

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Rules Committee	<b>Session #:</b> 2
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Mollie Grover	<b>Vice Chair:</b> Christina Fox
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	David Benjamin	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> July 10, 2025/7:30pm ET

**Actions Taken:**

1. **MSF** to recommend R-1 for adoption to the HOD.
2. **MSF** to recommend R-3 for adoption to the HOD.
3. **MSA** to recommend R-4 for adoption to the HOD.
4. **MSA** to recommend R-5 for adoption to the HOD.
5. **MSA** to table R-6
6. **MSA** to recommend R-7 for adoption to the HOD.

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 7	<b>Absent:</b> 5	<b>Guests:</b> 0
<b>Committee members present:</b> David Benjamin, Christina Fox (Vice Chair), Mollie Grover (Chair), Jason Weis, Kris Wingenroth, Benjamin Wyckoff, Rome Yount		
<b>Not present:</b> Kathy Casey, John King, Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Patrick Weiss		
<b>Ex Officio present:</b> Omar de Armas, USMS Officials Committee Chair, Stephanie Gauzens, USMS Legislation Committee Chair		

**Minutes**

Mollie called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm ET and announced the agenda for the meeting: Take up rule proposals R-1, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, and R-7, with R-8, R-2, R-9 and R-10 to be addressed at the next Rules Committee meeting on July 22. Our packet is due August 13. Mollie reminded committee members that it is our responsibility to act in the best interests of USMS, not necessarily the interests of our clubs or our LMSC, and that the committee’s discussions are confidential.

2025 USMS Proposals

1. R-1  
M/S (Jason/Rome) to recommend R-1 for adoption to the HOD.

R-1, a proposal from Southeastern LMSC, would amend Article 101.4.3 to eliminate the continuous turn requirement for backstroke.

Numerous objections to this proposal were voiced: it would make a well-established and accepted rule ambiguous; it would make the USMS backstroke rule inconsistent with the World Aquatics, USA Swimming, and NCAA swimming rules; and it would create the risk, if not the likelihood, that USMS backstroke swims in individual backstroke events, individual medley, and medley relays would not be recognized for World Aquatics Top 10 or world records.

M/S (David/Rome) to call the question, passed unanimously.

**Motion to recommend R-1 for adoption to the HOD fails, 0 yes, 6 no.**

2. R-3

M/S (Jason, Christina) to recommend R-3 for adoption to the HOD.

R-3 is a proposal from Southeastern LMSC. It would amend Article 102.9.1 to allow the sanction of relay-only meets in which relay team members could be unattached or from different teams and would allow the lead-off swimmer of such a relay to qualify for Top 10 and USMS records.

The LMSCs stated goal of R-3 is to make relay meets more fun by allowing any four individuals to form a team while still providing an opportunity to the leadoff swimmer to achieve a Top 10 or USMS record time. Committee members noted that the proposal conflicts with existing rules regarding relay swims in Part 2 of the rulebook (under the jurisdiction of the Legislation Committee). They also noted that the necessity for R-3 is not clear, since the rules for changing team affiliation have been relaxed.

**Motion to recommend R-3 for adoption to the HOD fails, 0 yes, 6 no.**

3. R-4

M/S (Jason, Rome) to recommend R-4 for adoption to the HOD.

R-4 is a proposal from the Officials Committee. It would amend Article 102.12.1E (Swimwear for Pool Competition, Design), to provide that a swimmer may wear an automated data collection device for the sole purpose of collecting data but may not use such a device to “transmit data, sounds or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed.”

There was consensus that swimmers should not receive data from electronic devices to enhance their performance during competition. Several committee members opined that the proposed rule will be difficult to enforce, since competitors are allowed to wear watches and it is difficult to

tell whether their watch is also transmitting pacing data; some members expressed the view that USMS should simply prohibit competitors from wearing watches. The Officials Committee Chair noted that R-4 is not limited to watches, as it would also prohibit the heads-up display now available in some goggles. The Officials Chair also noted that the proposed wording of R-4 is consistent with World Aquatics' rule.

Motion to recommend R-4 for adoption to the HOD passes, 6 yes, 0 no.

4. R-5

M/S (David/Jason) to recommend R-5 for adoption to the HOD.

This proposal from the Officials Committee would amend articles 103.2.1, 103.3.1, and 108.1.1 to require that a meet referee be designated before an event is sanctioned, and to require that the meet referee's name appear on the meet announcement.

The Officials Committee Chair noted that the proposal's purpose is to prevent the scrambling that occurs when a meet has been sanctioned and is ready to go, only to find that no meet referee has ever been named. There was general agreement that it is desirable to bring a meet referee on board, and to make that person visible, early in the sanction process. Some committee members, however, argued that this proposal should also include a process to replace the meet referee after sanctioning, if the referee later has to withdraw from the meet.

Motion to recommend R-5 for adoption to the HOD passes, 4 yes, 3 no.

5. R-6

M/S (Rome/Jason) to recommend R-6 for adoption to the HOD.

R-6 also originates with the Officials Committee. Currently, officials serving in the position of meet referee, starter, administrative official, or judge must be certified in that position. However, exceptions may be granted by the LMSC Officials Chair under certain circumstances. R-7 would extend the ability to grant exceptions to the LMSC Chair if the LMSC Officials Chair is unavailable, and it would require that any exception granted to a referee must be made before the meet sanction is issued.

Committee members generally support R-6 but felt that the ability to grant an exception to a referee should also exist after a meet sanction is issued, in the event the originally-named referee subsequently becomes unavailable. The Officials Committee Chair asked for time to bring the issue back to the Officials Committee for review; he will then bring the proposal back to the Rules Committee on July 22.

M/S (Rome, Jason) to table R-6, passed unanimously.

6. R-7

M/S (Jason/Kris) to recommend R-7 for adoption to the HOD.

This proposal from the Officials Committee would amend various articles of the Rule Book to substitute the term “administrative official” for the term “administrative referee.” The purpose of the proposal is to make it clear that the tasks and functions described in those articles are typically and appropriately performed by an administrative official, not an administrative referee. The proposal also recognizes the titles of “lead administrative official” and “lead chief judge” for meets that have more than one person serving as an administrative official or chief judge.

There was unanimous support for this proposal.

Motion to recommend R-7 for adoption to the HOD passes, 6 yes, 0 no.

Motion (Jason/Kris) to recess to July 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm ET, passed unanimously, at 9:05 pm ET.