

Proposed Changes to the USMS Rules of Competition

USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS rules

The following procedures apply to amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 for purposes of also amending USMS articles 101, 102, 103, and 108.

601.4.7A-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.

SUMMARY

USA-S R-2 is U 1 below (6 events per day in two sessions) withdrawn.

USA-S R-3 is U 2 below (2 caps). SUMMARY

USA-S R-4 is U 3 below (swimsuit waiver for transgender swimmers).

USA-S R-5 is U 4 below (cameras approved by [choose position(s)]).

USA-S R-6 is U 5 below (align resolution of pad malfunction with FINA).

USA-S R-7 is U 6 below (prohibit use of backstroke ledges in water depth less than 4 feet; note that the rule for teaching backstroke starts is a USMS exception).

USA-S HK-1 is U 7 below (change “GFI” to “GFCI”).

U 1 The Rules Committee recommends acceptance or rejection

Withdrawn by USA Swimming

USA-S R-2 Purpose: To allow a swimmer to compete in six timed-final events per day provided there is at least a two-hour break between sessions.

USMS 102.6, p. 7 (USA-S 102.2.3, p. 25)

102.6 Event Limit

A swimmer may compete in not more than five individual events per day (or three individual events if the meet is a trials/finals format) and shall compete not more than once in each individual event entered (unless the meet is a trials/finals format). In a timed finals meet in which there is at least a two-hour break between meet sessions, a swimmer may compete in a maximum of six individual events per day, but not more than five individual events in a timed finals session. If, however, due to conditions beyond the control of meet officials, an event or events are postponed to a subsequent day of the meet, such postponed events shall not be included in the ~~five (or three)~~ above events-per-day limitations.

U 2 The Rules Committee recommends acceptance

Passed by the HOD 10/03/15

USA-S R-3 Purpose: To align with FINA's rules for permissible number of caps worn.

USMS 102.12.1B, p. 13 (USA-S 102.8.1A, p. 29)

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

B Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, no more than two cap(s), and goggles (a nose clip and ear plugs are allowed). Armbands or legbands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.

U 3 The Rules Committee recommends acceptance

USA-S R-4 Purpose: To promote inclusion in all aspects of the sport by allowing swimsuit waivers for transgender swimmers.

Passed by the HOD 10/03/15

USMS 102.12.1C(1), p. 13 (USA-S 102.8.1B[1], p. 30)

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

C In swimming competitions, the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder nor extend below the knees.

(1) Exemptions to the foregoing restrictions may be granted to a swimmer, on a case-by-case basis, by the chair of the Rules Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted ~~only~~ for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs, or verified medical conditions, or other reasons as deemed appropriate by the chair of the Rules Committee.

U 4 The Rules Committee recommends acceptance

Passed by the HOD 10/03/15

USA-S R-5 Purpose: To allow footage with cameras approved by the Vice President of Program Operations (a USA-S position) to be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on the deck.

USMS 102.13.5, p. 15 (USA-S 102.22.14, p. 37)

102.13 Disqualifications

102.13.15 ~~Approved underwater v~~ Video replay footage from cameras approved in writing in advance of the competition by the chair of the USMS Officials Committee and, for a national championship meet, with the concurrence of the chair of the USMS Championship Committee, may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck. The official(s) reviewing the video may only confirm the call made on deck, overrule the call, or advise the referee that the review proved inconclusive.

U 5 The Rules Committee recommends rejection

Rejected by the HOD 10/03/15

USA-S R-6 Purpose: To align practices of resolving a pad malfunction on a lane to be consistent with that of FINA's practices by eliminating the adjustment of backup times for pad malfunctions (but not the adjustment for other equipment or operator malfunctions).

USMS 103.18.6&.7, p. 27; 103.17.3E,F,G, p.24; Tables 1 and 2, pp. 25-26 (USA-S 102.24, pp. 39-41; Appendix 1-A and 1-B, pp. 44-45)

103.18 Official Time

103.18.6 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 article 103.18.4.

103.18.7 A backup time adjusted ~~for system timing errors~~ in accordance with the methods described in articles 103.17.3C–G may be used as an official time equal to the level of the timing system to which it has been adjusted.

