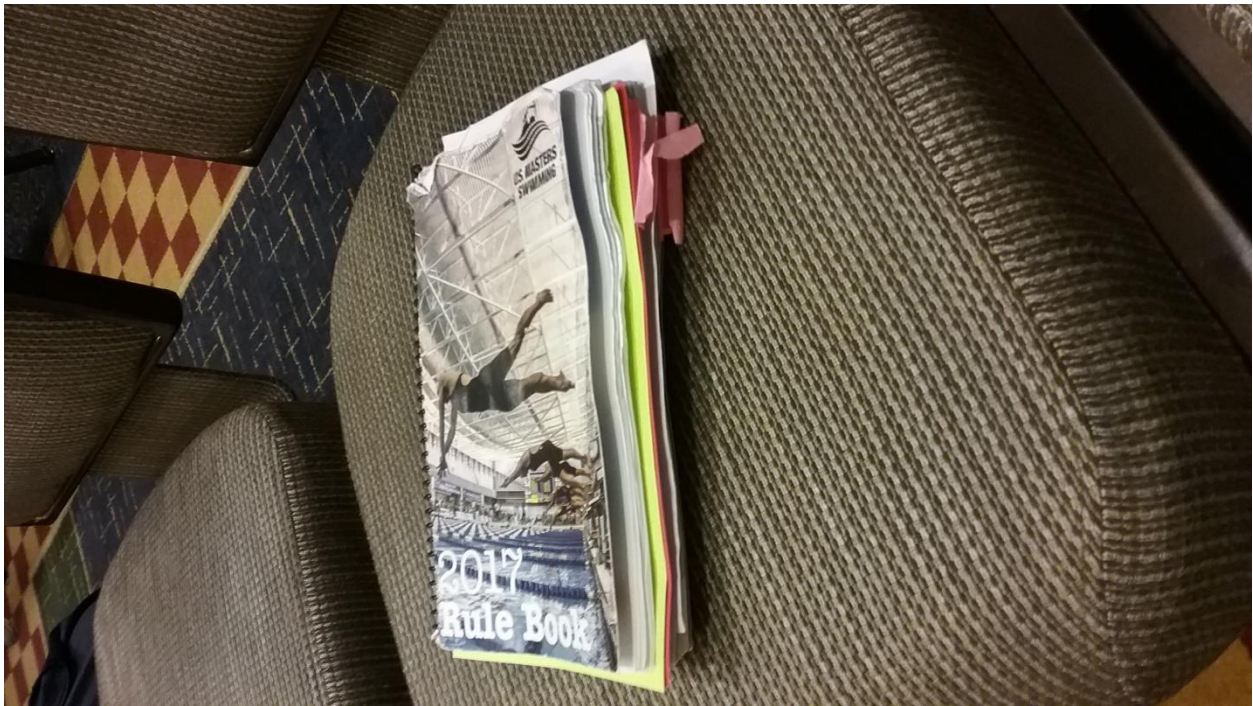


**Warning.....**

**This is what happens when you do not follow  
the rules.....**



**Please do not break the rule book!**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
USMS GLOSSARY AND PART 1 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7.

Changes to conform to FINA Rules take effect September 21, 2017. All other changes take effect January 1, 2018 if adopted by the House of Delegates.

**TABLE OF AMENDMENTS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<a href="#"><u>R-1</u></a>	Preamble	Change the word “event” to “meet”	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-2</u></a>	102.3 & 102.5	Permit adjustment of age groups for organizations which have different age policies from USMS.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-3</u></a>	102.5.2	Add 25-yard and 25-meter events to the list of conforming events.	Not Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-4</u></a>		Withdrawn by the Rules Committee	
<a href="#"><u>R-5</u></a>	102.5.6	Clarify requirements for publishing the meet announcement.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-6</u></a>	102.6	Codify event limits in dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-7</u></a>	102.13.7	Permit swimmers to warm down in their assigned lanes without being subject to disqualification.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-8</u></a>	103.4	Clarify reporting of officials and other volunteers to the meet referee and meet director.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-9</u></a>	103.6.6 103.18.5 103.18.6 103.18.7	Eliminate acceptance of USMS records using manual and semiautomatic primary timing systems.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-10</u></a>	103.8.5	Add reference for forward start commands to starter’s instructions.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-11</u></a>	103.8.6	Correct reference.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-12</u></a>	103.16	Clarify the duties of “clerk of course”.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-13</u></a>	103.18.2	Make automatic splits a permanent requirement for all national championship meets.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-14</u></a>	103.18.7	Permit manual backup systems to count for USMS records if a semiautomatic primary system is in use that does meet the requirement for records.	Not Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-15</u></a>	103.18.9	Add a requirement to state the timing system used and expectations for records and top 10 in the meet announcement.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-16</u></a>	104.4	Add a requirement for a meet referee report for national championships.	Recommended as Amended

