

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE USMS CODE OF REGULATIONS:  
ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES, GLOSSARY, PART 2, PART 4, PART 5, AND PART 6.**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations were submitted to the Legislation Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.3, and 601.4.5.

Comments are invited from delegates at the annual meeting on all proposed amendments. The committee may entertain motions to reconsider any amendment at the annual meeting in order to accommodate comments from delegates and additional actions before presentation to the House of Delegates.

Amendments which are recommended by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt. Amendments which are not recommended by the committee require a two thirds (2/3) vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Proposed amendments are in **red**. Notes are in **blue**.

Readers may click on the number in the table below to review a specific proposal.

[Housekeeping on page 11](#)

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
<a href="#">L1</a>	201.1.4	Title change from “Registrar” to “Membership Coordinator”	Recommended
<a href="#">L2</a>	201.3.5	60 to 30 days unattached to transfer clubs	<b>Not Recommended as Amended</b>
<a href="#">L3</a>	202.1.1.A(3)	Specifies that a meet announcement must include a statement regarding pool length for each course intended to be used for competition in a sanctioned event.	Recommended
<a href="#">L4</a>	202.1.1.A(4)	Changed “Submitted” to “Accepted”	Recommended
<a href="#">L5</a>	202.1.1.G(2)	Deletes the word “World” and adds jurisdiction	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#">L6</a>	202.2.1	Updates rule book article references	Recommended
<a href="#">L7</a>	202.2.1	Cannot use “Olympic” or “Paralympic” in recognized events	Recommended
<a href="#">L8</a>	504.2.2 506.3.6 506.7.3	Updates the budget approval policy to match best practices.	Recommended
<a href="#">L9</a>	506.2.1	At large directors elected in odd years instead of even years.	Not Recommended
<a href="#">L10</a>	507.1	Add a new committee for Adult Learn to Swim	Not Recommended
<a href="#">L11</a>	507.1.3	Change “Diversity and Inclusion” to “Outreach” Committee	Not Recommended
<a href="#">L12</a>	507.1.13	Modernizes “Registrar” description to “Membership Coordinator”	Recommended
<a href="#">L13</a>	601.1	Adds a section to Part 6 clarifying content jurisdiction in Appendix B	Recommended as Amended
<a href="#">HK1</a>	203.3.2.G	Adds missing words for continuity with 202.1.1.F and 202.2.1.E	Recommended

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS CODE OF REGULATIONS

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Code of Regulations were submitted to the Legislation Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.3, and 601.4.5.

If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2020.

L-1	201.1.4 p.56	Board of Directors	Modify
<b>Committee Action</b>	<u>Recommended</u>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

### 201.1.4 Membership Application

A Individuals may apply for membership through the USMS website or by submitting an application form to the ~~registrar of the~~ LMSC membership coordinator or the USMS National Office. The LMSC shall provide a link to an electronic membership card or, upon request of the member, issue a membership card.

...

**201.2.2 Club Membership Application**—Clubs may apply for membership through the USMS website or by submitting an application form to the ~~registrar of their~~ LMSC membership coordinator or the USMS National Office.

...

**201.3.5** A swimmer shall not represent any club in competition for 60 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club, unless this transfer takes place at the time of annual registration. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time without written application. Swimmers who intend to compete as unattached in a meet should contact their ~~registrar~~ LMSC membership coordinator or the USMS National Office prior to the meet to request that their registration status be changed. The ~~registrar~~ LMSC membership coordinator or the USMS National Office shall change the club affiliation of the swimmer to the UC and note the effective date.

**Rationale:** The Volunteers Task Force has a mission of determining the best way to use USMS's valuable volunteers as resources now and in the future. Coming from the VTF's analysis, this proposal reflects the current reality that, for the vast majority of individual and club members, the administrative functions of membership registration are handled centrally through the National Office and the systems it has established. This proposal also recognizes the reality that the person called the "registrar" actually serves as more of a membership coordinator, providing all types of services to members in the LMSC, not primarily membership registration.

