

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with article 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2011 Convention.

Since this is not a “Rules” year, proposed amendments to *Part 1: Swimming Rules*, with the exception of USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules, are considered as described in article 601.4.6 and may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates if the proposed amendments are deemed an emergency by and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee. R 1a, R 1b, R 1c, and R 2 are subject to these criteria.

In conformance with article 601.4.7A, USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules (USMS articles 101, 102, 103, and 108) shall automatically be adopted unless the House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments. Votes to reject shall not be considered emergency amendments. Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards” (USMS article 107), may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the House of Delegates. Votes to accept shall not be considered emergency amendments. R 3 through R 11 and RO 1 through RO 5 (“RO” = Reorganization; the reorganization of articles 102 and 103 based on USA Swimming’s 2010 reorganization of the corresponding articles) are in these categories.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES R 1a – R 2 9/10 VOTE

R1 and R2 may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates if the proposed amendments are deemed an emergency by and recommended for approval by the Rules Committee.

R 1a 103.12.2B(1) Championship Committee page 23 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.12.2 Timing System Designation—Timing systems shall be designated in the order in which results are used as follows:

- A Primary system**—The primary system shall determine the official time of each swimmer unless a comparison of the primary with secondary and/or tertiary system times indicates a malfunction of the primary system. A primary system shall always be in place and shall consist of one of the following, listed in their preferred order of use:
- (1) Automatic timing.
 - (2) Semiautomatic, with three or two buttons per lane, each operated by a separate timer.
 - (3) Manual, with three or two watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.
- 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) Stationary overhead video Backup-timing cameras recording a ~~minimum of~~ 100 images per second. The cameras must be fully integrated with the primary timing system.
- (2) Semiautomatic with one, two or three buttons, each operated by a separate timer.
- (3) Manual with three, two or one watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

Rationale: See R 1c.

R 1b 103.12.2C	Championship Committee	page 23	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

- C Tertiary system**—Unless the primary system consists of stopwatches or the secondary system is a fully integrated video system or includes at least one stopwatch per lane, a tertiary system of at least one stopwatch per lane shall be provided.

Rationale: See R 1c.

R 1c 104.5.10C	Championship Committee	page 37	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

104.5.10 Personnel (also see article 103)

- A Meet director**—The meet director shall follow the swimming rules of USMS Inc. and the policies and procedures established by the Championship Committee with regard to the planning and execution of the requirements for a national championship meet.
- B Officials**—The meet host shall appoint a meet referee and an administrative referee subject to qualification standards established by the USMS Officials Committee. A head starter shall also be assigned.

The following positions shall be assigned for each session:

- one deck referee for each course,
- one starter for each course,
- one chief judge for each course

A sufficient number of stroke and turn judges shall be assigned in order to provide fair and equitable jurisdictions per article 103.10.4.

In addition to the officials listed above, additional officials may be assigned in order to provide adequate relief for all officials during each session.

All officials shall be certified by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body in the capacity to which they are assigned. An official may serve in only one officiating position during any event, except that during freestyle events 400 meters and longer, the referee and starter may double as stroke and turn judges.

C Other personnel—The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button

and at least one timer using a stopwatch,

one recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used,

one safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed. Where overhead video cameras are used, the referee may make further modifications as appropriate.

Rationale: The above rules changes would make USMS rules consistent with USA Swimming rules regarding the use of video timing equipment and allow USMS to utilize the video timing system that will be available for the 2012 Nationals in Omaha without a tertiary system. If these changes are not adopted, the Championship Committee would need to ask for a suspension of the rules to utilize the video timing system without a tertiary system. Making this change now also accommodates any future opportunities for utilization of this type of system without a tertiary system.

R 2 **103.12.4** Rules Committee pages 23-24 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.12.4 Determination of Official Time

A Automatic timing—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.

B Semiautomatic or manual timing—Whenever semiautomatic or manual timing is used, only valid times shall be used in calculating the official time. The times shall be determined as follows:

(1) If two of the three button or watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.

(2) If ~~all~~ three valid buttons or watches disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.

(3) If only two valid button or watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two buttons or the average of the two watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.