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

<a href="#"><u>R-17</u></a>	104.5.5	Prohibit foreign swimmers from representing USMS clubs at national championships.	Not Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-18</u></a>	104.5.5	Clarify decision responsibilities for seeding within the championship committee.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>R-19</u></a>	104.5.10	Modify the responsibilities for appointing the leadership officials at national championships.	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#"><u>R-20</u></a>	106.3	Delete recommendation for “toe ledge” in facilities standards.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>H-1</u></a>	Glossary	Correct spelling of FINA.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>H-2</u></a>	103.2.1	Clarify the number of officials for meets which are observed by USA Swimming officials for inclusion of times in the USA Swimming database.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>H-3</u></a>	103.11	Change reference to “timing judge” and replace with “administrative official”.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>H-4</u></a>	104.5	Change “schedule” to “format”.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>H-5</u></a>	106.15	Correct reference number.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>F-1</u></a>	101.3.3	Change adopted by FINA to the butterfly kick rule.	No Action Needed
<a href="#"><u>F-2</u></a>	101.6	Change adopted by FINA to clarify body position during the freestyle leg of individual medley and medley relay events.	Adopted per 601.4.7B
<a href="#"><u>F-3</u></a>	103.6.6 103.18.5 103.18.6 103.18.7	Change adopted by FINA to clarify that world records will no longer be accepted using manual and semiautomatic primary timing systems.	Adopted per 601.4.8
<a href="#"><u>U-1</u></a>	101.7	Change proposed by USA Swimming to prohibit relay swimmers from starting while standing on the surface of the adjustable back plate on the starting platform.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>U-2</u></a>	103.11	Change proposed by USA Swimming to update terminology for administrative official.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>U-3</u></a>	103.17.3	Change proposed by USA Swimming to clarify determination of official time when only one watch time is available.	Recommended
<a href="#"><u>U-4</u></a>	106.11.3	Change proposed by USA Swimming to distinguish between hand grips for backstroke starts and forward starts.	Recommended

RECOMMENDED

The following amendments are recommended to the House of Delegates by the Rules Committee and require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to be adopted.

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R-1 Preamble page 1 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**Part 1: Swimming Rules**

All competitive swimming meets or events held under corporate sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules, which are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition.

**Rationale:** There are multiple glossary definitions of the term “event” which has led to some confusion in interpreting the rules. An “event” can refer to pool, long distance, or open water meets, but also “a series of races in a given stroke and distance”. This clarifies that part one refers specifically to pool meets.

R-5 102.5.6 page 8 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**102.5.6** The order of events must be published in the meet announcement ~~prior to the meet at least one week prior to the entry deadline~~. (See article 102.11 for change of program or postponement.)

**Rationale:** In the electronic era, hosts can sanction meets and publish information quickly, but there must be a sufficient amount of time to publish the information and provide swimmers with an opportunity to enter the meet in order to ensure that opportunities to compete are equitable.

R-9 103.6.6 & 103.18 pages 18, 27-28 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.6.6** The referee may assign two or more additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes ~~or may assign three additional timers per lane to record initial distances for world records~~. The swimmer may request such additional timers for this purpose.

**103.18.5** **Records and Top 10 times using an Automatic Primary Timing System—**Secondary and tertiary times may be used to determine the official time as follows when the automatic primary timing system fails, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed. See 103.17.3D for overhead video backup.

- A** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by an automatic primary timing system.
- B** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the automatic primary timing system fails if the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system using three, two, or one valid button(s).
- ~~**C** World records may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system with three valid watch times.~~
- ~~**D** USMS records may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of two valid watch times.~~
- EC** USMS Top 10 times may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of one valid watch time.
- FD** An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records, USMS records, or USMS Top 10 times when reported by an automatic primary timing system.
- GE** An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the automatic primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a ~~manual backup~~semiautomatic secondary timing system with three, two, or one valid ~~watch times~~buttons(s).
- HF** USMS records shall not be established ~~for initial distances and relay leadoff legs using when the times are reported by~~ a manual backup system when the primary system fails.
- IG** An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times. Note: If the secondary system is manual watches (no semiautomatic system), the requirements listed in 103.18.5C-~~E~~ shall apply to the watch times.

**103.18.6 Records and Top 10 times using a Semiautomatic Primary Timing System—** Semiautomatic times are used to determine the official time as follows (or backup times when the semiautomatic primary timing system fails), provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed.

- ~~**A** World records may be established when the times are reported by a semiautomatic primary timing system with three valid button times.~~
- ~~**B** USMS records may be established when timed by a three-button semi-automatic primary timing system and the times are reported by three, two, or one valid button times.~~

- ~~CA~~ USMS Top 10 times may be established when timed by a minimum two-button semiautomatic primary timing system and the times are reported by three, two, or one valid button times.
- ~~D~~ ~~World records may be established when the three button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three valid watch times.~~
- ~~E~~ ~~USMS records may be established when the three button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three or two valid watch times.~~
- FB** USMS Top 10 times may be established when the minimum two-button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three, two, or one valid watch times.
- ~~G~~ ~~An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when reported by a manual backup timing system with three valid watch times.~~
- HC** USMS records shall not be established ~~for initial distances and relay leadoff legs~~ using a semiautomatic primary system or a manual backup system when the primary system fails.
- ID** An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

**103.18.7 Records and Top 10 Times using a Manual Primary Timing System—**

Manual times are used to determine the official time as follows, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed.

