

USMS Rules Committee
Rules modified by USA Swimming 1999 House of Delegates
Applied to USMS Rules

The following are recommend for approval by the House of Delegates

U1 103.6.5 REFEREE (USA S - 102.13)

- .6 The Referee may prohibit the use of any ~~bell, siren horn~~ device that disrupts or interferes with the meet, such as a laser pointing device or other artificial noisemaker during the meet.

U2 Several sections

101.1. STARTS (USA S - part of 102.14)

.1 Forward Start—The forward start may be taken from the starting block, the pool deck, or a push from the wall. ~~On receiving clearance from the referee (for all events except backstroke and medley relay) the starter shall direct the swimmers to assume a position with at least one foot at the front of the block, the edge of the deck, or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.”~~ At the commencement of each heat, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swim wear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform, the edge of the deck, or on the wall before the command “Take your mark.” Those starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block.

.2 Backstroke Start

A Starting Commands - At the commencement of each heat, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swim wear. At the referee's first long whistle the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position.

B Short course yards—The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. The feet may be placed in any position on the wall or on the gutter of the pool, and the swimmer may assume any desired starting position that does not remove either foot completely from the water, or either hand from the starting grips or the pool edge. Standing in or on the gutter is not permitted at any time before the start. A backstroke starting block may not be used.

C Short course meters and long course meters—The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Prior to the command “Take your mark,” and until the feet leave the wall at the starting signal, the swimmer's feet including the toes shall be placed under the surface of the water. Standing in or on the gutter is not permitted at any time before the start. A backstroke starting block may not be used.

103.8 STARTER (USA S - 102.14)

.1 Preparation

A, B, C - *(no change)*

~~D—The starter notifies swimmers of the distance and the event.~~

~~E D~~ **Optional Instructions**

~~Stroke(s) to be used and the order of swimming them.~~

~~Number of pool lengths to be swum.~~

Event, stroke and distance (Recommended).

Advise heat when a swimmer is attempting a time at an initial distance.
Notify relay swimmers that all but the last swimmer must leave the pool immediately upon completion of their leg.

.2 Starts (see article 101.1)

.3 Starting Commands

~~A—After the Referee's whistle, the Starter gives the command "take your mark," to which they must immediately respond by assuming a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting block or platform. Sufficient time should follow "take your mark" to enable swimmers to assume starting positions, but no swimmer shall be in motion immediately before the starting signal is given.—~~

A At the commencement of each heat, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swim wear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions on the starting platform, the edge of the deck, or on the wall and remain there. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the referee's first long whistle the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position (101.1.2).

B When the swimmers and officials are ready, the Referee shall signal with an outstretched arm to the starter that the swimmers are under the Starter's control.

C On the Starter's command "take your mark", the swimmers shall immediately assume their starting position with at least one foot at the front of the block the edge of the deck, or on the wall. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

D For backstroke starts, the starter may give the command "Place your feet" after the referee's whistle.

.3 Warning Signal - (no change)

.4 False Starts

A (no change)

~~B All swimmers leaving their marks before the starting signal is given shall be charged with a false start. A swimmer who has false started because of the action or movement of another competitor may be relieved of the responsibility for the false start and a false start may be charged only to the offender. (Note exception for deliberate delay or misconduct in article 103.7.6.)~~

Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the

remaining swimmers shall be called back, be reminded by the starter of the penalties, and start again.

C (no change)

~~D When the starting signal is given and one or more swimmers have obtained an unfair advantage, all swimmers shall be recalled at once by a second signal.~~

E & F (no change)

G. Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a false start prior to starting signal being given shall be disqualified and shall not be permitted to swim the event. This rule shall not apply to USA Swimming international events or to the USMS international events, the Pan Pacific Aquatic Games, FINA World Championships where current FINA false start rules shall apply.

H. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start ~~or charged with a false start~~ if the race is permitted to proceed without recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter who, with the concurrence of the referee, may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.

103.9 RECALL STARTER - Remove entirely

Remove all other references to Recall Starter

U3 103.12.2 Head Lane Timer (USA S - 102.17.3B4)

D Determine and report if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touch pad at the finish, or there is reason to believe the semi-automatic or manual times may be inaccurate.

U4 103.12 (USA S - 102.17D)

.4 Timing Equipment Operator—The timing equipment operator shall be responsible for the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment, including the electronic starting system and scoreboard (if used), and shall advise the referee of any system problems that might affect the accuracy of times or whenever the touchpad is observed to have failed to record the finish when the swimmer completed the race. The timing equipment should be placed so that the operator is able to observe the finish of each race.

U5 102.17.5

E Adjustment for Malfunction on a Lane - When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times on that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid back-up times of the other lanes in that heat, or if necessary, using times from heats immediately preceding and/or following that heat.

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The following are not recommended for approval by the House of Delegates

U6 102.5 Events (USA S - 102.1)

102.5. EVENTS—~~In planning any meet, careful consideration must be given the demands to be made upon swimmers, officials, and spectators, in that order.~~ Meets should be planned to terminate within a reasonable period of time each day. Planning should provide for adequate meal and rest breaks and sheltered rest areas.