

Amendments to the 2000 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations

The following amendments were adopted by USA-Swimming on October 14, 2000. Unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject a given amendment, USMS will modify its rules to reflect these changes. Where intentional differences exist between the wording of USMS and USA-Swimming Rules due to previous action of USMS, these differences will be maintained during the process of integrating these changes.

U-1

OFFICIAL GLOSSARY Swimming Words and Terms

Add the following new item:

TOUCH - Contact with the end of the course.

U-2

102.10. DISQUALIFICATIONS

.1 A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Except for the relay take-off judges when dual confirmation relay take-off judging, as provided in 102.16.6B, is used, the Referee, stroke, turn, or relay take-off judge upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead ~~with an open palm~~. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.

102.13. REFEREE

.1 Shall have full authorityshall also disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violations of the rules that the Referee personally observes and shall at the same time raise one hand overhead ~~with open palm~~. If the Referee does not make such a signal there shall be no penalty.

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102.14 STARTER 92

.1 Equipment ~~An electronic starting horn, Loudspeaker start system conforming to 103.14, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal as provided in 105.3 is~~ shall be the preferred starting device. A .22 caliber starting gun pistol ~~of at least .22 caliber~~ may be used.

.1 .2 Preparation ~~The Starter S~~ shall stand within ten feet of the starting end of the pool and upon signal from Referee, ~~assumes~~ shall assume full control of swimmers until a fair start has been achieved.

~~B The visual starting signal shall be clearly visible to all the swimmers and timers and the starting signal shall be audible to all the starting position~~

~~C Upon signal from Referee, assumes full control of swimmers until a fair start has been achieved.~~

.3 Optional Instructions ? The Starter may:

A Announce the ~~E~~ event, ~~stroke and distance~~.

B Advise the heat when a swimmer ~~is~~ will be attempting to achieve a time at an initial distance.

C For Backstroke event starts, give the command, "Place your feet."

Notify relay swimmers that all but the last swimmer must leave the pool immediately upon completion of their leg.

.4 The Start

- A 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 on the starting platform and remain there. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the Referee's first long whistle the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position (101.3.1).
- B When the swimmers and officials are ready, the Referee shall signal with an outstretched arm to the Starter that the swimmers are under the Starter's control.
- 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 of the block. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

4.5 False Starts

- A ~~When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "take your mark" or false starts before the starting signal is given, the Starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command "Stand Up" upon which the swimmers may stand up or step off the blocks. Any swimmer who enters the water or backstroker who leaves the starting area shall be charged with a false start, except that a swimmer who would otherwise be charged with the false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the command.~~
- B ~~All swimmers leaving their marks before the starting signal is given shall be charged with a false start. Except when the "no recall" procedure under 102.14.4H is used, a swimmer who has false started because of the action or movement of another competitor may be relieved of the responsibility for the false start and a false start may be charged only to the offender. (Note exception for deliberate delay or misconduct.)~~
- C ~~In backstroke or medley relay events a false start may be charged to any swimmer who fails to maintain his/her feet and/or hands in a legal position after the first warning.~~
- D ~~Except as stated in 102.14.4H, when the starting signal is given and one or more swimmers have obtained an unfair advantage, all swimmers shall be recalled at once by a second signal.~~
- E ~~A swimmer can be charged with a false start by the starter or recall starter only if the Referee or an officially designated Assistant Referee has observed the violation and confirms that the violation occurred.~~
- F ~~The Starter shall indicate the swimmer or swimmers, if any, who are charged with a false start.~~
- G ~~Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a false start shall be disqualified and shall not be permitted to swim the event. Except as specified in 102.14.4H, if the false start is not recalled and the race is permitted to proceed, the swimmer shall not be disqualified.~~
- H ~~For USA Swimming Championships or team selection trials the starting procedure shall be as follows:
Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining~~

~~swimmers shall be called back, shall be reminded by the Starter of the penalties, and shall start again.~~

~~The above procedure may be used at other meets provided the recall procedure is included in the meet information.~~

- I ~~A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed without recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter, who, with the concurrence of the referee, may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.~~
- A Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee or a designated Assistant Referee confirms Starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the starting blocks shall be relieved from their starting positions with the "Stand up" command and may step off the blocks. The Starter shall restart the race upon signal by the Referee.
- B If the starting signal is sounded before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall and the swimmer or swimmers who have false started shall be disqualified by the Starter with the concurrence of the Referee or a designated Assistant Referee upon completion of the race.
- C If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the Starter shall restart the race upon signal by the Referee.

~~3.6 Warning Signal — With the exception of relays, in all events 500 yards or longer except for relays the Starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus five yards or five meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each individual swimmer lane by a lane judge or timer in that lane.~~

~~5.7 Deliberate Delay or Misconduct~~

- A Any swimmer, who delays the start by entering water or by willfully or deliberately disobeying ~~a Starter's~~ the command to step on the blocks or to take a starting position, or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, ~~can~~ may be disqualified from the event by the Starter with concurrence of the Referee.
- B ~~A~~ Swimmers who fail to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of ~~his/her~~ their heat shall be disqualified by the Referee.
- C Such disqualifications shall not be charged as a false start.

The following change, while not part of the USA-Swimming rules which are automatically adopted by USMS, the committee recommends that USMS modify its rules to reflect the changes instituted by USA-Swimming.

U-5

103.15. /M/ FALSE START RECALL ROPE DEVICE ~~-A recall rope to be dropped across the course in case of a false start shall be provided approximately 15 meters (49 feet) from the starting end in both short and long course competition. The rope shall be attached to vertical stanchions with quick release mechanism and shall be suspended at least 4 feet (1.22 meters) above the water surface at the lowest point. A device to recall swimmers shall be provided. If a recall rope is used, it shall be placed at the mid-point of the course in long course facilities and at the turn end backstroke flags in short course facilities.~~