- ~~A~~ ~~World records and USMS records may be established when the times are reported by a manual primary timing system with three valid watch times.~~
- BA** USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by a manual primary timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times.
- ~~C~~ ~~An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the times are reported by a manual primary system with three valid watch times.~~
- DB** USMS records shall not be established ~~for initial distances and relay leadoff legs~~ using a manual primary timing system.
- EC** An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the times are reported by a manual primary system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

**Rationale:** FINA and USA Swimming no longer accept records with times from manual and semiautomatic primary timing systems (buttons). Continuing to accept USMS records reported by these systems results in inequities in times recorded as USMS records. Watches are inherently

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

inaccurate due to the impact of human reaction times at the start and finish. Note that this proposed change still permits semiautomatic backup systems (buttons) to establish records in the event of automatic primary timing system (touchpad) failures.

For example:

- A three-watch primary systems means that the intermediate time is recorded as the official time. Thus, a single watch time with reaction errors at the start and finish is considered equally as valid for records as a touchpad time.
- The intermediate watch time from a three-watch primary system is accepted for USMS records, but accurate two-button semiautomatic primary times are not accepted, even though arguably more accurate.
- Three-watch backup systems are not accepted for USMS records if a one or two button semiautomatic system is used and does not fail, but three-watch primary systems are accepted. Thus, an incentive exists to use watches if sufficient equipment is not available to run a three-button semiautomatic system.

In 2016, only 0.56% of USMS records were set with watches and only 0.97% of USMS records were set with semiautomatic primary systems.

**Note: R-9 requires modifications to the table on page 29 for consistency.**

	Automatic Primary Timing System	Semiautomatic Primary Timing System	Manual Primary Timing System
<b>World Records</b>	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	<del>Three valid buttons.</del>	
	<del>Manual backup time with three valid watches if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Three valid watches if the three-button semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Three valid watches.</del>
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by a touchpad.		
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by <del>three valid watches three, two, or one valid semiautomatic button(s)</del> if the touchpad fails.	<del>Leadoff or initial split recorded by three valid watches</del>	<del>Leadoff or initial split recorded by three valid watches.</del>
<b>USMS Records</b>	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	<del>Three-button system with a time calculated using the procedure in 103.17.3B</del>	
	<del>Manual backup time with two valid watches if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Two valid watches if the three-button semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Three valid watches</del>
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by touchpad.		
<b>USMS Top 10 Times</b>	Touchpad Time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	Two-button system with a time calculated using the procedure in 103.17.3B	
	Manual backup time with one valid watch if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).	One watch if the two-button semiautomatic system fails (no buttons)	Two valid watches
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches if the	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches.	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid

| touchpad fails. |

| watches. |

**R-10 103.8.5** page 19 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

**Action:** Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled

### 103.8.5 Start Commands

**A** At the commencement of each heat, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they may take and maintain their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck and remain there (article 101.1.1). Swimmers starting in the water must take their positions on the wall with at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform and one foot in contact with the wall. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee's first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall take their positions on the wall without undue delay (article 101.1.2).

**Rationale:** Consistency of references for the start commands. Article 101.1.2 is referenced for backstroke starts but we do not include the reference for the forward start commands.

**R-11 103.8.6** page 20 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

**Action:** Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled

### 103.8.6 False Starts

**B** If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer(s) who have false started shall be disqualified upon completion of the race in accordance with article 102.13.21.

**Rationale:** This reference is misplaced since 102.13.2 is the article that requires the referee to make reasonable efforts to seek out and notify the swimmer. 102.13.1 is the correct reference to dual confirmation procedures for relay take-offs.

**R-12 103.12** page 23 Rules Committee Modify/Delete **Recommended**

**Action:** Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled

### 103.12 Clerk of Course

The clerk of course shall be provided with a list of the names of all swimmers in all events, including relay swimmers in the order in which they will swim. If manual seeding is used, the clerk of course may assign heats and lanes.

**Rationale:** Clarify the duties of the clerk of course to reflect the purpose of this position.



**R-13 103.18.2** page 26 Championship Committee Modify **Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled
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**103.18.2** Upon a recommendation from the meet host, the meet referee may approve the automatic recording of individual initial splits and relay leadoff splits without the requirement for a written request subject to the following conditions:

*(Paragraphs A and B Unchanged)*

C For national championship meets, ~~the meet referee may approve automatic splits with the concurrence of the USMS Championship Committee~~ automatic splits shall be automatically recorded in accordance with 103.18.2B.

