

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rulebook Part 3: Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules

The following proposals are submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, by the Long Distance Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2011 Convention.

The Long Distance Committee considers all four proposals to be emergency rule legislation.

LD 1	301.2.3	page 59	Long Distance Committee	Amend
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled				

301.2.3 “All participants in national championship postal events...must be currently registered members of USMS or a FINA member national governing body on or before the day of their swim...”

Rationale: This provision already exists, buried at the end of a sentence in 202.1.1F(5). However, the LDC believes that it also needs to be included in the Long Distance rules for clarity and emphasis.

LD 2	301.5.1	page 60	Long Distance Committee	Amend
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled				

301.5.1 "The eligibility of a participant in an open water swim shall be determined by the age as of ~~the day of~~ the last day of the event....”

301.5.2 "The eligibility of a participant in a postal swim shall be determined by the age as of the day of the swim, except for 18-year-olds, who must be 18 on the day that they swim."

Rationale: When the current rule 301.5 was modified in 2010, the change inadvertently modified the age determining date for the postal swims. The current proposal separates the age determining criteria for open water and postal swims, and reestablishes the age determining date for the postal swims as originally legislated and intended.

LD 3	303.6.2A & D	pages 64-5	Long Distance Committee	Amend
Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled				

303.6.2A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap or caps (which may include those made of neoprene) and goggles. Swim caps shall be defined as head gear conforming to a traditional swim cap design and shall not extend to protect the neck and shoulders. Nose clips, ear plugs, wristwatches and grease are also allowed. ~~Arm bands shall not be regarded as part of the swimsuit and are not allowed.~~

303.6.2D Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a swim (such as wetsuits, webbed gloves, fins, snorkels, buoyant arm bands, etc.). Any kind of tape or flat arm band on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee. Any devices used to maintain body heat are not permitted, except for those listed in article 303.6.2A.

Rationale: This rule distinguishes between buoyant arm bands, which are popular in the triathlon community yet clearly illegal by USMS standards, and non-buoyant flat arm bands, which are usually used for medical reasons.

LD 4 306.8.2	page 69	Long Distance Committee	Amend				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

306.8.2 “Event directors shall have the discretion to request additional verification of completion from any entrant and may refuse to accept, or disqualify, any entry that appears to contain erroneous information.”

Rationale: When postal event directors receive entries with missing or questionable information, they have options listed in the current rule. However, information that questions the validity of a claimed performance occasionally comes to light after the entries have been accepted and processed. This proposal permits event directors the necessary power of disqualification.