swimmer being on a club for part of the meet and unattached for the rest of the meet, and it is not practical to tabulate these separate results and scores manually.

R 42	104.5.5A(7)	page 33	Rules Committee			Modify	
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding

(7) After all full heats are seeded within each age group, the remaining swimmers may be seeded with any available, older age group of remaining swimmers.

Rationale: Current practice and intent.



R 43 104.5.5A(11) pages 33-34 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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104.5.5 Seeding

A General procedures for seeding

(11) If a swimmer enters an ~~deck seeded~~ event with a time significantly slower than ~~his/her~~ that recently swimmer's recorded time in the past year, the meet director may, after notifying the swimmer, change the seeded time to a realistic time.

Rationale: Expand the meet director's ability to change a swimmer's seed time to a time that is realistic, from deck seeded events only to all events at nationals to help keep the meet on its predicted timeline.

R 44 104.5.8B page 35 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Publication of meet results

Meet results...shall be published within 30 days after the last day of the meet; and posted on the USMS website, ~~and distributed, if requested, to the representative of each participating club.~~ Hard copies Electronic files shall be sent to the Executive Championship Committee chair and the USMS Records and Tabulations chair, and ~~a hard copy~~ and electronic files shall be sent to the ~~chair and liaison for the Championship Committee and the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee.~~

Rationale: Eliminate unnecessary expenses by the Host. The USMS website provides full results. The only party who needs a hardcopy for their position is the Records and Tabulation Chair. The Championship Chair gets hardcopies for ISHOF and archives use through the meet contract. All other parties may purchase a hardcopy if so desired.

R 45 105.1.1 page 37 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times must be ~~made~~ achieved in USMS sanctioned meets or recognized events.

Rationale: Change “made” to “achieved” to be consistent with the rest of article 105.

R 46 105.1.2 page 37 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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105.1.2 Deadlines—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times must be ~~made~~ achieved on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation Committee chair by June 30, October 20 and January 26, respectively.

Rationale: Change “made” to “achieved” to be consistent with the rest of article 105.

R 47 105.1.2 page 37 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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105.1.2 Deadlines—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times must be made on or before May 31 for short course yard times, September 30 for long course meter times and December 31 for short course meter times. These times shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee by June 30, October 20 and January 26, respectively.

Rationale: Current practice; Top 10 submissions are submitted to the National Swim Administrator, the “designee” of the Records and Tabulation Committee chair (as stated in the Guide to Operations). For consistency with other articles; “or designee” is also used in 105.3.8, 105.5, and 104.5.8B.

R 48 105.2.2A pages 38 **Ozark** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:

A Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment or by semi-automatic or manual devices with two buttons or two watches dedicated to taking the split time,

Rationale: Currently, split times are not accepted for USMS purposes at a meet that uses only stop watches or semiautomatic devices. A split time recorded with three stopwatches is acceptable for a FINA World record but is not accepted for USMS Top 10, USMS records, or in the USMS database. The minimum timing quality for USMS Top 10 times is two manual times. Requiring separate stop watches or semiautomatic devices dedicated to the split distance alone would avoid errors in the official time for the final distance.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

(R 47) 103.13.3 page 25

103.13.3 The official time to establish records and Top 10 times can be achieved only in accordance with the following timing methods:

Timing method

Official time level

Automatic timing

- World records, USMS national records and USMS Top 10 times
- Initial splits for all purposes
- Relay leadoff times for all purposes

Semi-automatic with three buttons or three watches

- World records, USMS national records and USMS Top 10 times
- Initial splits and relay leadoff times for ~~world records only~~ all purposes

Semi-automatic with two buttons or two watches

- USMS Top 10 times
- Initial splits and relay leadoff times for USMS Top 10 times

R 49 105.2.2B page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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105.2.2 Split times shall be considered for Top 10 times if:



B In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee director prior to the conclusion of the meet or brought to the attention of the meet host’s LMSC Top 10 recorder within 30 days of the conclusion of the meet or by the end of the appropriate season as stated in 105.1.2, whichever comes first,

