

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #: 3
Committee Chair:	Mollie Grover	Vice Chair: Christina Fox
Minutes recorded by: David Benjamin	Date/time of meeting: July 22, 2025/7:00pm ET	

Actions Taken:

1. MSA to recommend R-6 for adoption as amended to the HOD.
2. MSA to recommend R-8 for adoption as amended to the HOD.
3. **MSF to recommend R-2 for adoption to the HOD.**
4. **MSF to recommend R-9 for adoption to the HOD.**
5. **MSF to recommend R-10 for adoption to the HOD.**

Number of committee members present: 12	Absent: 0	Guests: 2
Committee members present: David Benjamin, Kathy Casey, Christina Fox (Vice Chair), Mollie Grover (Chair), John King, Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Jason Weis, Patrick Weiss, Kris Wingenroth, Benjamin Wyckoff, Rome Yount		
Ex Officio present: Julie Dussliere, Vice President of Administration, Stephanie Gauzens, USMS Legislation Committee Chair, Onshalee Promchitmart, USMS National office		
Ex Officio not present: Omar de Armas, USMS Officials Committee Chair		
Guests: Ed Coates, USMS President, Katie Kenyon, Board member and USMS Legal Counsel		

Minutes

Mollie called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm ET and announced the agenda for the meeting: A presentation by Katie Kenyon; take up rule proposals R-6, R-8, R-2, R-10, and R-11; and then recess to a date/time to be determined to discuss a potential additional proposal.

Katie Kenyon spoke to the committee on confidential matters that are protected from public disclosure by the attorney/client privilege. After Katie’s presentation, Katie and Ed Coates left the meeting. Ben Wyckoff also left the meeting at that point.

R-6

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

M/S (Jason, Kathy) to postpone discussion and voting on R-6, passed unanimously.

Mollie brought the committee up to date with her discussions with Omar de Armas, Chair of the Officials Committee. Since our July 10 meeting, the Officials Committee has unanimously agreed that the last sentence of 103.3.1 should be amended to read “Such exceptions should be granted prior to the meet sanction being issued.” This amendment is consistent with the Rules Committee’s recommendation at our July 10 meeting.

M/S (Jason, Christina) to recommend R-6 for adoption as amended to the HOD passes, 10 yes, 0 no.

R-8

M/S (Jason/Claire) to recommend R-8 for adoption to the HOD.

This proposal from the Officials Committee would amend various provisions of article 104.5.10, concerning national championship meets, to align the process for selecting a meet referee with current practice, to remove unnecessary policy language from the Rule Book, and to remove from the Rule Book staffing details that should be within the discretion of the meet referee. These matters were discussed by the committee.

M/S (Kathy/Claire) to amend proposed article 104.5.10B(2) to delete “Championship decks” and to insert in place thereof “national championship meets”. Motion passes, 9 yes, 1 no.

It was the consensus of the committee that the word “Qualifications” in proposed article 104.5.10B(1)(A) should not be capitalized, and that this change may be made as a housekeeping matter.

M/S (Jason/Claire) to recommend R-8 for adoption as amended to the HOD passes, 7 yes, 3 no.

R-2

M/S (Jason, Rome) to recommend R-2 for adoption to the HOD.

This proposal from Illinois LMSC arises out of a meet whose sanction was withdrawn after it was found that the meet did not comply with USMS requirements and that the sanction should not have been issued. In essence, this proposal would create a way to “reinstate” a sanction for a meet that should not have been sanctioned in the first place. Stephanie provided the committee with background to this proposal. There was discussion of the proposal, and a general agreement that the unique set of circumstances that gave rise to the proposal do not justify a rule change.

Motion to recommend R-2 for adoption to the HOD fails, 0 yes, 10 no.

R-9

M/S (Jason/Claire) to recommend R-9 for adoption to the HOD.

This proposal from Oregon LMSC concerns the times from a meet in which a movable bulkhead was used. It addresses a situation in which the initial pool length certification was compliant with applicable rules, but where a pre- or post-meet measurement revealed that the pool length was too short by applicable standards. Under this proposal, if the pre- or post-meet measurement is more than 1/8" less than the minimum pool length, the meet host would be allowed to adjust the times of every swim by a percentage equal to the largest pool length discrepancy. Adjusted times would be eligible for USMS Top 10 and records. If the largest pool length discrepancy was found to be shorter than the required minimum by less than 1/8", no adjustment would be necessary and the unadjusted time would be eligible for USMS Top 10 and records.

Proponents of R-9 argue that the process set forth in the proposal is analogous to the treatment of wind-aided times in track events. The committee was not persuaded by the analogy: although wind-aided times may not count for records in track, no adjustment is made to the participants' times. Committee members also felt that this proposal is inconsistent with World Aquatics policies, and that USMS should not be in a position where it is knowingly submitting times that were not achieved for Top 10 recognition or records.

Motion to recommend R-9 for adoption to the HOD fails, 0 yes, 9 no, 1 abstain.

R-10

M/S (Claire/Jason) to recommend R-10 for adoption to the HOD.

This is a proposal from the Records and Tabulations Committee. Under current article 105.1.7C, if a movable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the length of the course must be confirmed by measurement "prior to the start of the meet and at the conclusion of each session." This proposal would amend article 105.1.7C to require pre- and post-meet confirming measurements only "for USMS records" and not for Top 10 times. Records and Tabulations argues that bulkhead measurements are not required by USA Swimming or AQUA meets, and that their proposed change is necessary to maintain consistency between the organizations.

It was the consensus of the Rules Committee that the current rule requiring pre- and post-meet measurement is necessary to protect the efforts of athletes at USMS-sanctioned meets, and that differences at USA Swimming and AQUA do not justify weakening USMS standards.

Motion to recommend R-10 for adoption to the HOD fails, 0 yes, 10 no.

M/S (Rome/Kathy) at 9:15 pm ET, to recess to a date/time to be determined, passed unanimously.