

New Policy for USMS Records

The Records and Tabulation Committee has recommended a new policy for USMS Records; the policy has been approved by the Board of Directors. The new policy has implications for meet directors, top ten recorders, and potential record-breaking swimmers.

USMS records are published every year in the USMS Rule Book; these represent a “snapshot” of the records in all courses as of Nov 1. Previously, whenever a swimmer achieved a time faster than one of these published records, a record application could be submitted to the National Records Administrator. If the application was verified, the swimmer would receive a certificate.

This policy has changed. There is now an application deadline for all USMS record applications: 90 days after the end of the season of the swim. After that deadline has passed, the Records Administrator will generate an official Records Progression for every event in which a record was broken. ***This progression will be based on the date of the swim.*** Swimmers who appear on the Records Progression – those who held the record for any period of time during the season – will receive a certificate.

The purpose of the new policy is to generate a more accurate record progression and to recognize the swimmers that appear on it. The consequence is that it is no longer sufficient to break the record published in the Rule Book: your time must be the fastest time that had been achieved at the time of the swim.

The new policy also has implications for meet directors and top ten recorders. Record applications are only necessary for swims that break records that are official on the day of the swim, not for all swims that are faster than the times published in the Rule Book. A meet director would be well-advised to check the most recent records for all potential record-breaking swims. The following is a list of current records whose applications have been approved:

<http://www.usms.org/comp/usmsrecords.php>

USMS will soon be developing a tool to be able to generate downloadable record files (including those that can be used in Hy-Tek’s Meet Manager program) for any particular date.

Consider the following scenario: the record for the 50 fly in a particular age group as published in the Rule Book is 29.00. On February 1, James does the 50 fly in a time of 28.15; the meet director dutifully submits the record application, which is eventually approved. At Spring Nationals, Johnny wins the 50 fly in that age group with a time of 28.60. The time is perfectly legit and is faster than the published record. The meet director – who only knew that Johnny’s time was faster than the time in the Rule Book and was unaware of James’ faster performance – submitted a record application for the swim.

Under the new policy, Johnny would not be considered a record-holder and would not appear in the Record Progression that is published at the end of the season. If the meet director had been aware of

the earlier record-breaking performance (*and it had been approved* before nationals), s/he need not have submitted the application for Johnny's swim.

Consider another scenario: Jane, swimming in the penultimate heat of an event, breaks a record. One heat later, Margaret goes even faster. Both record applications should be submitted and, if approved, both swimmers would appear in the official Record Progression for that event.

One last scenario: two swimmers in the same heat both swim faster than the official USMS record. Record applications should still be sent in for BOTH swimmers, because one should not assume that there will be no problems with the application of the faster swimmer. However, if the faster swim is verified, only that person will appear on the official Record Progression list.

Questions? Contact the Records and Tabulation Committee chair (recordsandtabulation@usms.org).