Rationale: To give swimmers more flexibility in requesting that split times be submitted for Top 10 consideration. Swimmers may not realize until they see the results published online that their split times might be competitive. The 30-day limit gives the meet director time to publish the results and the swimmers time to read them without being unduly burdensome on the Top 10 recorder.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.13.1B page 24

103.13.1 An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules. It may be achieved in:

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

- (1) For relay leadoff splits and initial backstroke distances in individual backstroke events, the swimmer ~~Notifies~~ the meet referee in writing of the intent to record an initial split time prior to the event ~~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~~ For other swims, the swimmer notifies the meet director in writing prior to the conclusion of the meet or notifies the Top 10 recorder of the meet host’s LMSC within 30 days of the conclusion of the meet or by the end of the appropriate season as stated in 105.1.2, whichever comes first,
- (3) The swimmer ~~C~~ompletes the initial distance with a legal finish, and
- (4) The swimmer ~~C~~ompletes the event without being disqualified.

Also: The **split notification forms** on page 137 in Appendix B and page 13 of the Records and Tabulation section of the Guide to Operations will need to be updated.

R 50	105.2.2	page 38	Records and Tabulation Committee	Add			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

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

F Relay leadoff split times and initial distance times from individual events conform to articles 103.13.1 and 105.2.2A for events 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.

Rationale: This practice is already allowed under 202.1.1F(3) and the Records and Tabulation Committee approves of it, so the proposed amendment is for clarity and consistency.

Two other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

105.3.6 page 39



105.3.6 Split times shall be considered for USMS national records if they meet the requirements of articles 105.2.2A to 105.2.2F.

Such split times shall be included separately in the summary of results prepared by the meet director and submitted to the LMSC Top 10 recorder.

202.2.1E(4) page 53

202.2.1 Recognition—Recognition shall be issued, withheld or withdrawn in accordance with the following:

E The conduct of a recognized event shall conform to relevant USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations including, but not limited to, the following:

(4) Articles 105.1, 105.2.1, 105.2.2A, 105.2.2F, 105.3.2, 105.3.7A, and 105.3.10.

R 51	105.3.8	page 39	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.3.8 When a record is claimed, an official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials and transmitted immediately following performance with all supporting data, including official meet results, the timing system printout and/or copy of the entry card with timers’ signatures to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized. Responsibility for this lies with either the LMSC records chair or the official scorer of the meet. The LMSC records and tabulation chair shall send the supporting data to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee for verification. Upon verification, the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee shall promptly publish the new record on the USMS website. A record application shall not be accepted unless proof of age, copy of a birth certificate or passport, accompanies it or is on file with USMS.

Rationale: Proof-of-age requirement currently appears only on the record application and in the Guide to Operations. It is treated as a rule and should appear in the rules.

R 52	105.3.8	page 39	Records and Tabulation Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.3.8 When a record is claimed, an official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials and transmitted immediately following performance with all supporting data, including official meet results, the timing system printout and/or copy of the entry card with timers’ signatures to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized. Responsibility for this lies with either the LMSC records chair or the official scorer of the meet. The LMSC records and tabulation chair shall send the supporting data to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee ~~for verification~~ within 90 days of the end of the season as stated in 105.1.2. Upon verification, the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee shall promptly publish the new record on the USMS website.

Rationale: The USMS records administrator currently must keep incomplete record applications on file indefinitely and swimmers who break published records learn later that a much older swim has finally



been submitted for record verification. The FINA deadline for world record applications is 60 days. The proposed deadline for USMS allows 30 days after the end of the season to discover that a record has been set plus 60 days to collect the necessary supporting documentation to submit an application.

Other documents that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

The **record application form** on page 135 in Appendix B and page 10 of the Records and Tabulation section of the Guide to Operations will need to be updated.

R 53	105.4	page 39	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.4 All-American Recognition

105.4.1 Individual Recognition All-American

The USMS member with the fastest listed time for an individual event for that season shall be declared the All-American in that event for the year.

105.4.2 Relay Recognition All-American

The USMS members from each relay team with the fastest listed time for that season shall be declared the Relay All-Americans in that event for the year.

Rationale: Change “All-American Recognition” to “All-American” (delete the word “recognition”) throughout 105.4 because the official use of the term “recognized” applies to recognized events as described in 202.2 and as defined in the Glossary. (The same change has been proposed for 305.11.)