(4) If only one button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system provided it is supported by other information.

C Primary timing system malfunction—A primary timing system malfunction may have occurred if:

(1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the backup system(s) is more than .30 second-, or

(2) ~~A late or missed touch~~ It is reported the swimmer missed the pad or had a soft touch by an official observing the finish.

D Adjustment for the timing system difference—When the referee determines that there is a malfunction of the primary timing system, the backup time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference prior to integrating them with accurate primary times in establishing the official times and determining the ~~order of finish results~~. The adjustment for timing system difference may be incorporated into the automatic or semiautomatic system by design or may be determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the valid primary and backup systems used at that meet.

Rationale: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010. This language was inadvertently included with USA Swimming’s new 3-watch requirement for a manual primary system which was rejected by USMS at the 2010 convention.

Another article that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

103.12.4E, Table 1 page 24
(Change is in the first line below Table 1.)

Modify

103.12.4 Determination of Official Time

E Adjustment for malfunction on a lane—When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat or, if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane where the malfunction occurred.

Table 1—Example (Lane Malfunction):							
Systems used: Primary—Automatic Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (intermediate button time shown in bold) Tertiary—Manual, one watch							
Lane	Primary Pad Time	Button A	Button B	Button C	Watch Time	Pad Minus Middle Button	Official Time
1	52.21	52.07	52.12	52.14	52.04	.09	52.21
2	52.18	52.01	51.91	52.06	51.95	.17	52.18
3	51.05	51.01	50.97	51.00	50.95	.05	51.05
4	51.04	50.78	50.88	50.93	50.84	.16	51.04
5	51.96	51.30	51.35	51.38	51.27	*.61	**51.46
6	51.65	51.57	51.56	51.59	51.55	.08	51.65
7	52.27	52.13	52.18	52.13	52.10	.14	52.27
8	51.87	51.58	51.75	51.89	51.65	.12	51.87

*More than .30 second difference, late soft touch confirmed.

**Adjustment calculation:

- Add the differences between pad and intermediate button time, excluding the malfunctioning lane (total = .81).
- Divide total by the number of valid lanes to determine the average (.81 ÷ 7 = .11571). The digits after hundredths are dropped (leaving a timing system difference of .11 for the above example).
- Add the timing system difference to the valid backup time for the malfunctioning lane (51.35 + .11 = 51.46, the official time for lane five).

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES R 3 – R 11 MAJORITY VOTE

The following proposed amendments, R 3 through R 11, are USA Swimming's 2010 amendments that affect USMS rules. The 2010 House of Delegates charged the Rules Committee with reviewing those USA Swimming adopted changes during the past year and making recommendations to the 2011 House of Delegates. Votes to reject (or accept) shall not be considered emergency amendments and therefore, require a majority vote.

R 3	102.10.6A	Rules Committee	page 11	Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

102.10.6 Counters

A swimmer in ~~any individual~~ the 500/1000/1650 yard or 800/1500 meter or 400 short course meter freestyle event of 16 lengths or more, except the individual medley, may appoint one counter to call lengths or indicate lengths by visual sign.

Rationale: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010 with an exception allowing counters for the short course meter 400 freestyle.

R 4	102.17	Rules Committee	page 16	Delete & Modify			
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

~~102.17 TOBACCO PRODUCTS~~

~~Smoking and use of other tobacco products is prohibited on the pool deck, in locker rooms, in spectator seating and standing areas, and in all areas used by swimmers during the meet and during the warm-up periods in connection with the meet.~~

Another article that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

107.10 page 44 Modify

~~107.10 NO SMOKING SIGNS TOBACCO PRODUCTS~~

~~No sSmoking and use of other tobacco products is prohibited in all areas of the venue indoors or outdoors shall be permitted in any area designated for swimmers, including spectator seating, standing and eating areas, and “No Smoking” signs shall be so posted. [M]~~

Rationale: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010 including relocating the rule to article 107, “Facilities Standards”.

R 5 103.6.6 Rules Committee page 17 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.6.6 ~~When automatic or semiautomatic officiating equipment is used and an apparent malfunction occurs, it~~ The referee shall be the referee’s responsibility to make an immediate investigation when an apparent malfunction of the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment has occurred to determine whether the swimmer finished in accordance with the rules and/or if there was an actual equipment malfunction.

