

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #:	N/A
Committee Chair:	Mollie Grover		
Minutes recorded by:	David Benjamin	Date/time of meeting:	August 6, 2024 / 7:00 PM ET

Actions Taken:

1. MSA to recommend R-1 to the HOD.
2. MSA to recommend R-3 to the HOD.
3. MSA to recommend R-4 to the HOD.
4. MSA to redesignate HK-1 as a U measure.
5. MSA to redesignate HK-2 as a U measure.

Number of committee members present:	11	Absent:	1	Guests:	0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): David Benjamin, Kathy Casey, Christina Fox (Vice-Chair), Judy Gillies, Mollie Grover (Chair), Claire Letendre, Susan Nolte, Barbara Protzman, Kris Wingenroth, Patrick Weiss, Ben Wyckoff					
Not present: Jason Weis					
Ex Officio present: Mike Abegg (USMS Officials Committee Chair)					
Ex Officio absent: Julie Dussliere (USMS Vice-President of Administration), Stephanie Gauzens (USMS Legislation Committee Chair), Onshalee Promchitmart (USMS National Office)					
Guests: none					

Minutes

Mollie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm ET.

Mollie announced that her goals for this meeting are to act on the proposed amendments to the USMS Glossary and Part 1 Rules of Competition, and to address them in the following order:

R-3, R-4, HK-1, HK-2, R-1, R-2. This meeting will then be recessed to Sunday, August 11, at 7:00 pm ET to complete discussion of the policy on Transgender Swimmer Inclusion and the Eligibility Review Procedures prepared by the Transgender Task Force.

2024 USMS Proposals

R-3

This proposal applies to measurement of pool length in pools using a movable bulkhead. It would provide that pool length shall be confirmed by measuring the two outside competition lanes (and a middle lane) not by measuring outer lanes that are not being used for competition.

There was committee consensus in favor of R-3.

M/S (Claire/Christina) to recommend R-3 to the HOD, passed unanimously.

R-4

This proposal would allow a person claiming a record from a meet that is not a USMS national championship to submit “a picture of the timing console showing event, heat, lanes, and times with backups” instead of the timing system printout.

There was committee consensus in favor of R-4.

M/S (Claire/Christina) to recommend R-4 to the HOD, passed unanimously.

HK-1

This proposal would amend the rules relating to the butterfly stroke and turn, and the glossary definition of “on the back.” The proposal is intended to make USMS rules consistent with World Aquatics terminology.

USA Swimming will be considering these changes as a housekeeping amendment, with a recommendation of ‘approval’ from their Rules and Regulations committee, at their Annual Meeting Sep 26-29, 2024

There was disagreement between committee members on whether HK-1 is truly a housekeeping measure or whether it represents a substantive change in USMS rules. It was noted that USMS is not obligated to accept every rule change adopted by World Aquatics as a “housekeeping” measure, even though USA Swimming has decided to call World Aquatics rule changes “housekeeping”.

M/S (Kathy/David) to change the designation of HK-1 to a “U” proposal and await possible action by USA Swimming, 9 yes, 1 no, motion passed.

HK-2

This proposal, which would amend the rules governing turns and finishes in the individual medley, is intended to make USMS rules consistent with World Aquatics terminology. USA Swimming will be considering these changes as a housekeeping amendment, with a recommendation of ‘approval’ from their Rules and Regulations committee, at their Annual Meeting Sep 26-29, 2024

While some committee members supported HK-2, others opposed it, arguing that it is not merely a housekeeping change, and that it would make the rules on IM turns and finishes less clear.

M/S (Claire/Christina) to recommend HK-2 to the HOD, 3 yes, 7 no, motion failed.

M/S (Ben/Kathy) to change the designation of HK-2 to a “U” proposal and await possible action by USA Swimming, passed unanimously.

R-1

Under this proposal, the lead-off swimmer on a relay would not be entitled to an official time unless the relay completes the full distance.

Committee members supporting R-1 argue that it is necessary to prevent swimmers or coaches from exploiting the system, by (for example) putting together a 400 FR relay where the lead-off swimmer swims 100 meters but the remaining three swim only 50 meters each. Committee members speaking in opposition to R-1 note that Records and Tabulation is not aware of any past incidents of abuse. Committee members noted that, in other circumstances, a lead-off swimmer’s time is not nullified by a subsequent disqualification of the remaining relay members, and argue that it is inconsistent to invalidate a lead-off time for one type of disqualification but not for others.

M/S (Claire/Christina) to recommend R-1 to the HOD, 4 yes, 6 no, motion failed.

R-2

M/S (Claire/Kathy) to recommend adoption of R-2.

The purpose of R-2 is to control the length of national championship meets. Members of the committee appreciated the purpose of the proposal, which is to control the length of national championship meets. Several members, however, raised issues as to how the proposal would achieve that goal. Several members advocated the use of entry caps instead of qualifying times. Christina requested a report from the Championship Committee on this issue, and Mollie agreed to ask that committee for more information.

Further discussion and action on R-2 was postponed until the committee’s next meeting on August 11 with the hope that Mollie would receive further information from the Championship Committee by then. R-2 will be the first item of business on August 11.

At 8:30 pm ET the meeting was recessed to August 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm ET.