R 54	105.4.1	page 39	Arizona				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.4 All-American Recognition

105.4.1 Individual Recognition

The USMS ~~member~~ members with the five (5) fastest listed times for each individual event for that season shall be declared ~~the~~ All-Americans in that event for the year.

Rationale: Allow the top five fastest times in each event to be All Americans in order to encourage more participation in national meets and give recognition to others who are also at a high level. At the college level, the top 20 swimmers in each event are All Americans.

R 55	105.4.2	page 39	Arizona				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

105.4 All-American Recognition

105.4.2 Relay Recognition

The USMS members from each of the three (3) relay teams with the fastest listed times for that season shall be declared the Relay All-Americans in that event for the year.

Rationale: Allow the top three fastest times in each relay event to be All Americans in order to encourage more participation in national meets and give recognition to others who are also at a high level.



R 56	107.2.3B	page 41	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.2.3 Water Depth

B Racing course—Minimum water depth shall be 2 meters (6 feet, 7 inches) throughout the course. Based on facility availability, the ~~championship meet committee~~ Championship Committee may waive this requirement for national championship meets. [NC]

Rationale: “Championship Committee” is the correct title for the committee that can waive the depth requirement for national championship meets.

R 57	107.4.3	pages 41-42	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.4.3 Lane Numbers—The lanes shall be numbered from right to left as the swimmers stand facing the course from the starting end of the pool. If the event is started at the turning end of the course, no change in the lane numbering shall be made; i.e., the lanes shall be numbered the same on both ends of the course. Lane numbers shall clearly identify the lanes to officials stationed on each side of the course. [M]

Rationale: Add the exception from 102.10.3A for numbering lanes in a 50-meter course when 50s are started at the turn end of the course. When looking in the rule book for how to number the lanes, a person would logically look in “Facilities, Lane Numbers” not in “Seeding”.

R 58	107.8.1	page 42	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.8.1 Unobstructed Deck—Use of portable lifeguard chair stands and other deck fixtures is recommended. ~~They~~ Such portable equipment should ~~shall~~ be removed from the competition area to allow free passage and unobstructed view for competitors and officials along all sides of the course. [M*, NC]

Rationale: Change “should” to “shall” since this is required for national championship meets, and it is required for local competition unless strict compliance is waived by the LMSC.

R 59	107.11.3	page 43	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.11.3 Size and Slope of Platform—The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than .50 by .50 meters (1 foot, 8 inches square) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It may have an adjustable setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent nonslip material. [M]



Rationale: Both FINA and USA Swimming have changed their rules to allow the setting back plate on the blocks, and the adjustable setting back plates have been used at some USMS meets.

R 60	107.11.5	page 43	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.11.5 Lane Numbers—Starting platforms shall be clearly marked with lane numbers visible to competitors and officials (see article 107.4.3 for lane numbering procedures). [M]

Rationale: Add the reference to 107.4.3 for the lane numbering rules.

R 61	107.14	page 44	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

107.14 Loudspeaker Starting System

An electronic sound-generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light or similar visual signal located on the starter’s side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to manual timers and deaf and hard of hearing swimmers (also see article 108.3). The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and final-lap signal option. [NC]

Rationale: Add reference to 108.3 since deaf and hard of hearing swimmers are specifically mentioned here, but the position of the strobe light for backstroke for deaf and hard of hearing swimmers is not mentioned here.

R 62	108.2	page 46	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

108.2 BLIND AND ~~VISUALLY IMPAIRED~~ VISION LOSS

Rationale: Article 108 is based on USA Swimming’s article 105. USA Swimming changed the title.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1	102.13.4A	page 13	Rules Committee				Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled



- A. If, prior to the start of a meet or event, if unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or event, the meet committee (article 103.5) may cancel or postpone it.

Rationale: Correct grammar and punctuation.

HK 2 102.14.2	page 13/14	Rules Committee					Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
References are: 102.14.2 (rule book) 102.14.6 (on line version)							

102.14.26 ~~No S~~swimmers ~~are is not~~ permitted to wear or use any device or substance to ~~help~~ enhance their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.

Rationale: Use the singular throughout the first sentence.