**Rationale:** Update the rule to current practices, as relay leadoff splits have been automatically submitted for most of the last decade. Meet hosts will know this expectation at the time the bid is awarded rather than shown as an optional requirement.

**R-18 104.5.5** page 35 Championship Committee Modify **Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled
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### **104.5.5 Seeding**

**A General procedures for seeding** (also see article 102.10)  
*(Paragraphs 1-7 unchanged)*

(8) In situations where all seeding rules cannot be simultaneously met, the seeding of these heats may diverge slightly from the general procedures, with the concurrence of the Championship Committee ~~liaison~~.

**Rationale:** Maintain consistency with the rest of 104.5.5, were all other references to “the Championship Committee” do not call out a specific member.

**R-20 106.3** page 45 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled
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### **106.3 Racing Course Walls**

**106.3.1 Permanent Course**—Walls enclosing the racing course shall be parallel and vertical. The end walls shall be at a right angle to the water surface and shall be constructed of solid material with a nonslip surface that extends no less than .8 meter (2 feet, 7½ inches) below the water surface. ~~It is recommended that a toe rest ledge be provided at approximately 4-foot depth in the walls of the deep-water race course.~~ [M]

**Rationale:** This rule serves no practical effect since the rule cannot be enforced once the pool has been constructed. There is no corresponding rule in USA Swimming rules. FINA rules state that ledges are permitted, but that recessed ledges are recommended.

HOUSEKEEPING – RECOMMENDED

The following Housekeeping amendments are recommended to the House of Delegates by the Rules Committee and require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to be adopted.

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H-1 Glossary page xiii Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**Glossary**

FINA—Fédération Internationale de Natation (International Federation of Swimming).

**Rationale:** Housekeeping to correct misspelling.

H-2 103.2.1 page 17 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.2.1 Officials**

- A **One referee**—The referee may also serve as a stroke and turn judge but shall not serve as starter.
- B **One starter**—The starter may also serve as stroke and turn judge.
- C **Two stroke and turn judges**—At least two people shall perform these duties during competition.

Note: USMS sanctioned meets approved for observation of swims by USA Swimming require a minimum of four officials: one referee, one starter, and a minimum of two stroke and turn judges who are not serving in another capacity.

**Rationale:** USA Swimming R-2 changes the language in USA-Swimming 202.7 for observed swims conducted at meets which do not use USA Swimming technical rules. Because changes to part two of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations are not automatically considered, a housekeeping change is necessary to inform meet directors of this requirement.

H-3 103.11.1 page 22 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.11 Timers**

**103.11.1 Chief Timer**—The chief timer shall:

- A ~~Assure~~ Ensure the assignment of lane timers to lanes and the designation of one timer on each lane to be the head lane timer.

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**B** On the starting signal, start a watch(es) on every race. The time of this watch shall be used if a lane timer’s watch fails.

**C** Be responsible for delivering all stopwatch times, including those of disqualified swimmers, to the ~~timing judge~~ administrative official.

**Rationale:** Timing Judges have been replaced with Administrative Officials. Also correct for proper word usage.

**H-4 104.5** page 32 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**104.5.2 Format**—A four-day or five-day national championship meet shall be conducted. The Championship Committee shall set the order of events for each national championship meet.

**A** A national championship meet ~~format schedule~~ shall not be repeated for at least two years.

**B** The Championship Committee shall publish the meet ~~format schedule~~ no less than six months before the national championship meet begins.

**Rationale:** Housekeeping for language consistency. We changed “schedule” to the more commonly used “format” in the preamble to 104.5.2 in 2016, but did not make the change elsewhere in this section.

**H-5 106.15** page 48 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**106.15 Loudspeaker Starting System**

An electronic sound-generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course, or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light or similar visual signal located on the starter’s side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to manual timers and deaf and hard of hearing swimmers (also see article 1078.3). The starting system may include an underwater recall speaker and final-lap signal option. [NC]

**Rationale:** Housekeeping to correct reference to article 107.

ADDITIONAL HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES TO CONFORM TO FINA RULES

Pursuant to USMS Article 601.4.8, if amendments to the FINA Masters Technical Rules are adopted between annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

F-3 103.6.6 & 103.18 pages 18, 27-28 Modify **Adopted Per 601.4.8**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Changes to FINA rules that eliminate acceptance of world records using manual or semiautomatic primary timing systems. This change reflects only the FINA changes affecting world records to ensure that this information is accurately reflected in the rule book for members.

Note: F-3 is effective September 21, 2017 to reflect changes to FINA rules.

**103.6.6** The referee may assign two or more additional timers per lane dedicated to recording initial distances for USMS Top 10 purposes ~~or may assign three additional timers per lane to record initial distances for world records~~. The swimmer may request such additional timers for this purpose.