103.17.3 Determination of Official Time

C Primary timing system malfunction—A primary timing system malfunction may have occurred if:

(1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the backup system(s) is approximately .30 second or greater;

or

(2) It is reported the swimmer missed the touchpad or had a soft touch.

D Fully integrated, overhead video system backup—If the backup system is a fully integrated, stationary overhead video system, the video camera time shall be the official time without adjustment in the event of a primary timing system malfunction.

~~**E Adjustment for the timing system difference**—When the referee determines that there is a malfunction of the primary timing system, the backup time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference prior to integrating them with accurate primary times in establishing the official times and determining the results. The adjustment for timing system difference is determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the valid primary and backup systems used at that meet.~~

~~**F Adjustment for malfunction on a lane**—When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be calculated in accordance with 103.17.3B and integrated with the accurate primary times in establishing the official time and determining the results, adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat or, if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane where the malfunction occurred.~~

G Adjustment for malfunction equally affecting an entire heat—When, because of an early or late start, or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semiautomatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swimmers is accurate, the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid backup times and adding or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat.

~~**Table 1—Example of Lane Malfunction (Delete ALL of Table 1 on p. 25.)**~~

~~**Table 2 1—Example of Heat Malfunction (Retain all of Table 2 and renumber it.)**~~

Facility Standards

The following are amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” which are not automatically adopted by USMS but may be recommended by the USMS Rules Committee for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

U 6 The Rules Committee recommends acceptance

Passed by the HOD 10/03/15

USA-S R-7 Purpose: To prohibit use of backstroke ledges in water less than four feet deep. This proposed USA-S change would not be automatically adopted by USMS, but the USMS Rules Committee can recommend USA-S changes to “Facility Standards” (USMS article 107) to the USMS House of

Delegates without following emergency status rules. A majority vote would be required to adopt the USA-S change if recommended by the USMS Rules Committee.

USMS 107.2.3A(1)&(3), p. 42; 107.12.4 (new), p. 44 (USA-S 103.2.3A&C, p. 44)

107.2.3 Water Depth

A Starting end—Minimum water depth for racing starts, as measured for a distance of 3 feet, 3½ inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet, 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall, during either competition or practice shall be as follows:

(1) In pools with water depth less than 3 feet, 6 inches (1.07 meters) at the starting end, ~~the swimmer must start within the water;~~

(a) The swimmer must start within the water. [M]

(b) Backstroke starting ledges are not permitted. [M]

(2) In pools with water depth 3 feet, 6 inches (1.07 meters) to less than 4 feet (1.22 meters) at the starting end, the swimmer must start from the deck or from ~~within the water.~~ Backstroke starting ledges are not permitted. [M]

(3) In pools with water depth 4 feet (1.22 meters) or more at the starting end, platforms shall meet the height requirements of article 107.11.1. [M]

107.12 Backstroke Ledge—The backstroke ledge shall conform to FINA specifications when used in competition as follows:

107.12.1 ~~AM/~~ The ledge may be adjustable to 4 centimeters above or 4 centimeters below the water level. [M]

107.12.2 ~~AM/~~ The ledge ~~is~~ shall be a minimum of 65 centimeters in length. [M]

107.12.3 ~~AM/~~ The ledge must be 8 centimeters in height, 2 centimeters at the width with 10 degrees of slope. [M]

107.12.4 The ledge shall not be used in water depth less than 4 feet (1.22 meters). [M]

U 7 (Housekeeping) The Rules Committee recommends acceptance

Passed by the HOD 10/03/15

USA-S HK-1 Purpose: To correct the acronyms.

USMS 107.19, p. 46 (USA-S 103.21, p. 51)

107.19 Electrical Safety

All permanent or temporary electrical connections to the electronic loudspeaker start system, automatic timing equipment, and other electrical or electronic devices operating on line voltages in the vicinity of the racing course shall be made only from groundfault circuit interrupter (~~GFI~~) (GFCI) protected convenience receptacles or circuits. In the event such receptacles or circuits are not available in the facility used for competition, portable UL-approved self-contained ~~GFI~~ GFCI outlet fittings shall be provided (furnished and installed) at the nonprotected convenience receptacles by the meet management, meet director, or equipment operator(s), whenever such equipment is connected and in use. [M]