

## USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS rules

The following amendments have been approved by the 2012 USA Swimming House of Delegates and will be automatically adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject them (see text of 601.4.7 below). The USA Swimming amendments appear in this document as they would in the USMS Rule Book with the USMS Rule Book reference number and page number. The corresponding USA Swimming reference number and page number are listed in parentheses.

### **601.4.7-USA Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules**

Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, “Individual Strokes and Relays,” 102, “Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition” and 105, “Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USA Swimming Meets,” shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments. Votes to reject shall not be considered emergency amendments. Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the House of Delegates. Votes to accept shall not be considered emergency amendments.

USA-S R-1 is Glossary.

USA-S R-5 is an exception to USMS rules (referee and administrative referee cannot act in more than one officiating capacity; USMS allows referee to serve in two officiating positions.)

USA-S R 8 USMS already allows the LMSC to waive strict compliance with the water temperature rule.

USA-S R 9 was USA-S article 104 (doesn't impact USMS).

U 1 REJECTED by the House of Delegates  
(USA-S R-2)

**USMS 102.5 (new .3), pp. 6-7 (USA-S 102.5.3, p. 23)**

### **102.5 Events**

In planning any meet, careful consideration must be given the demands to be made upon swimmers, officials and spectators, in that order. Meets should be planned to terminate within a reasonable period of time each day. Planning should provide for adequate meal and rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.

Any event conducted must be offered for all groups and both genders. Any of the following events may be conducted.

### **102.5.1 Short Course (25) Yards**

50-100-200-500-1000-1650 yards freestyle

50-100-200 yards backstroke

50-100-200 yards breaststroke

50-100-200 yards butterfly

100-200-400 yards individual medley

200-400-800 yards freestyle relay

200-400-800 yards mixed freestyle relay

200-400 yards medley relay

200-400 yards mixed medley relay

### **102.5.2 Long Course (50) Meters and Short Course (25) Meters**

50-100-200-400-800-1500 meters freestyle

50-100-200 meters backstroke

50-100-200 meters breaststroke

50-100-200 meters butterfly

100\*-200-400 meters individual medley

200-400-800 meters freestyle relay

200-400-800 meters mixed freestyle relay

200-400 meters medley relay

200-400 meters mixed medley relay

\*short course meters only

**Note:** For nonconforming events see article 202.1.1F(3). For open water and long distance events, see Part 3.

**102.5.3 Time Trials--Time trial events may be held in conjunction with a sanctioned or recognized competition if all information about the conduct of the time trials is included in the meet announcement as sanctioned or recognized by the LMSC. Time trials may be a separate event, sanctioned or recognized in compliance with 202.1 202.2.**

(USA-S Rationale: To clarify the conditions under which time trials may be sanctioned, approved, or observed.)

Note: We only mention trials once in our rule book; 102.10.1, and have avoided time trials in our rule book.

U 2 REJECTED by the House of Delegates

(USA-S R-3)

USMS new 102.12 (new .3), p. 13 (USA-S new 102.8.4, p. 29)

## **102.12 Swimwear**

**102.12.3 Deck Changing - Changing into or out of swimsuits outside designated locker room areas by athletes at any level of competition is prohibited at USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Prohibited areas include, but are not limited to, team and spectator seating sections, as well as warm-up and competition pool decks. The Referee has the authority to enforce this rule at all times during the meet. At the discretion of the Referee, violation of this rule may**

~~result in the athlete being disqualified from further competition in the meet.~~ *Note: The last two sentences may be reinstated by the maker of the proposal; if that is the case, then the Rules Committee will submit an alternate with the deletion, with the recommendation to adopt the alternate version.*

(USA-S Rationale: Deck changing often can be perceived as provocative by many athletes and spectators. USA Rules & Regulations Committee recommended rejection.)

U 3 REJECTED by the House of Delegates  
(USA-S R-4)

**USMS 103.3, pp. 15-16 (USA-S 102.10.3, pp. 29-30)**

### **103.3 Qualification of Officials**

**103.3.1** Referees shall be certified in this capacity by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). Starters or stroke and turn judges certified by one of these bodies may serve as referees if they receive training on specific duties of the referee.

**103.3.2** Administrative referees, starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in said capacities by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). However, uncertified officials may perform the duties of such positions if they receive training in the specified duties of their positions and are under the direct supervision of a certified official.

(USA-S Rationale: Administrative referee should be limited to administrative duties.)

U 4 REJECTED by the House of Delegates  
(USA-S R-6)

**USMS 103.8.3, p. 18 (USA-S 102.12.2, p. 31)**

**103.8.3 Optional Instructions**—The starter may:

**A** Announce the event (recommended),

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

**C** For backstroke event starts, give the command, “Place your feet.”

(USA-S Rationale: Current thinking is not to announce initial distances via the starting system.)

U 5 Automatically Adopted by the House of Delegates  
(USA-S R-7)

**USMS 102.13.2, p. 13 (USA-S 102.22.2, p. 34)**

**102.13.2** The referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or the swimmer’s coach and inform one or both as to the reason for the disqualification. Failure to notify does not negate the disqualification.

(USA-S Rationale: Failure to make every reasonable effort should not be grounds for overturning a proper disqualification.)

U 6 Automatically Adopted by the House of Delegates  
(USA-S R-10)

**USMS 108.3, p. 48 and 108.5, p. 49 (USA-S 105.3, p. 54 and 105.5, p. 55)**

### **108.3 Deaf And Hard Of Hearing**

**108.3.1 Visual Starting Signal**—Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal (i.e., a strobe light and/or starter’s arm signals). The referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer’s heat (i.e., exchanging one lane for another) so that the strobe light or starter’s arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard starter’s arm signals are shown in Figure 1. A recall rope is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.

**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

*See Attachments for revised illustrations*

**Figure 1.** Standard starter’s arm signals for deaf swimmers.

- 1A. Twist hand at chin level—short whistles
- 2B. Arm overhead—swimmer steps onto starting block
- 3C. Arm moves to shoulder level—signal to “take your mark”
- 4D. Arm moves to side of body—starting signal

*Add a new Figure 2 to include two additional backstroke hand signals as detailed in the attached with the following verbiage; renumber remaining figures and put the microphone to the starter’s mouth in figure E.*

### **FIGURE 2 (new) Signals for Backstroke**

A Twist hand at chin level – short whistles

B Arm overhead — swimmer steps onto starting block

C Arm at side—as swimmer enters water for backstroke

D Arm overhead—swimmer returns to backstroke start position

E Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to “take your mark”

F Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

### **108.5 PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

*Revise Figure 2(now will be Figure 3) by using the swimmer’s kneeling position on the block in the third illustration for the illustration on the deck as swimmers cannot put their feet in the gutter. The Figure for “Assisted on block or deck forward start” will be included with Figure 3 in the order it currently appears in the USMS Rule Book. (The language in those illustrations is USA-S language. USMS does not include that language in its illustrations.)*