**103.18.5** **Records and Top 10 times using an Automatic Primary Timing System—** Secondary and tertiary times may be used to determine the official time as follows when the automatic primary timing system fails, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed. See 103.17.3D for overhead video backup.

**A** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by an automatic primary timing system.

**B** World records, USMS records, and USMS Top 10 times may be established when the automatic primary timing system fails if the times are reported by a semiautomatic secondary timing system using three, two, or one valid button(s).

~~**C** World records may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system with three valid watch times.~~

**DC** USMS records may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of two valid watch times.

**ED** USMS Top 10 times may be established when both the automatic primary and semiautomatic secondary systems fail (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual tertiary system using a minimum of one valid watch time.

~~FE~~ An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records, USMS records, or USMS Top 10 times when reported by an automatic primary timing system.

~~GF~~ An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the automatic primary timing system fails ~~and-if~~ the times are reported by a ~~manual backup semiautomatic secondary~~ timing system ~~with-using~~ three, ~~two, or one~~ valid ~~watch-button(s)times~~.

~~HG~~ USMS records shall not be established for initial distances and relay leadoff legs using a manual backup system when the primary system fails.

~~IH~~ An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the primary timing system fails and the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times. Note: If the secondary system is manual watches (no semiautomatic system), the requirements listed in 103.18.5C-~~DE~~ shall apply to the watch times.

**103.18.7 Records and Top 10 times using a Semiautomatic Primary Timing System—**  
Semiautomatic times are used to determine the official time as follows (or backup times when the semiautomatic primary timing system fails), provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed.

~~A World records may be established when the times are reported by a semiautomatic primary timing system with three valid button times.~~

~~BA~~ USMS records may be established when timed by a three-button semiautomatic primary timing system and the times are reported by three, two, or one valid button times.

~~CB~~ USMS Top 10 times may be established when timed by a minimum two-button semiautomatic primary timing system and the times are reported by three, two, or one valid button times.

~~D World records may be established when the three-button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three valid watch times.~~

~~EC~~ USMS records may be established when the three-button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three or two valid watch times.

~~FD~~ USMS Top 10 times may be established when the minimum two-button semiautomatic primary system fails (no valid button times) if the times are reported by a manual backup system with three, two, or one valid watch times.

~~G An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when reported by a manual backup timing system with three valid watch times.~~

~~**HE**~~ USMS records shall not be established for initial distances and relay leadoff legs using a manual backup system when the primary system fails.

~~**HF**~~ An initial distance or relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the times are reported by a manual backup timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

**103.18.7 Records and Top 10 Times using a Manual Primary Timing System—**

Manual times are used to determine the official time as follows, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed.

~~**A**~~ ~~World records and USMS records may be established when the times are reported by a manual primary timing system with three valid watch times.~~

~~**BA**~~ USMS Top 10 times may be established when the times are reported by a manual primary timing system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

~~**C**~~ ~~An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish world records when the times are reported by a manual primary system with three valid watch times.~~

~~**DB**~~ USMS records shall not be established for initial distances and relay leadoff legs using a manual primary timing system.

~~**EC**~~ An initial distance or a relay leadoff leg may be used to establish USMS Top 10 times when the times are reported by a manual primary system with a minimum of two valid watch times.

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**Note: F-3 also requires modification to the reference table on page 29 for consistency**

	<b>Automatic Primary Timing System</b>	<b>Semiautomatic Primary Timing System</b>	<b>Manual Primary Timing System</b>
<b>World Records</b>	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	<del>Three valid buttons.</del>	
	<del>Manual backup time with three valid watches if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Three valid watches if the three-button semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).</del>	<del>Three valid watches.</del>
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by a touchpad.		
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by <del>three valid watches</del> <u>three, two, or one valid semiautomatic button(s)</u> if the touchpad fails.	<del>Leadoff or initial split recorded by three valid watches.</del>	<del>Leadoff or initial split recorded by three valid watches.</del>
<b>USMS Records</b>	Touchpad time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	Three-button system with a time calculated using the procedure in 103.17.3B	
	Manual backup time with two valid watches if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).	Two valid watches if the three-button semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).	Three valid watches
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by touchpad.		
<b>USMS Top 10 Times</b>	Touchpad Time		
	Semiautomatic backup time with three, two, or one valid button(s) if the touchpad fails.	Two-button system with a time calculated using the procedure in 103.17.3B	
	Manual backup time with one valid watch if the semiautomatic system fails (no valid buttons).	One watch if the two-button semiautomatic system fails (no buttons)	Two valid watches
	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches if the touchpad fails.	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches.	Leadoff or initial split recorded by two valid watches.

RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

The following amendments are recommended as amended by the Rules Committee to the House of Delegates and require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to be adopted.

R-2 102.3, 102.5 pages 6-7 Rules Committee Add/Modify **Recommended as Amended**

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled

102.3 Age Groups

102.3.3 If a sanctioned meet is conducted by an organization whose age eligibility requirements differ from USMS (see articles 202.1.1G), the age groups listed in articles 102.3.1 and 102.3.2 may be adjusted to conform to the minimum and maximum ages eligible to compete in the meet.