L-2	201.3.5 p. 57	Registration Committee	Modify
<b>Committee Action</b>	<u>Not Recommended as Amended</u>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**201.3.5** A swimmer shall not represent any club in competition for ~~60~~350 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club, unless this transfer takes place at the time of annual registration. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time without written application. Swimmers who intend to compete as

unattached in a meet should contact their registrar prior to the meet to request that their registration status be changed. The registrar shall change the club affiliation of the swimmer to the UC and note the effective date.

**Rationale:** Requiring the athlete to wait 60 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club creates an unnecessary burden on the swimmer wishing to transfer and on the registrars. Reducing the transfer from 60 to 30 consecutive days will provide a better member experience for the athlete.

*Note from Legislation*

**Amended from 30 to 35 days.**

**L-3 202.1.1.A(3) p.58**

Legislation Committee

Modify

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**Sanction Requirements 202.1.1.A(3)**

(3) Meet information shall include ONE of the following statements for each course used for competition during the meet:

- (a) The length of the competition course without a bulkhead is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1.
- (b) The length of the competition course has been measured and is NOT in compliance with USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1: Times achieved in the meet will NOT be eligible for USMS Top 10 and records.
- (c) The length of the competition course is not on file with USMS. Eligibility of times achieved in this meet will be contingent upon pool length measurement and approval with USMS; if bulkheads are present, their placement must also be confirmed by measurements at the meet (USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1).
- (d) The length of the competition course is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1, but as a bulkhead course, is subject to length confirmation. Eligibility of times for USMS Top 10 and records will be contingent on verification of bulkhead placement.

**Rationale:** From the Glossary: Meet—an event or series of events held under sanction or recognition and conducted within 10 consecutive days at the same venue, except for postal meets. Some venues can have multiple competition courses.

**L-4 202.1.1.A(4) p.58**

Legislation Committee

Modify

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**Sanction Requirements 202.1.1.A(4)**

**FINAL VERSION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE USMS ANNUAL MEETING**

Updated September 13, 2019 after the Legislation 2 meeting

If it is not possible to provide timing systems that will satisfy the requirements for world records, USMS records, or Top 10 submission (articles 103.18.5–103.18.7), the meet announcement must include a statement ~~that informs~~ swimmers that times cannot be ~~submitted-accepted~~ for records or Top 10.

**Rationale:** Times from sanctioned events are submitted; however, these times cannot be accepted for records or Top 10.

**L-5 202.1.1 p. 59**

Rules Committee

Modify

Committee Action	<u>Recommended as Amended</u>		
HOD Action	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**202.1.1 Sanction Requirements**—Sanctions shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with the following:

*(paragraphs A-F unchanged)*

**G** All sanctioned events are subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The conduct of a sanctioned event shall be in strict compliance with applicable USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations, or when the sanctioned event is held simultaneously in conjunction with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet, with applicable USA Swimming rules and administrative regulations.
- (2) In order to be in compliance with FINA ~~rule-Constitution article~~ C-7.3, an LMSC may grant exceptions to specific USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations when sanctioning a FINA Masters ~~World C~~hampionship held within the United States of America.

**Rationale:** Article 202.1.1G(2) was inserted prior to the 2006 World Masters Swimming Championships at Stanford University. This provision did not contemplate hosting additional FINA events in the USA, including the 2018 Pan American Championships in Orlando. The provisions need to be clarified to ensure that conflicts between FINA and USMS rules do not exist when future FINA meets are held in the USA.

*Amended by Legislation*

In C.7.3. We changed it to C 7.3, deleting the period between C and 7.

And we changed the C in “Championship” to a lowercase c.

**L-6 202.2.1 p. 60**

Rules Committee

Modify

Committee Action	<u>Recommended</u>		
HOD Action	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**202.2.1 Recognition**—Recognition shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with the following:

*(Paragraphs A-D unchanged)*

- E** The conduct of a recognized event shall conform to relevant USMS swimming rules and administrative regulations, including but not limited to the following:

