

Housekeeping Differences between USMS and USA-S Rules

October 2000

The following list of differences noted between the USMS and USA-S rules of competition and facility standards has been reviewed and deemed as housekeeping by the Rules Committee.

Glossary

**D1 Calm State or Surface** - normal level surface ~~of the water~~ without turbulence.

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**D5 End of the Course**—designated wall for racing turns or finishes.

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**D6 Heat**—a division of an event in which there are too many swimmers to compete at one time

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**D7 Leg (relay)**—the part of the relay event that is swum by a single team member.

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**D8 Malfunction**—a mechanical or electronic equipment failure; not a human failure by the swimmer.

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**D9 Still Water**—water contained within four walls or landlocked, having no perceptible current or movement other than that caused by wind or by swimmers. (Circulatory systems should be off during competition).

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**D13 Butterfly 101.3.2 Stroke** p17

**Stroke**—After the start and after each turn, the swimmer's shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast. ~~One or more leg kicks are permitted, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface.~~ The swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface.

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**D14 Butterfly 101.3.3 Kick** p17

**Kick**—All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs ~~and~~ or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. ...

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**D15 Butterfly 101.3.5 Finish** p 17

**Finish**—At the finish, ~~the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. The body shall be on the breast.~~ the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

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**D16 Backstroke 101.4.2 Stroke** p17

**Stroke**—~~Standing in or on the gutter (all courses) or curling the toes over the lip of the gutter (short course meters or long course meters) is not permitted immediately after the start. Swimmers shall push off on their backs and continue swimming on their backs throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after~~

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~~the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water.~~  
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**D17 Freestyle 101.5.2 Stroke p17**

~~Stroke— Freestyle means that in an event so designated the swimmer may swim any style, – In an event designated freestyle the swimmer may swim any style, except that in a medley relay or individual medley event, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke, or backstroke.~~

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**D22 Relay Rules 101.7.3E p19**

~~E All relay team members shall leave the water immediately upon finishing their legs, except for the last member.~~

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**D24 102.10.2B Heat and Lane Assignments p22**

~~B Minimum number of swimmers per heat— There shall be a minimum of three swimmers per heat whenever three or more swimmers have entered an event. When there are two or more heats there shall be a minimum of three swimmers or relay teams seeded into the first heat. The fastest heat shall be filled first, then the next fastest heat, etc.~~

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**D25 102.10.3 Seeding of Events in a 50-Meter Course p22**

~~A Lane numbers— Lanes shall be numbered at the starting end of the pool in accordance with article 107.4.3. 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.~~

~~B Starting 50-meter events from the turning end of the course— When the course depth permits, 50-meter events may be started from the turning end of the course.~~

.5 Seeding of 50 meter events in a 50 meter course - 50 meter events swum in a 50 meter course shall be seeded as provided above. If the event is started at the turning end of the course, no change if the lane numbering shall be made, i.e. the lanes shall be numbered the same on both ends of the course.

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**D27 102.12.4 Ties p25**

~~.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.~~

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**D30 102.15.1 Disqualifications p27 (USMS has raised hand in 103.10.6)**

~~.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 103.10.5B, is used, the Referee, stroke, turn, or relay take-off judge upon observing an~~

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infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead with an open palm. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.

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**D31 102.15.2 Disqualification p27**

.2 Any swimmer who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue may be considered for appropriate action or penalty ~~at the discretion of~~ by the referee.

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**D33 102.15.7 Disqualification p27**

.7 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer(s), ~~the referee may order the heat reswum, or allow the competitor to swim in a later heat.~~ the Referee may allow the affected competitor(s) to reswim the event. In the case of collusion to foul another swimmer, at the referee's discretion, the swimmer for whose aid the foul was committed may be disqualified, as well as the swimmer doing the fouling.

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**D35 102.15 Disqualification p27**

Insert and renumber:

102.15.2 The referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or his/her coach and inform him as to the reason for the disqualification.