102.5 Events

102.5.2 Any event (series of races in a given stroke and distance) conducted at a sanctioned meet must be offered for all age groups listed in articles 102.3.1 and 102.3.2 and both genders. Sanctioned meets conducted by organizations whose age eligibility requirements differ from USMS (see article 202.1.1G) must comply with article 102.3.3. Events may be repeated with the same stroke and distance as different event numbers at a meet. Any of the following events may be conducted.

**Rationale:** An official interpretation of 102.5 was issued in January 2017. The language of 102.5 is interpreted to mean that all events (series of races in a given stroke and distance) at USMS sanctioned meets must be offered to all of the age groups listed in 102.3 without exception. A format that restricts the age groups (for example, with a minimum age greater than 18) is not in compliance with the rules. This proposed change provides for exceptions to sanctioned meets conducted by affiliate organizations with different age policies (for example, the Senior Games, or the USA Masters Games). Note that 102.5 is not listed in the rules required for recognized meets, so meets with different age eligibility polices may be recognized without the need to comply with 102.1, 102.3, or 102.5.

*Note: Amended to delete duplicative language in 102.5.2 removing an additional reference to age groups and genders. Clarify that intent is apply the rule only to organizations outside of USMS with different age policies.*

R-6 102.6 and Glossary pages viii and 8 Rules Committee Add **Recommended as Amended**

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled



## Glossary

**Dual-Sanctioned Meet**—A USMS sanctioned meet held in conjunction with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet in which swimmers from both organizations are competing together in the same session(s).

### 102.6 Event Limit

*(Preceding sections unchanged)*

**102.6.8** When a USMS meet is held as a dual-sanctioned meet in conjunction with a USA Swimming meet, swimmers must select only one organization (USMS or USA Swimming) with which to compete. Dual membership cannot be used to exceed the daily event limit regardless of the format of the dual-sanctioned meet.

**Rationale:** Codify the intent of the provisions captured in the agreement for dual-sanctioned meets in Appendix B and clarify event limitations for swimmers who are members of both organizations.

*Note: Amended to change the glossary definition to reference the language in appendix B and reference separate sessions as a requirement to be considered separate USMS and USA Swimming meets.*

R-7 102.13.7 page 15 Arizona LMSC Add **Recommended as Amended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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### 102.13 Disqualifications

*(Existing 102.13.1 through 102.13.6 are unchanged.)*

**102.13.7** A swimmer who completes a race may warm down in the assigned lane while the rest of the swimmers finish the heat and shall not be disqualified if that swimmer does not delay the start of the next heat.

*(Renumber the remaining sections of article 102.13.)*

**Rationale:** Clarify that the practice of warming down in an assigned lane following the completion of an event does not subject a swimmer to disqualification.

*Note: Amended to insert the word “may”, which makes it permissible, not mandatory.*

R-8 103.4 page 17 Officials Committee Modify **Recommended as Amended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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### 103.4 Reporting of Officials and Meet Personnel

FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

All officials ~~and meet personnel~~ accepting an invitation to work at a swim meet should arrive promptly and report immediately to the ~~meet director or~~ meet referee. All other meet personnel should report directly to the meet director or volunteer coordinator.

**Rationale:** To clarify roles and responsibilities for volunteers arriving at a swim meet. To avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

*Note: Amended to strike the word “and” in the first sentence.*

**R-15 103.18.9** page 29 Rules Committee Modify **Recommended as Amended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.18.9** Except when the primary system consists of watches, backup timing shall be provided for all competitors. No swimmer shall be required to reswim a race due to equipment failure that results in unrecorded or inaccurate time or place. It is the meet director’s responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of articles 103.18.5-103.18.7. If it is not possible to satisfy the requirements of articles 103.18.5-103.18.7, the meet announcement must include a statement which informs swimmers that the official times cannot be submitted for world records, USMS records, and/or Top 10. If a change in primary timing system is necessary before or during the meet, the meet director shall ensure that all swimmers are notified of the change.

**Rationale:** Require the meet director to inform swimmers of the expectation to achieve records and top 10 times based on the primary timing system in use.

*Note: Amended to change the requirement to inform swimmers if the timing systems do not meet the requirements for records and top ten rather than require the announcement to specify the primary timing system for all meets.*

**R-16 104.4** page 32 Officials Committee Add **Recommended as Amended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**104.4.6 Meet Referee Report** - The meet referee of each national championship meet shall submit a written report to the chair of the Officials Committee within 60 days of the end of the competition. The report format and contents shall be defined by the Officials Committee.

**Rationale:** To require meet referees to report on elements of the competition which are important to the Officials Committee and Championship Committee. To improve the conduct of National Championship meet administration through continuous improvement.