**FINAL VERSION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE USMS ANNUAL MEETING**

Updated September 13, 2019 after the Legislation 2 meeting

- (1) Starts, Strokes, and Relays (article 101) or Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers With a Disability (article 107)
- (2) Swimwear ~~Restrictions~~ Design (article 102.12.1)
- (3) ~~Timing Resolution~~ Determination of Official Time (articles 103.17.3, 103.18.1, 103.18.2, 103.18.3, and 103.18.4)
- (4) ~~Official Time~~ Timing System Requirements for Records and Top 10 (articles ~~103.18.1, 103.18.3,~~ 103.18.5–103.18.8, and 103.18.10)
- (5) Records and Top 10 Times (articles 105.1, 105.2.1, 105.2.2A, 105.3.2, 105.3.3, 105.3.4, 105.3.5, 105.3.6, 105.3.7A, and 105.3.9)
- (6) Minimum Standards for Facilities (articles 106.2.1, 106.2.3A, 106.3, 106.11.1, 106.11.2, 106.12, 106.13.2, and 106.14, and 106.16.)
- (7) Relay leadoff split times that conform to articles 103.18.1 and 105.2.2A will be considered for events listed in article 102.5. USMS membership is not required for the other members of the relay team and the relay event itself need not conform to article 102.5.

**Rationale:** Article 202.2.1 has not been updated in several years. This amendment updates current terminology and rules that have been added or amended in recent years that would impact the validity of USMS records and top ten times achieved at recognized meets.

**L-7 202.2.1 p. 60**

Legislation Committee

Add

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**202.2.1 Recognition**

E – No recognition of any event shall be granted with the word “Olympic” or the word “Paralympic” or any derivative thereof used in any manner in connection with said event unless consent is obtained from the USOPC.

Re-letter thereafter

**Rationale:** Brings Recognized meets under the same standards that apply to Sanctioned meets.

**L-8 504.2.2, 506.3.6, 506.7.3 p. 94, 97 & 98.**

Board of Directors

Delete, Modify, and Add.

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**ARTICLE 504: HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

504.2.2 To delegate responsibility and authority to other USMS entities as prescribed in USMS code and

by USMS policy. However, the following powers are fully the responsibility of the House of Delegates and shall not be delegated:

- A To elect officers and directors (Note: The nomination and election procedures may be delegated).
- B To amend the USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition.
- ~~C To review and approve the annual budget.~~

## ARTICLE 506: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**506.3.6** To prepare or cause to be prepared, ~~prior to each annual meeting,~~ and approve the USMS budget for the next fiscal ~~period-year and submit same to the House of Delegates for approval.~~

### 506.7 Permanent Committees of the Board

**506.7.3 Finance Committee**—The Finance Committee shall:

- A. Propose policies pertaining to the financial affairs of USMS for approval by the Board of Directors.
- B. ~~Reeeive and~~ review the reports of the treasurer and National Office.
- C. ~~Cause to be prepared~~ Review a summary of the above reports prepared by the National Office to be presented to the Board of Directors.
- D. Annually ~~receive and compile~~ review budget requests for the next fiscal year.
- E. Assist in the preparation of the USMS annual budget for the next fiscal ~~period-year~~ and submit ~~same~~ to the Board of Directors for approval ~~and then to the House of Delegates for ratification.~~

**Rationale:** The Finance Committee and Board of Directors recommend USMS adopt rule changes that would modernize the budgeting process, which was created to support a smaller, volunteer managed organization. The current process requires the National Office to complete most of its budgeting work prior to the July Board meeting. Under this proposal, the budget would be developed in the period after Convention and finalized shortly before year-end.

Responsibility for final approval of the annual budget would transfer to the BOD from the HOD. The BOD has the ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the organization. It is their job to ensure the budget appropriately allocates resources to fulfill the organization's strategic plan, to fund operating initiatives, and to meet member needs. The HOD would retain authority for setting membership, sanction, and recognition fees (508.2).

This change would result in a more accurate budget because it would be compiled with maximum available information from current year financial results, including membership trends and spending levels. In all, nearly 40 volunteers from the Finance Committee and BOD would have input on the final budget.

The Convention agenda and HOD schedule would allocate time for review of the financial performance of USMS. There would also be discussion and review of the allocation of USMS resources to key operational

areas and ongoing strategic initiatives. It is important for the BOD to receive feedback from the HOD on those plans.

An additional benefit is the potential to fund new programs brought forth by committees at convention. This is not possible with a budget that must be approved during the annual meeting.

