

Proposed Emergency Amendments to the USMS Long Distance Rules of Competition

Emergency Long Distance Rule Change

305.7.3—Officials

In addition to the officials required by Article 303.7, the following officials are required for national championship events:

A _____ The Long Distance Committee shall appoint a meet evaluator to aid the meet director, to ensure that the event is conducted in accordance with the contract and to ensure that all rules are observed.

B _____ For open water events, a Turn Judge shall be located at each change of direction in the course. The Turn Judge shall: 1) be positioned on shore or on the water in clear view of the turn to ensure that all swimmers complete the turn as indicated in the competition information documents and as directed at the pre-race briefing, 2) record any violation of the turn procedures and 3) report such violation to the Referee.

306.1.4— Long Distance records shall only be permitted from events conducted in compliance with Articles 305.7.3B and 305.7.5 of the USMS Rule Book.

And renumber the existing 306.1.4 and .5 to .5 and .6

Rational: This ensures that all competitors in our championships complete the course and that the integrity of our national records is maintained. The language for turn judges is based on USA-Swimming open water rules article 706.12. Additionally, our current rules allow for wetsuit swims to be considered for cable records, since we only prohibit wetsuits from national championship events. This proposal closes that loophole as well.

Additional Information -

The following are from USA-Swimming Open Water Rules 2003:

704.2.8 All turns and other changes in direction on the course shall be clearly indicated.

.9 A clearly marked craft or platform for a turn judge shall be positioned at all alterations in direction on the course in such a manner as not to obstruct the swimmers' view or their negotiation of the turn, but shall provide a clear view of the swimmers' turns for the officials.

.10 All turning marks or points and the turn judges craft or platforms shall be securely fixed in position.

706.1.12 The referee shall ensure that the Turn Judges are in position prior to the start of the competition.

706.12 TURN JUDGES:

.1 Shall be positioned so as to ensure that all swimmers comply with the turn and other change-of course procedures as specified in the competition information documents and as directed at the pre-race briefing;

.2 Shall record any violation of the turn procedures on the record sheets provided, indicating the observation of any violation to the Referee at the time the infringement is committed.; and

.3 Promptly upon completion of the event, deliver the signed record sheet to the Referee.