Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

R-1 102.5.4D Entry Fees Page 45 Championship

- **D** Entry fees—Entry fees for national championship meets shall consist of the following:
 - (1) A \$30 surcharge may be charged to be used by the meet sponsor to help pay meet expenses. If a meet host uses a 5 day format, the host may charge \$38.
 - (2) \$4 each for individual events.
 - (3) \$12 each for relays.
 - (1) <u>USMS</u> may establish entry fees to help pay meet expenses and earn additional funds. The Championship <u>Committee shall determine the entry fees.</u>
 - (4)(2) A banquet or social event may be conducted for an additional fee. Participation in this event is optional.
 - (5)(3) The meet host shall not be required to refund overpayments of \$10 or less. Any payments greater than \$10 may be subject to a processing fee of up to \$10.

Rationale: Takes the details out of the Rule Book and allows the Championship Committee to make a policy change on the entry fees as needed without being restricted by the two year window for non-emergency rule changes. Any Changes in the entry fees would be included in the convention minutes for the Championship Committee, which would require a majority vote of the HOD.

R-2 102.5.4D Entry Fees Page 45 Championship

- **D** Entry fees—Entry fees for national championship meets shall consist of the following:
 - (1) A-\$30 \$40surcharge may be charged to be used by the meet sponsor to help pay meet expenses. If a meet host uses a 5-day format, the host may charge \$38\$48.

Rationale: (1) The \$30 fee has no been raised for a number of years. We need to raise the surcharge to encourage more bids for National Championships. (2) Coral Sprints bid on the 2006 SCN expecting 1800 swimmers. For Lauderdale had 1620 in 2005. The 2006 YMCA National Championships location and sate were changed to Fort Lauderdale one week after the 2006 USMS SCN. Also, attendance is likely to be lower due to the 2006 FINA World Championships. Next year the Championship Committee would like to rais the surcharge for entries received between 0 and 29 days before the entry deadline.

U-1 103.8.6 (add)

- **D** A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "Stand up" command.
- **E** A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter.

U-2 107.6 Water Temperature

Water temperature between 78 and 80 <u>25</u> and <u>28</u> degrees Fahrenheit <u>Celsius</u> shall be maintained for competition.

U-3 101.2 Breaststroke (Delete corresponding sections and replace)

- **101.2.2-Stroke** -From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement. The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn. During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.
- 101.2.3- Kick After the start and after each turn, a single downward butterfly kick followed by a breaststroke kick is permitted while wholly submerged. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement. The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or downward butterfly kick is not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.
- **101.2.4- Turns and Finish -** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

NOTE: USA-Swimming has interpreted the above rules such that only a sequence of underwater pull, butterfly kick and then breaststroke kick is allowed after the start and each turn. Any other sequence including the butterfly kick is NOT allowed. We concur with this interpretation. However, USA-Swimming is currently seeking further clarification from FINA concerning this interpretation.

U-4 101.1.2 Backstroke

B All courses—The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Prior to the command "Take your mark," and until the feet leave the wall at the starting signal, the swimmers' feet including the toes shall be placed under the surface of the water. Standing in or on the gutter or eurling placing the toes over the lip of the gutter <u>or bending the toes</u> over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited. is not permitted at any time before the start. A backstroke starting block may not be used.