Changes to articles 506.7.3C and 506.7.3D are to conform to current actual practice as stipulated in FOG:

- 506.7.3C: FOG (Section IV.A.4.) sets out the requirements for National Office staff to prepare the summaries. The Finance Committee reviews the summaries.
- 506.7.3D: The National Office receives and compiles the budget requests, not the Finance Committee.

A few housekeeping changes have also been made (e.g. changing “period” to “year”).

<b>L-9</b>	<b>506.2.1 p. 97</b>	Southern Pacific	Modify
<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Not Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**506.2 Election and Term of Office of At-Large Directors**

506.2.1 At-large directors shall be elected at annual meetings held in evenodd-numbered years. Their terms of office shall commence at the close of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates at which they are elected.

**Rationale:** The directors and officers were originally elected in different years to maintain continuity of experience on the board. In the ensuing years, several officer and board member positions have been moved out of synchronization and there are no wholesale changes in either section of the board anymore. This change would make a slightly larger election activity in odd years, but free up lots of time in even years for more educational or recreation activities for the delegates. Several hours each day would be available for other scheduling or precious free time.

***Reasons for Not Recommending:***

It’s a good idea to have staggered elections  
It was not supported by the elections committee

<b>L-10</b>	<b>507.1 p. 100</b>	Minnesota	Add
<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Not Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Create “Adult Learn To Swim (ALTS) Committee” in section 507.1.1

**507.1.1 Adult Learn To Swim (ALTS) Committee**

The Adult Learn To Swim Committee shall promote and support local Adult Learn To Swim programs by



providing best practices and education as well as coordination of resources to LMSCs and between LMSC's. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee functions. A Staff representative from the National Office ALTS Certification Program and a representative of the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation shall be ex Officio members.

*Renumber subsections of 507.1 to maintain alphabetical order*

**Rationale:** To further the mission of USMS by providing a vital coordination role to LMSCs, in coordination with the fundraising and grant-making role of the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation and the administration of the ALTS Certification Program by the Staff at the National Office. There is a demand for outreach and education that currently cannot be met by the SSL Foundation or the limited staff resources at the national office. This proposal is supported both by the SSL Foundation Chair and by the Staff of the national office involved in Adult Learn To Swim.

***Reasons for Not Recommending:***

Should be a task force first, and then morph into a committee if needed.

Proposals to create permanent committees should come from the BOD or Governance Committee.

There are many groups that serve vital functions and are not supported by a committee. Event Directors, for example.

From Legislation 1 on Thursday

We recommend to the BOD that an Adult Learn to Swim Task Force be formed.

L-11 507.1.3 p. 100

Southern Pacific

Modify

**Committee Action** **Not Recommended**

**HOD Action**

Adopted

Adopted as Amended

Defeated

**507.1.3 ~~Diversity and Inclusion Outreach~~ Committee**

The ~~Diversity and Inclusion Outreach~~ Committee shall help ~~create a culture of inclusion and opportunity in USMS for people of diverse backgrounds~~ identify and develop underserved geographic areas and social groups. ~~This activity will include: by~~ developing clubs (if appropriate) and resources, ~~also and~~ engaging coaches, LMSCs, and local volunteers. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function.

**Rationale:** An outreach committee is a far better description of what is needed and what would be the practical result of the current committee. Better yet, it would have broad support of all sides of the equation, in that it has a general positive connotation.

The ultimate result should be more new members all over the country, enhancing the 50 year integrity of USMS with other existing members. This proposal is not meant to do anything but clarify the name and mandate of the committee to serve USMS goals and values rather than any others.



**Reasons for Not Recommending:**

It would change the entire purpose of the committee.

Not supported by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

**L-12 507.1.13 p. 102**

Registration Committee

Modify

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**507.1.13 Registration Committee**

The Registration Committee shall ~~develop effective procedures for registering members and advise the Board of Directors on registration policies. Committee members shall assist LMSC registrars and communicate current policies and procedures. The committee shall consist of the committee chair, one member from each zone, and one member at large.~~ serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors and the National Office to ensure effective and efficient registration processes and membership services. Committee members shall assist LMSC registrars in a support and educational capacity. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function.