Rationale: Maintain parallel sentence structure with the rest of article 103.6 (i.e., begin each point with “The referee...”), and consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010.

R 6 103.10.1 Rules Committee page 20 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.10.1 Chief—An overall “chief judge” may assign and supervise the activities of all stroke, turn and takeoff judges and may report their decisions. ~~or, If~~ desired, any judging category may have a designated “chief.” Any “chief” may act as liaison for the judges and may serve simultaneously in one of the judging positions, and shall assign those judges within the category.

Rationale: Divide first sentence into two sentences; consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010.

R 7 103.10.2 Rules Committee page 20 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.10.2 Stroke Judges—Shall operate on both sides of the pool, preferably walking ~~abreast of~~ slightly behind the swimmers during all strokes except freestyle, during which events they may leave poolside, at the referee’s discretion; shall ensure that the rules relating to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed; 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: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010 and consistent with recommended practice.

R 8 103.10.3 Rules Committee page 20 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 after the start and 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: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010.

R 9 103.10.5 Rules Committee page 21 Modify

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

103.10.5 Relay Takeoff Judges

A Relay takeoff judges shall be assigned by the referee and shall stand so that they can clearly see both ~~the touch of the incoming swimmer(s) and~~ the feet of the departing swimmer(s) as they leave the starting platform and the touch of the incoming swimmer(s), and shall judge whether the swimmer is in contact with the platform when the incoming swimmer touches the end of the pool.

Rationale: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010.

R 10 103.12.4E & F, Titles of Tables 1 & 2 Rules Committee pages 24-25 Modify

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Withdrawn Pulled

(Change is only in the title of each table.)

103.12.4 Determination of Official Time

E Adjustment for malfunction on a lane—When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat or, if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane where the malfunction occurred.

Table 1—Example of (Lane Malfunction):							
Systems used:							
Primary—Automatic							
Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (intermediate button time shown in bold)							
Tertiary—Manual, one watch							
Lane	Primary Pad Time	Button A	Button B	Button C	Watch Time	Pad Minus Middle Button	Official Time

1	52.21	52.07	52.12	52.14	52.04	.09	52.21
2	52.18	52.01	51.91	52.06	51.95	.17	52.18
3	51.05	51.01	50.97	51.00	50.95	.05	51.05
4	51.04	50.78	50.88	50.93	50.84	.16	51.04
5	51.96	51.30	51.35	51.38	51.27	*.61	**51.46
6	51.65	51.57	51.56	51.59	51.55	.08	51.65
7	52.27	52.13	52.18	52.13	52.10	.14	52.27
8	51.87	51.58	51.75	51.89	51.65	.12	51.87

*More than .30 second difference, late touch confirmed.

**Adjustment calculation:

- Add the differences between pad and intermediate button time, excluding the malfunctioning lane (total = .81).
- Divide total by the number of valid lanes to determine the average (.81 ÷ 7 = .11571). The digits after hundredths are dropped (leaving a timing system difference of .11 for the above example).
- Add the timing system difference to the valid backup time for the malfunctioning lane (51.35 + .11 = 51.46, the official time for lane five).

F Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat—When, because of an early or late start, or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semiautomatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swimmers is accurate, the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid backup times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat.

Table 2—Example of (Heat Malfunction)					
Systems used: Primary—Automatic (late manual start confirmed) Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (button times not valid) Tertiary—Manual, one watch (valid)					
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).
- Divide the total by the number of lanes to determine an average ($24.50 \div 8 = 3.0625$).
- Drop the digits after the hundredths place (leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06).
- 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: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010.

R 11 103.17

Rules Committee

page 27

Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.17 RECORDER OF RECORDS

Shall obtain from the ~~official recorder~~ administrative referee all times made in each event, shall have proper application forms and shall duly process all record claims as set forth in article 105.

Rationale: Consistent with language adopted by USA Swimming in 2010 and with USMS 103.7.