*Note: Amended to strike the specific report requirements and leave the report format to the discretion of the Officials Committee. Also changed 30 days to 60 days for consistency with the current 104.4.5.*

R-19 104.5.10 page 38 Officials Committee Modify **Recommended as Amended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**104.5.10B Officials**--The meet host ~~shall appoint~~ may nominate a meet referee, ~~an administrative referee, a head starter, and a chief judge,~~ subject to qualification standards established by the USMS Officials Committee. This nomination is subject to approval by the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees. If there are no nominations from the meet host, the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees shall jointly appoint the meet referee. The meet referee shall develop a leadership team (administrative referee, head starter, and chief judge) and submit the names to the chairs of the Championship and Officials Committees for approval.

**Rationale:** To provide for the Officials Committee to develop a process for ensuring officials development and improve the overall quality of officiating throughout USMS, beginning with our national championships. To provide for the meet referee to ensure the meet's leadership team for the competition is consistent with the Officials Committee plan. This proposal also provides a process for ensuring the stakeholders of USMS are considered in developing this leadership team.

*Note: Amended to modify the responsibilities, permitting the meet host to nominate the meet referee with Officials Committee Chair approval. Amended further to give the approval authority to both the Championship Committee Chair and the Officials Committee Chair.*

NOT RECOMMENDED

The following amendments are not recommended by the Rules Committee to the House of Delegates and require a 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates to be adopted.

R-3 102.5.2 page 7 New England LMSC Modify **Not Recommended**

Action: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled

**102.5.2** Any event conducted must be offered for all age groups and both genders. Events may be repeated with the same stroke and distance as different event numbers at a meet. Any of the following events may be conducted.

**A. Short Course (25) Yards**

25-50-100-200-500-1000-1650 yards freestyle

25-50-100-200 yards backstroke

25-50-100-200 yards breaststroke

25-50-100-200 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

**B. Long Course (50) Meters and Short Course (25) Meters**

25\*-50-100-200-400-800-1500 meters freestyle

25\*-50-100-200 meters backstroke

25\*-50-100-200 meters breaststroke

25\*-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

**Rationale:** Currently 25-yard and 25-meter events are permitted as non-conforming events, but they are not recognized for records, top 10, and All-American status. As a result, few meets offer them as an option. Adding 25-yard and 25-meter events would broaden our competitive base by attracting newer swimmers to meets and thereby creating a higher quality product when focusing on base growth of participation.

R-14 103.18.7 page 28 Virginia LMSC Modify **Not Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled
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**103.18.8 Records and Top 10 Times using a Manual Primary Timing System—**  
Manual times are used to determine the official time as follows, provided the procedures in 103.17.3B are followed.

- A World records and USMS records may be established when the times are reported by a manual primary timing system with three valid watch times. If a semiautomatic primary system is in use that does not satisfy the requirements of 103.18.6, a time reported by a manual backup system with three valid watch times may be used to establish a USMS record.

**Rationale:** Situations may exist where the lack of equipment makes it impossible to satisfy the requirements of 103.18.6 for a semiautomatic system, but it is possible to time potential record-setting swims with three watches to satisfy the requirements.

R-17 104.5.4 page 34 South Texas LMSC Modify **Not Recommended**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Withdrawn Pulled
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#### 104.5.4 Entry Procedures

##### A Eligibility/affiliation

*Paragraph (1) is unchanged.*

(2) **Foreign swimmers**—National championship meets shall include and welcome foreign swimmers, except that they may not qualify for USMS Top 10 and All-American awards nor set USMS records. Foreign swimmers must represent a club from their FINA member federation and may not represent a USMS club.

**Rationale:** Foreign swimmers are permitted to join USMS clubs and score points at National Championships which creates a competitive advantage, especially when joining relay teams, which score double points.

FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

USA SWIMMING AMMENDMENTS THAT AFFECT USMS RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.7, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS House of Delegates votes to reject those amendments.

The following amendments are pending action by USA Swimming at the 2017 convention and will be submitted to the House of Delegates with the recommendation of the Rules Committee following action by the USA Swimming House of Delegates.

U-1 101.7 page 5 Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**101.7.1 Rules Pertaining to Relays**

*No changes to current A-G.*

H On relays, the second, third, and fourth swimmers are prohibited from starting from the top of the adjustable setting back plate. A swimmer must have at least part of one foot in contact with the starting platform in front of the adjustable setting back plate.

**Rationale:** Clarify that relay swimmers are not permitted to start from the back plate on top of the starting platform, which could create a safety concern.

U-2 103.11 pages 21-21 Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.11.2 Chief Timer**—The chief timer shall:

- D** Assure the assignment of lane timers to lanes and the designation of one timer on each lane to be the head lane timer.
- E** On the starting signal, start a watch(es) on every race. The time of this watch shall be used if a lane timer’s watch fails.
- F** Be responsible for delivering all stopwatch times, including those of disqualified swimmers, to the ~~timing judge~~administrative official.