**Rationale:** The current description of the role and function of the Registration Committee no longer accurately reflects the way the committee functions. The requirement that the committee have at least one member from each zone is difficult to maintain and is not necessary to execute the duties of the committee.

*If L1 passes, we will update as housekeeping.*

**L-13 601.1 p. 105**

Rules Committee

Championship Committee

Records and Tabulation Committee

Add

<b>Committee Action</b>	<b><u>Recommended as Amended</u></b>		
<b>HOD Action</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

*Add the following article:*

~~**601.1.6** The Appendices of the USMS Rules and Regulations shall contain pertinent information for swimmers, coaches, meet directors, officials, and volunteer leaders.~~

~~**A** With the exception of Appendix D (see 601.1.2), changes to the appendices may be made by the committee or officer of jurisdiction without further concurrence by the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, or House of Delegates.~~

~~**B** Appendix B shall contain pertinent information for meet directors and officials. The Rules Committee shall periodically review and update the summary of rules differences between USMS and other swimming organizations. The Records and Tabulation Committee shall periodically review and update~~

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Updated September 13, 2019 after the Legislation 2 meeting

~~information necessary to facilitate the accurate submission of meet results, records, and Top 10 times with the concurrence of the Rules Committee for compliance with part one rules. The Championship Committee shall quadrennially review and update the adjustments to national qualifying times (NQT) for swims at altitude. The Executive Committee or designee shall periodically review and update information needed for compliance with safety and insurance provisions, including the report of occurrence. Guidelines for the conduct of dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming may not be modified without the consent of the Executive Committee and the concurrence of USA Swimming, but the chairs of the Rules and Legislation Committees are authorized to use the guidelines to interpret provisions of parts one and two for USMS sanctioned meets held in conjunction with USA Swimming sanctioned meets. The Executive Committee must approve any other proposed additions or deletions of sections in Appendix B.~~

~~C The remaining appendices shall be maintained and updated by the Executive Committee or designee on an annual basis. Any changes to the organization of the appendices, including additions, deletions, or re-numbering, must be approved by the Executive Committee.~~

*Amended by Legislation*

We rewrote the proposal to say the following:

**601.1 Committee Jurisdiction**

*Add the following article and renumber:*

~~601.1.5 The Rules Committee, Records and Tabulation Committee, Championship Committee, and the Executive Committee or committee designated by the president shall periodically review and update the sections of Appendix B (or other appendices) that are within their jurisdiction.~~

~~601.1.5 The Rules Committee, Legislation Committee, or committee designated by the president, in consultation with committees which that have related areas of responsibility, shall review and update the sections of aAppendix B (or other appendices) that provide information related to their areas of jurisdiction as defined in articles 601.1.1 and 601.1.4.~~

~~A. With the exception of Appendix D (see article 601.1.2), changes to the appendices may be made by the committee or officer of jurisdiction without further concurrence by the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, or House of Delegates, except as described in articles 601.1.5 B and C.~~

~~B. Guidelines for the conduct of dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming may not be modified without the consent of the Executive Committee and the concurrence of USA Swimming. The chairs of the Rules and Legislation Committees are authorized to use the guidelines to interpret provisions of pParts oOne and tTwo for USMS-sanctioned meets held in conjunction with USA Swimming—sanctioned meets.~~

~~C. Any changes to the organization of the appendices, including additions, deletions, or renumbering, must be approved by the Executive Committee.~~

~~601.1.6 Executive Committee – Proposed changes to all other sections of the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* and Aappendices (except for Appendix D) shall be considered by the Executive Committee or committee designated by the president. Such proposals are not subject to the provision of articles 601.2, 601.3, and 601.4.~~

~~*Note: A rationale was not submitted with the proposal.*~~

# Housekeeping

HK-1 203.3.2.G p.63

Legislation Committee

Modify

Committee Action	<u>Recommended</u>		
HOD Action	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**203.3.2.G** No sanction of any event shall be granted with the word “Olympic” or the word “Paralympic” or any derivative thereof used in any manner in connection with said event unless consent is obtained from the USOPC.

**Rationale:**

Housekeeping to modify language to match language of 202.1.1.F which was changed in 2018. Need to keep matching language in 203.3.2.G since it was overlooked in 2018.

The United States Olympic Committee Changed their name to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.