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGES RO 1 – RO 5
REORGANIZATION OF ARTICLES 102 & 103
MAJORITY VOTE**

The following proposed amendments, RO 1 through RO 5, are based on USA Swimming’s 2010 reorganization of the corresponding articles. The 2010 House of Delegates charged the Rules Committee with reviewing those USA Swimming adopted changes during the past year and making

recommendations to the 2011 House of Delegates. Votes to reject or accept shall not be considered emergency amendments and therefore, require a majority vote.

Rationale for RO1 – RO5: Consistent with USA Swimming’s 2010 reorganization of the corresponding articles.

RO 1 102.11 & .12 Rules Committee page 12 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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102.11 Awards Move to 103.20.

102.12 SCORING Move to 103.19.

RO 2 103.4 Rules Committee page 17 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.4 MEET DIRECTOR Move to 103.1.

RO 3 103.14, .15, .16, .17, & .18 Rules Committee pages 26-27 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.14 CLERK OF COURSE Move to 103.12

103.15 MARSHALS Move to 103.13

103.16 ANNOUNCER Move to 103.14

103.17 RECORDER OF RECORDS Move to 103.15

103.18 PRESS STEWARD Move to 103.16

RO 4 103.12.3 Rules Committee page 23 Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.12.3 Timing Resolution (Timing Accuracy) Move to old 103.13.3 (renumbering the section will make the actual new reference number 103.18.3).

RO 5 103.12.4F Rules Committee page 25 Relocate

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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103.12.4F Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat Move paragraph “F” from its current position after Table 1 to a new position before Table 1.

Additional Rationale: List all instructions for determining official times, A – F, followed by the examples in Tables 1 and 2. Consistent with USA Swimming’s 2010 relocation of the tables after the articles describing timing malfunctions without placing the tables in an appendix.

COMPLETE TEXT OF REORGANIZATION OF ARTICLES 102 AND 103

RO 1 (RELOCATED 102.11 TO 103.20 AND 102.12 TO 103.19)

~~102.11 AWARDS~~

~~When two or more swimmers tie for any place, duplicate awards shall be given to each swimmer. In such cases, no awards shall be given for the place or places immediately following the tied positions. If two tie for first place, no award for second place; if three tie for first place, no awards for second and third; and so on.~~

~~102.12 SCORING~~

~~The following is recommended for all Masters swimming competition.~~

~~102.12.1 Dual Meets~~

~~Individual events: 5-3-1-0~~

~~Relay events: 7-0~~

~~102.12.2 Triangular Meets~~

~~Individual events: 6-4-3-2-1-0~~

~~Relay events: 8-4-0~~

~~102.12.3 Other Meets~~

~~Individual events:~~

~~four lane pools: 5-3-2-1~~

~~five lane pools: 6-4-3-2-1~~

~~six lane pools: 7-5-4-3-2-1~~

~~seven lane pools: 8-6-5-4-3-2-1~~

~~eight lane pools: 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1~~

~~nine lane pools: 10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1~~

~~ten lane pools: 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1~~

~~Individual point values shall be doubled for relays.~~

~~**102.12.4 Ties**—Where two or more swimmers tie for any place in any event, the points credited to such place or places, if any, next in order shall be equally divided among the swimmers; i.e., if two tie for first place, the points to be credited to first and second place shall be added and divided by two. Each tying swimmer will receive half of the total points for first and second places. If three tie for first place, the points credited to first, second and third places shall be added and divided by three, and so on for four or more tying for first place. The same is true for those tying for second place, third place and whatever places there may be.~~

~~**102.12.5 Disqualifications**—When a relay team or individual swimmer is disqualified, the subsequent places will move up accordingly and points will be awarded to conform to the new places.~~

RO 2 (NEW 103.1 RELOCATED FROM 103.4)

103.4-1 MEET DIRECTOR

The meet director shall be the chair of the meet committee and is responsible for the overall operation of the meet.

(RENUMBER THE REST)

103.42 REQUIRED PERSONNEL

The minimum personnel at USMS sanctioned Masters swimming meets or recognized events shall include the following for each course:

103.12.1 Officials

- A One referee**—The referee may also serve as a stroke and turn judge, but shall not serve as starter.
- B One starter**—The starter may also serve as a stroke and turn judge.
- C Two stroke and turn judges**—At least two people shall perform these duties during competition.

