

UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING  
LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE  
2000

Proposed Changes to Long Distance Swimming Rules

- LD-1      301.6      P. 61      Long Distance Committee  
AWARDS  
If awards are given, they shall be of equal value for all age groups.
- Rationale: Awards are not being fairly given to the USMS recognized age groups.
- LD-2      ~~302.5.1~~      P. 63      Long Distance Committee  
TEAM  
Teams are comprised of groups of swimmers entered in the individual swim. A team event may be contested on a total time/distance or point-system basis.
- ~~302.5.1-A~~      Time/distance basis - . . . the place. (no change to wording)  
~~302.5-B 2~~      Point basis - . . . winning team. (no change to wording)  
~~302.5.1-C~~      ~~Individual entries—No individual entries can be accepted in the team events.~~  
~~All entries must be made by registered USMS clubs and signed by an authorized official of the club making the entry.~~
- 302.5.3      Rules pertaining to Teams
- A      All team members shall be from the same USMS registered club.  
B      All team members shall also be entered in the individual event.  
C      Teams shall be male, female, and mixed gender.  
D      Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same sex and one mixed gender team event per meet.  
~~D~~ E      Mixed gender teams - . . . as follows: (chart to follow; no change to wording)
- Rationale: The article needed reorganizing to eliminate a requirement that is not enforced and to make it more clear. Also, a swimmer should not be able to participate on more than one team in an event.
- LD-3      303.3.2      P. 64      Long Distance Committee  
- Starting Signal  
The starting signal shall be audible ~~and~~ or visible to all contestants.
- Rationale: Rarely is the "starting signal" visible to "all" contestants.
- LD-4      303.5.1      P. 65      Long Distance Committee  
Swimmers shall touch a vertical surface or swim across a defined finish line. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined by the swimmer whose hand touches the surface or crosses the finish line first.
- Rationale: To better describe how to judge a finish in an open water swim
- LD-5      303.6.5      P. 65      Long Distance Committee  
Flotation and/or propulsive devices are not permitted . . . devices.
- Rationale: With just an "and" the device must be both flotation and propulsive to be not permitted.

LD-6 303.7.1 P. 65 Long Distance Committee  
There shall be . . . personnel to ensure a properly run open water event.

Rationale: To emphasize the need for the required officials.

LD-7 303.8.4 P. 66 Long Distance Committee  
Receive assistance from a craft or by pulling on the cable or buoys at the turn or on the course.

Rationale: To clarify how someone might be disqualified.

LD-8 305.4 P. 68 Long Distance Committee  
CONTRACT  
A representative of the sponsoring organization, which is the ~~Successful bidders~~ of a long distance championship events, shall sign a written contract with USMS, which specifies the responsibilities of the meet host and of USMS, Inc.

Rationale: This makes it clear who personally will be responsible for following the long distance rules.

LD-9 305.7.5 P. 69 Long Distance Committee  
Wet suits - Wet suit competitors shall be excluded for the purposes of articles 305.8 through 306.1. In addition, wet suit competitors shall have a separate start time and a separate finish line.

Rationale: To prevent wet suit competitors from interfering with swimmers competing in the national championships. (moved first sentence from 305.7.4, renumber remaining)

LD-10 305.8.1 P. 70 Long Distance Committee  
Individual-results . . . end.  
305.8.2  
- Team results shall be organized by gender and age group in order of finish, printing women's teams first, men's teams next and mixed teams third. For each team, the following information must be reported in this order:  
A Age group place  
B Team's full name (as registered with USMS)  
C Official time/distance for the team  
D Names, ages, and official time/distance for each member of the team.

Rationale: To clarify the host team's responsibility when reporting results.

LD-11

305.9 P. 70 Long Distance Committee

CLUB SCORING

Club scores ~~may shall~~ be officially tallied ~~or recognized~~ for national long distance championships ~~at the discretion of the meet host- postal events.~~ At the discretion of the meet host, club scoring may be tallied for open water events.

- ~~.1 Club scoring for the 1-hour swim will be based on total club yardage. Three divisions will be recognized based on the number of swimmers entered in the meet from each club, at the discretion of the meet host. Scoring~~
  - A Club scoring for the 1-hour swim shall be based on total club yardage for individual swims.
  - B Club scoring for the other national championships shall be point value for placing in individual swims. Points shall be determined as if the meet were swum in a ten-lane pool (11, 9, 8 . . . 1).
- .2 Categories - Club scoring shall be tabulated for women's, men's, and team results combined.
- .3 Divisions - Up to four divisions may be recognized for purposes of club scoring based on the number of swimmers entered in the meet from each club. The number of entrants from a club that shall constitute division I (extra large), division II (large), division III (medium), and division IV (small) shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair and the meet director after the meet entry deadline .

Rationale: Guidelines need to be established for scoring which is already being done.

LD-12

305.10.4 P 70 Long Distance Committee

Club Awards - Appropriate awards approved by the Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each division.

Rationale: Guidelines need to be established for club awards.

LD-13

306.1.5 P 71 Long Distance Committee

- Long distance national records may be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event if:

- GA The split is swum during a distance pool event that is a longer version of the record attempt,
- B The swimmer completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified, and
- AC The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet director at the time of entry for the longer event.

Rationale: Reorganized these items for clarity and added information about when to apply for a record using a split.