**Rationale:** Update terminology – the “timing judge” position no longer exists.

U-3 103.17.3 page 24 Modify **Recommended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**103.17.3 Determination of Official Time**

- A Automatic timing**—When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**B Semiautomatic or manual timing**—Whenever semiautomatic or manual timing is used, only valid times shall be used in calculating the official time. The times shall be determined as follows:

- (1) If two of the three valid button times or two of the three valid watch times agree, the time of the two buttons or two watches in agreement shall be the time for that timing system.
- (2) If three valid button times or three valid watch times disagree, the time of the intermediate button or intermediate watch shall be the time for that timing system.
- (3) If only two valid button times or two valid watch times are available, the average of the two button times or the average of the two watch times shall be the time for that timing system. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.
- (4) If only one ~~valid~~ button or one ~~valid~~ watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system provided it is supported by other information unless that time conflicts with other information. If such a conflict exists, the administrative official shall gather as much data as possible and determine the time.

**Rationale:** To provide additional guidance in the determination of official time.

Pursuant to article 601.4.7, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 103, “Facility Standards,” may be recommended by the Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

The following amendments are pending action by USA Swimming at the 2017 convention and will be submitted to the House of Delegates.

U-4 106.11 page 46 Modify **Recommended as Amended**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**106.11.3 Size and Slope of Platform**—The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than .50 by .50 meters (20 inches by 20 inches) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It may have an adjustable-setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent nonslip material. [M]

**106.11.4 Forward Start Handgrips**

Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platform.  
[M\*]

*(Renumber remaining sections)*

**101.1.2 Backstroke**

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**B All Courses** – The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands places on the gutter or on the backstroke starting grips.

**Rationale:** Differentiate between grips used for backstroke and forward starts. 101.1.2B references starting grips for backstroke starts, so the clarification means that swimmers cannot use grips specifically installed for the forward start when performing a backstroke start.



ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA-SWIMMING AND FINA RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.7B, if amendments to USA Swimming articles 101 and 102 are adopted between the annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall automatically be adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

The following change was approved by the FINA Technical Congress and subsequently adopted by USA Swimming. This change is effective September 21, 2017. These changes are presented to the House of Delegates for information only and require no action.

F-2 101.6 page 4 Modify **Adopted per 601.4.7B**

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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**Changes approved by FINA to modify the interpretation of freestyle in an individual medley or medley relay event.** The change means that swimmers must return to a position on the breast before any propulsive movement (kick or stroke). The change permits swimmers to leave the wall while on the back during the freestyle leg of an individual medley or medley relay event without being subject to disqualification. Being on the back at any other time during the freestyle leg of an individual medley or medley relay event is still an infraction subject to disqualification.

**Text of the FINA Rule after the change:**

**SW 9 MEDLEY SWIMMING**

**SW 9.1** In individual medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

**SW 9.2** In Freestyle the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn. The swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

**SW 9.3** In Medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

**SW 9.4** Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule which applies to the stroke concerned

**USMS Rule Change:**

**101.6 Individual Medley**

The swimmer shall swim the prescribed distance in the following order: the first one-fourth, butterfly; the second one-fourth, backstroke; the third one-fourth, breaststroke; and the last one-fourth, freestyle.

**FINAL VERSION FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**101.6.1 Start**—The forward start shall be used.

**101.6.2 Stroke**—The stroke for each one-fourth of the designated distance shall follow the prescribed rules for that stroke, except that in the freestyle, the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn.

**101.6.3 Turns**

**A** Intermediate turns within each stroke shall conform to the turn rules for that stroke, except that in the freestyle turn, the swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

**B** The turns when changing from one stroke to another shall conform to the finish rules for the stroke just completed, and shall be as follows:

(1) **Butterfly to backstroke**—The swimmer must touch as described in article 101.3.5. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the back when the swimmer leaves the wall.

(2) **Backstroke to breaststroke**—The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.

(3) **Breaststroke to freestyle**—The swimmer must touch as described in article 101.2.4. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner and must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

**101.7.2 Medley Relay**—Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance in the following order: first, backstroke; second, breaststroke; third, butterfly; fourth, freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke as described in 101.6 (Individual Medley) used shall govern ~~where applicable~~. At the end of each leg, the finish rules for that stroke apply.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO FINA RULES

**F-1 Informational Only – No Action Required**

<b>Action:</b> Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Change approved by FINA to eliminate the sentence that references underwater kicking on the side in butterfly. This change is not a substantive change. FINA SW8.5 still permits underwater kicking up to the 15-meter mark and the reference to “on the breast” is still interpreted as a position toward the breast.

**Text of the FINA Rule Change:**

**SW8 BUTTERFLY**

**SW8.1** From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast. ~~Under water kicking on the side is allowed.~~ It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time, except after the turn after the touch where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall.

**No change is required to USMS rules in order to conform to FINA since this specific reference does not exist in the current rules.**