103.12.2 Timers—Two timers per lane if automatic timing is not being used. One timer per lane if automatic timing is used.

103.23 QUALIFICATION OF OFFICIALS

103.23.1 Referees shall be certified 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.

103.23.2 Starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in said 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.

103.34 REPORTING OF OFFICIALS AND MEET PERSONNEL

All officials and meet personnel accepting an invitation to work at a swim meet should arrive promptly and report immediately to the meet director or meet referee.

RO 2 (RELOCATED 103.4 TO 103.1)

~~103.4 MEET DIRECTOR~~

~~The meet director shall be the chair of the meet committee and is responsible for the overall operation of the meet.~~

103.5 MEET COMMITTEE

The meet committee is 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.

(THIS SECTION SKIPS FROM 103.5 TO 103.11)

103.11 TIMERS

103.11.1 Chief Timer—The chief timer shall:

- A** Assure the assignment of lane timers to lanes and the designation of one timer on each lane to be the head lane timer.
- B** On the starting signal, start a watch(es) on every race. The time of this watch shall be used if a lane timer's watch fails.
- C** Be responsible for delivering all stopwatch times, including those of disqualified swimmers, to the timing judge.

103.11.2 Head Lane Timer—The head lane timer shall:

- A** Determine whether the swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct lane, heat and event, and that relay swimmers are swimming in the order listed.
- B** Determine and record stopwatch times or the absence of a swimmer or the relay team seeded in that lane.
- C** Assign one timer to take relay splits and initial distance times if requested by the chief timer.
- D** Determine and report if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touchpad at the finish, or there is reason to believe the semiautomatic or manual times may be inaccurate.

103.11.3 Lane Timers—Officials assigned as lane timers may simultaneously operate two dissimilar devices (one watch and one button) but not two similar devices (two watches or two buttons). It is not within a lane timer's jurisdiction to judge if the swimmer's touch conforms to the applicable finish rules or if a relay takeoff infraction has occurred unless assigned concurrent responsibility as a lane timer and turn judge or relay takeoff judge. Each timer shall:

- A** Be in position at the start to have an unobstructed view and shall start the watch at the instant of observing the visual starting signal. If the visual starting signal is not observed, the watch shall be started upon hearing the sound of the starting signal.
- B** Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish to observe a touch above, at or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semiautomatic system button when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall.

- C Report the watch time to the head lane timer or the designated recorder; report if a late or missed pad touch is observed; and, if requested, present the watch for inspection. Lane timers shall not clear their watches until the command “Clear watches” is given or the referee signals that the next heat is ready to start.

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). 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.

RO 3 (NEW 103.12, .13, .14, .15, & .16 RELOCATED FROM 103.14, .15, .16, 17, & .18)

103.14-12 CLERK OF COURSE

The clerk of course shall be provided with a list of the names of all swimmers in all events, including relay swimmers in the order in which they will swim.

103.15-13 MARSHALS

Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and, with the concurrence of the referee, to remove or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or those whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

103.16-14 ANNOUNCER

The announcer shall make any announcements requested by the referee, the clerk of course or the meet management. Announcements may include:

- event.
- number of heats.
- lane, name and club affiliation of competitors.
- results.

103.17-15 RECORDER OF RECORDS

Shall obtain from the official recorder all times made in each event, shall have proper application forms and shall duly process all record claims as set forth in article 105.

103.18-16 PRESS STEWARD

The press steward shall obtain from the clerk of course and the recorders the names of all swimmers in each event and the results of each finish with times or record performances, and shall keep the press and TV personnel thoroughly informed on all details of the competition during the meet.

103.12-17 TIMING EQUIPMENT

103.12-17.1 Timing System Definitions—Every race in a swimming competition shall be timed with one or more of the following systems, listed in their preferred order of use.

- A Automatic**—A timing system whose start is activated by a starting device and stopped at the finish by the swimmer touching the touchpad.
- B Semiautomatic**—A timing system whose start is activated by a starting device and stopped by buttons pushed by timers at the finish touch of the swimmer.
- C Manual**—A timing system operated by individual lane timers, each of whom operates a stopwatch that is both started and stopped by the timer as described in article 103.11.3. Only digital-readout-type hand-held battery-powered watches designed for timing purposes shall be used.

