

Rules Committee

Committee Members

Kathrine Casey, Chair; Leianne Crittenden, Vice Chair; Kris Wingenroth, Secretary

Carolyn Boak, Peggy Buchanan, Kathrine Casey, Sally Ann Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Judy Gilles, Laura Groselle, Matt Hooper, Leon Kief, Cathy Kohn, Leo Letendre, Jessica Seaton, Kelly Sharitt, Frank (Skip) Thompson, William Tingley, Ginny Trimble, Kris Wingenroth

Ex-Officio: Charlie Cockrell, Susan Ehringer, Sean Fitzgerald, Mike Heather, Dan McAllen, Leianne Crittenden, appointed

Introduction

The Rules Committee has jurisdiction over Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary. Since this is a Legislation year, Rules amendments to Part 1 may be passed by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates only if they are properly submitted, deemed an emergency by the Rules Committee and recommended for approval by the Committee. One proposed rule change has been submitted. Part 1 is based on articles 101, 102, and 105 of the USA Swimming Technical Rules, which, as amended, will govern all Masters swimming competitions. The Rules Committee may also recommend changes to USA-S article 103 (Facility Standards) to the House of Delegates. The committee reviewed USA Swimming's Article 102, as it was reorganized and partially rewritten last year, and will present its recommendations to the House of Delegates for approval or rejection by a majority vote. The Committee will also make recommendations to the delegates on amendments approved by USA Swimming at this year's convention. There are ten USA-S proposed amendments that could impact USMS rules.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Proofread the 2011 rule book for the correct insertion of:
 - A. adopted USMS amendments
 - B. USA-S approved amendments that were adopted by USMS
 - C. corrections to the rule book that were reported throughout the year
 - D. additions to the index
2. Updated the "Differences" documents for Appendix B in the 2011 rule book (USA-S, NCAA, FINA, and NFHS rules differences) and submitted the USMS/USA-S rules differences to USA Swimming for publication in their rule book.
3. The chair attended the "Our Kids Initiative" (OKI) meeting in Indianapolis in September, shared the differences documents of swimming rules between USMS and other swimming governing bodies, and reviewed the USMS rules included in the OKI comparison of rules for all swimming governing bodies.
4. Answered all questions about rules including the following:
 - A. A relay swimmer can start from the water and then remain in the water holding on to the lane line until the relay is over. Be aware that when automatic timing is used, a relay leadoff split will not count for an official USMS time if the second swimmer starts in the water.

- B. The breaststroke or whip kick may be used exclusively or interchangeably with the dolphin kick while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race. Only one breaststroke or whip kick is permitted per arm pull.
- C. Swimmers can wear traditional racing suits such as lycra/polyester briefs for men and hip-to-shoulder suits for women that may not be on the FINA-approved list if they meet the FINA swimsuit specifications: All swimsuits must be made from textile materials and have no fasteners except for a waist tie. Elastic is allowed in ends of the legs and in straps.
- D. An official time for butterfly can be achieved in initial butterfly distance(s) of an IM event.
- E. In breaststroke after the start and after each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. For purposes of that single dolphin kick, any downward or outward lateral movement of the hands or arms is considered to be the initiation of the first arm pull after the start and after each turn. For purposes of the head breaking the surface of the water during the second stroke, the head must break the surface before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second arm pull.
- F. Combined events cannot be called “Open” or “Choice” or any other such generic name. They can only be called events that are listed in article 102.5. Events of the same distance 200 yards or longer may be combined, but if the meet is to be seeded with combined events, the meet information must state that and list the event by the distance and the choices of strokes (e.g., free, back, breast, fly, IM) on the meet entry. Each swimmer must enter one of those strokes for that distance in order for the times to count for USMS Top 10 and records. Entering an event called “Open” or “Choice” will not count for USMS Top 10 and records.
- G. The 5-event-per-day limit is not one of the relevant rules for USMS recognition. All of the relevant rules for recognition (see 202.2.1E) are generally rules that affect the quality of the times.
- H. If the primary timing system is manual, official split times for USMS Top10 can be recorded by the manual watches (103.13.3). If the primary timing system is automatic, official split times for USMS Top 10 must be recorded by automatic timing.
- I. Tape on the body or Cho-Pats are not permitted unless approved by the referee.
- J. A referee must be certified as a referee or, if certified as a starter or stroke and turn judge, must receive training on specific duties of a referee. Uncertified officials may serve as starters or stroke and turn judges if they receive training in the specific duties of the assigned positions and serve under the supervision of a certified official.
5. Published columns in *Streamlines* for coaches that address the most frequently asked questions about rules.
 6. Reviewed articles 102 and 103 for comparison with the reorganization and rewrite of USA Swimming’s article 102 to make recommendations to the House of Delegates.
 7. Provided a Rules Liaison to National Championship meets to assist with rules questions and rules interpretations and provided information for automatic split

- retrieval for official times as well as a written split request for all events for all swimmers except individual backstroke events.
8. The chair attended the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee meeting in June.
 9. Reviewed the Rules Committee description in 507.1.14 as directed by the USMS Board of Directors and found it to be accurate.
 10. Reviewed updated research and information on transsexual athletic eligibility and considered eligibility for USMS official times and competition based on gender.
 11. Assisted LMSCs and committees with proposed rule changes.
 12. Contributed to USMS strategic planning.

Action Items

1. The committee reconfirmed the following USMS transsexual policy for USMS official times as approved in 2005: Transsexuals may compete in their reassigned gender per IOC rules.

Agenda

Meeting #1, Thursday, September 15, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

1. Review and approve minutes.
2. Review the 2012 budget and 2011 expenditures.
3. Consider proposed amendment for emergency status.

Meeting #2, Friday, September 16, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

1. Consider USA Swimming proposed amendments R-1 through R-9 (R-3 is currently a USMS exception) that will impact USMS rules if approved by USA-S and prepare recommendations for the House of Delegates. Also consider USA-S R-10 (Facility Standards).
2. Review proposed tasks for 2012: Proofread rule book, update Differences documents, develop situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems, collect a history of proposed rule changes.

Meeting #3, Saturday, September 17, 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

1. Consider USA Swimming amendments as approved by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and make final recommendations to the House of Delegates.