HK 3 102.14	pages 13-14	Rules Committee					Modify
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
(See on line version of rule book)							

102.14 Swimwear

102.14.1 **Design**—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.

102.14.2 **A.** Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Arm bands or leg bands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.

102.14.3 **B.** In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. Except for open water competitions, 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.

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

102.14.5 **D.** 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 only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

A(1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules Committee and posted on the US Masters Swimming website.

B(2) No exemption to these restrictions will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

C(3) The decision of the Rules Chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.



102.14.26 E. Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.

102.14.32 **Advertising**—Products involving tobacco, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing drugs banned under IOC or FINA rules may not be advertised, but the advertiser’s name only may be used. Offenders may be barred from competition until they comply with this rule.

Rationale: More closely matches USA Swimming’s numbering and organization of the text.

HK 4 103.6.4	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.6.4 The referee shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ; and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage to ensure that the racing conditions are observed.

Rationale: Replace the semicolon with “and”.

HK 5 103.6.6	page 16	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.6.6 The referee may prohibit the use of any device, such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker, that disrupts or interferes with the meet, ~~such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker~~.

Rationale: Move the phrase to the noun it describes.

HK 6 103.6.8	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.6.8 The referee shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to article 102.10 ~~When~~ conducting events from alternate ends of a 50-meter course or conducting freestyle events longer than 200 meters two-to-a-lane ~~the referee shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to article 102.10.~~

Rationale: Move the last phrase to the beginning of the sentence to be consistent with language in article 103.6.

HK 7 103.8.1	page 17	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.8 Starter



103.8.1 Equipment—~~The preferred starting device shall be~~ a loudspeaker start system conforming to article 107.14, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all manual timers and for forward and backstroke starts ~~shall be the preferred starting device.~~

Rationale: Begin the sentence by stating what the type of equipment is; a “starting device”.

HK 8 103.10.3	page 19	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.10.3 Turn Judges—Shall operate on both ends of the pool; shall ensure that when turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the turning and finishing rules applicable to the stroke used; and shall report any violations to the referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number and the infraction observed.

Rationale: Add a comma after “finishing” so the swimmer is doing the turning and finishing instead of being turned and finished by the turn judges.

HK 9 103.12.4F	page 24	Rules Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

103.12.4F

Table 2—Example (Heat Malfunction)

Systems used:

Primary—Automatic (late manual start confirmed)

Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (button times not valid)

Tertiary—Manual, one watch (valid)

Lane	Lane Primary Pad Time	Watch Time	Watch Time Less Pad Time	Heat Adjustment	Official Time
1	52.12	55.14	3.02	+3.06	55.18
2	51.56	54.61	3.05	+3.06	54.62
3	51.09	54.18	3.09	+3.06	54.15
4	50.12	53.18	3.06	+3.06	53.18
5	49.78	52.90	3.12	+3.06	52.84
6	49.06	52.06	3.00	+3.06	52.12
7	52.21	55.30	3.09	+3.06	55.27
8	52.92	55.99	3.07	+3.06	55.98

Adjustment calculation: ~~Add the differences between the pad and watch times (total = 24.50).~~

~~• Add the differences between the pad and watch times (total = 24.50).~~

~~• Divide the total by the number of lanes to determine an average (24.50 ÷ 8 = 3.0625). The digits~~

~~• Drop the digits after the hundredths are dropped place (leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06). Add the adjustment factor for the~~

~~• Add the adjustment factor for the late start of the primary system to each pad time to obtain the official time for that lane (e.g., lane one, 52.12 + 3.06 = 55.18).~~

Same changes shown in a slightly larger font:

Adjustment calculation: Add the differences between the pad and watch times (total = 24.50).

• Add the differences between the pad and watch times (total = 24.50).

• Divide the total by the number of lanes to determine an average (24.50 ÷ 8 = 3.0625). The digits

• Drop the digits after the hundredths are dropped place (leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06). Add the adjustment factor for the

• Add the adjustment factor for the late start of the primary system to each pad time to obtain the official time for that lane (e.g., lane one, 52.12 + 3.06 = 55.18).

Rationale: Make the adjustment calculation paragraph under the table easier to understand by placing each step on a separate line.