103.12-17.2 Timing System Designation—Timing systems shall be designated in the order in which results are used as follows:

- A Primary system**—The primary system shall determine the official time of each swimmer unless a comparison of the primary with secondary and/or tertiary system times indicates a malfunction of the primary system. A primary system shall always be in place and shall consist of one of the following, listed in their preferred order of use:
 - (1) Automatic timing.
 - (2) Semiautomatic, with three or two buttons per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

(3) Manual, with three or two watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

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 three, two or one buttons, each operated by a separate timer.

(3) Manual with three, two or one watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

C Tertiary system—Unless the primary system consists of stopwatches or the secondary system includes at least one stopwatch per lane, a tertiary system of at least one stopwatch per lane shall be provided.

RO 4 (RELOCATED 103.12.3 TO 103.13.3)

~~103.12.3 **Timing Resolution (Timing Accuracy)**—All timing systems, including stopwatches, shall have a resolution of .01 second. Times from all systems shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. The digits representing thousandths shall be dropped with no rounding.~~

(RENUMBER THE REST)

103.12.4-3 Determination of Official Time

A Automatic timing—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.

B Semiautomatic or manual timing—Whenever semiautomatic or manual timing is used, the official time shall be determined as follows:

(1) If two of the three button or watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.

(2) If all three buttons or watches disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.

(3) If only two button or watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two button or watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.

(4) If only one button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.

C Primary timing system malfunction—A primary timing system malfunction may have occurred if:

(1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the backup system(s) is more than .30 second.

(2) A late or missed touch is reported by an official observing the finish.

D Adjustment for the timing system difference—When the referee determines that there is a malfunction of the primary timing system, the backup time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference prior to integrating them with accurate primary times in establishing the official times and determining the order of finish. The adjustment for timing system difference may be incorporated into the automatic or semiautomatic system by design or may be determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the primary and backup systems used at that meet.

E Adjustment for malfunction on a lane—When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat or, if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane where the malfunction occurred.

RO 5 (RELOCATED “F” FROM AFTER TABLE 1 TO BEFORE TABLE 1)

F Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat—When, because of an early or late start, or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semiautomatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swimmers is accurate, the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid backup times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat.

Table 1—Example (Lane Malfunction):
Systems used:
Primary—Automatic
Secondary—Semiautomatic, three buttons (intermediate button time shown in bold)
Tertiary—Manual, one watch

Lane	Primary Pad Time	Button A	Button B	Button C	Watch Time	Pad Minus Middle Button	Official Time
1	52.21	52.07	52.12	52.14	52.04	.09	52.21
2	52.18	52.01	51.91	52.06	51.95	.17	52.18
3	51.05	51.01	50.97	51.00	50.95	.05	51.05
4	51.04	50.78	50.88	50.93	50.84	.16	51.04
5	51.96	51.30	51.35	51.38	51.27	*.61	**51.46
6	51.65	51.57	51.56	51.59	51.55	.08	51.65
7	52.27	52.13	52.18	52.13	52.10	.14	52.27
8	51.87	51.58	51.75	51.89	51.65	.12	51.87

*More than .30 second difference, late touch confirmed.

**Adjustment calculation:

- Add the differences between pad and intermediate button time, excluding the malfunctioning lane (total = .81).
- Divide total by the number of valid lanes to determine the average (.81 ÷ 7 = .11571). The digits after hundredths are dropped (leaving a timing system difference of .11 for the above example).
- Add the timing system difference to the valid backup time for the malfunctioning lane (51.35 + .11 = 51.46, the official time for lane five).

RO 5 (RELOCATED “F” TO BEFORE TABLE 1)

~~**F—Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat**—When, because of an early or late start, or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semiautomatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swimmers is accurate, the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid backup times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat.~~

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	Primary Pad Time	Watch Time	Watch Time Less Pad Time	Heat Adjustment	Official Time
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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).
- Divide the total by the number of lanes to determine an average ($24.50 \div 8 = 3.0625$).
- Drop the digits after the hundredths place (leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06).
- 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, $52.12 + 3.06 = 55.18$).