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**D37 102.16.1 Protests p27**

.1 ~~Until final action is determined, results of any race conducted under protest, or of any protested race, shall not be announced and no awards for that race shall be presented or scoring of points allowed unless the protest is officially withdrawn. 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.~~

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**D38 102.16.3 Protests p27**

.3 Protests against judgment decisions of starters, and stroke, turn, and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the referee ~~of the meet~~ and the Referee's decision shall be final.

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**D40 103.6.1 Referee p28**

.1 The referee shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the referee that has been personally observed; and shall disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violations of the rules that the referee have been personally observeds and shall at the same time raise one hand overhead with open palm. ~~If no~~ the referee does not make such a signal is made, there shall be no penalty. The referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer and/or the swimmer's coach and inform them of the reason for the disqualification.

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**D42 103.8.4 Warning Signal p30**

.4 **Warning Signal**—In all events 500 yards or longer except 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 5 yards (or meters) to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each individual swimmer by a lane judge or timer in that lane.

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**D44 103.11.6 - Recorder** p33

**.6 Recorder** ~~There shall be two recorders and the number of assistants deemed necessary to receive and record all times and all disqualifications for each event and to furnish all pertinent information to the recorder of records, scorers, press, TV, announcer, and meet secretary. The recorder shall:~~

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**D45 103.12 Timing Equipment** p33

**103.12.1 Timing System Definitions** – Every race in a swimming competition shall be timed with one or more of the following systems, listed their preferred order of use.

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**D46 103.12.4 A Determination of Official Time** p34

**A Automatic timing**—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time. ~~The placings and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of human judges and timers. In the case of malfunction, secondary information from a semi-automatic timing and judging device with one or more officials per lane shall be used and integrated with primary information.~~

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**D47 103.12.4F Timing** p36

**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 semi-automatic 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 average difference between the primary times and the valid back-up times is added, or subtracted when appropriate, to the primary times of every lane in that heat. the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid back-up times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat~~

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**D48 103.13.2 Official Time** p36

**.2** An official time for ~~any swimming~~ an event or a stroke can be achieved only in ~~the relevant stroke/event~~ 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). ~~A time achieved in a freestyle event can only be recorded as a freestyle time regardless of the stroke used. Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.~~

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**D50 107.1 Facility Standards - Definitions** p39

Insert 107.1.4 Where dimensions are given, the dimension listed first shall govern and dimensions given in parentheses are for reference only

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**D52 107 Facility Standards** Distances in general: We are inconsistent with our conversion of distances between yard and meters. Sometimes we convert 1 M to 1 Yd 3.5 inches while other times it is 1Yd 4 inches. We will convert measurements to be internally consistent.

**D55 107.3 Racing Course Walls** p50

.1 Permanent Course Walls enclosing the racing course shall be parallel and vertical. The end walls shall be at a right angle to the water surface and shall be constructed of solid material with a non-slip surface that extends no less than 0.8 meter (2 feet, 7½ inches) below the water surface. It is recommended that a toe-rest ledge be provided at approximately 4-foot depth in the walls of the deep water race course. [M]

.2 Movable Bulkhead Course Walls - If a continuous recessed hand grip is provided at or near the water surface in a movable bulkhead, the horizontal dimension of the recess perpendicular to the bulkhead should not be less than six inches (.15 meters) and designated in a manner to prevent the swimmer's fingers from contacting the back surface of the recess.

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**D57 107.11 Starting Platforms** p51 The stated provision controls height based upon water depth.

107.11.1 – **Height** (*Subject to provisions of Article 107.2.3*)

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**D58 107.15 False Start Recall Rope** p53

**107.15. FALSE START RECALL ROPE**—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 [M\*]

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**D59 108 GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY IN USMS MEETS** p54

108.3 number current code as .1 and add:

**108.3.2 - Strobe light location** - The Starter shall advise the swimmers about the location of the strobe light and the light shall be located where the swimmers can clearly see it for the start. For backstroke starts, the light should be positioned so that the swimmers don't have to turn their heads to look backwards.