~~103.13~~18 OFFICIAL TIME

~~103.13~~18.1 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 When automatic timing is used the swimmer's relay leadoff split shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.

103.1318.2 Official Time—An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

RO 4 (NEW 103.18.3 [original numbering would have been a new 103.13.3] RELOCATED FROM 103.12.3)

103.1218.3 Timing Resolution (Timing Accuracy)—All timing systems, including stopwatches, shall have a resolution of .01 second. Times from all systems shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. The digits representing thousandths shall be dropped with no rounding.

(RENUMBER THE REST)

103.1318.34 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World records, USMS national records and USMS Top 10 times • Initial splits and relay leadoff times for world records and USMS Top 10 times
Semi-automatic with two buttons or two watches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USMS Top 10 times • Initial splits and relay leadoff times for USMS Top 10 times

103.1318.45 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.

103.1318.56 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 article 103.13.34.

103.1318.67 A backup time adjusted for system timing errors in accordance with the methods described in articles 103.12.43C-F may be used as an official time equal to the level of the timing system to which it has been adjusted.

103.1318.78 Secondary and tertiary times shall be recorded but shall not be used except to corroborate or correct missing or inaccurate primary/secondary results.

(SKIP FROM SECTION 103.13.7 TO 103.14)

RO 3 (RELOCATED 103.14, .15, .16, 17, AND .18 TO 103.11.5, .6, .7, .8, AND .9)

~~103.14 CLERK OF COURSE~~

~~The clerk of course shall be provided with a list of the names of all swimmers in all events, including relay swimmers in the order in which they will swim.~~

~~103.15 MARSHALS~~

~~Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and, with the concurrence of the referee, to remove or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or those whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.~~

~~103.16 ANNOUNCER~~

~~The announcer shall make any announcements requested by the referee, the clerk of course or the meet management. Announcements may include:~~

- ~~event;~~
- ~~number of heats;~~
- ~~lane, name and club affiliation of competitors;~~
- ~~results.~~

~~103.17 RECORDER OF RECORDS~~

~~Shall obtain from the official recorder all times made in each event, shall have proper application forms and shall duly process all record claims as set forth in article 105.~~

~~103.18 PRESS STEWARD~~

~~The press steward shall obtain from the clerk of course and the recorders the names of all swimmers in each event and the results of each finish with times or record performances, and shall keep the press and TV personnel thoroughly informed on all details of the competition during the meet.~~

RO 1 (NEW 103.19 RELOCATED FROM 102.12 AND NEW 103.20 RELOCATED FROM 102.11)

~~102.12~~103.19 SCORING

The following is recommended for all Masters swimming competition.

~~102.12~~103.19.1 Dual Meets

Individual events: 5-3-1-0

Relay events: 7-0

~~102.12~~103.19.2 Triangular Meets

Individual events: 6-4-3-2-1-0

Relay events: 8-4-0

~~102.12~~103.19.3 Other Meets

Individual events:

four-lane pools: 5-3-2-1

five-lane pools: 6-4-3-2-1

six-lane pools: 7-5-4-3-2-1

seven-lane pools: 8-6-5-4-3-2-1

eight-lane pools: 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

nine-lane pools: 10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

ten-lane pools: 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

Individual point values shall be doubled for relays.

~~102.12~~**103.19.4** **Ties**—Where two or more swimmers tie for any place in any event, the points credited to such place or places, if any, next in order shall be equally divided among the swimmers; i.e., if two tie for first place, the points to be credited to first and second place shall be added and divided by two. Each tying swimmer will receive half of the total points for first and second places. If three tie for first place, the points credited to first, second and third places shall be added and divided by three, and so on for four or more tying for first place. The same is true for those tying for second place, third place and whatever places there may be.

~~102.12~~**103.19.5** **Disqualifications**—When a relay team or individual swimmer is disqualified, the subsequent places will move up accordingly and points will be awarded to conform to the new places.

~~102.11~~**103.20** **AWARDS**

When two or more swimmers tie for any place, duplicate awards shall be given to each swimmer. In such cases, no awards shall be given for the place or places immediately following the tied positions. If two tie for first place, no award for second place; if three tie for first place, no awards for second and third; and so on.