

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

1996 RULES PROPOSALS  
APPROVED BY RULES COMMITTEE (SIMPLE MAJORITY TO CARRY)

- R3(15) Intro RBk **PART ONE: SWIMMING RULES**  
All provisions ... over another.
- It is not the purpose ... safety of the swimmer. Safety considerations should be addressed by the swimmer, the swim coach, and the local public entity or pool owner where in whose facility events are held.
- Rationale: This sentence needs to be rephrased to be grammatically correct.
- R10(19) 102.3.2 CO Delete existing section.
- Relay Events - 76-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319, 320-359, 360-399 ... (forty year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group). The effective date of this rule is June 1, 1997.
- Rationale: No justification for difference between short and long course, small teams are disadvantaged at short course, encourages age diversification.
- R14(21) 102.10.1C SDI
- It is recommended that when ... into outside lanes. It is recommended that they be moved inward one lane or given the center lanes in the next slowest heat, whichever is the more appropriate placement.
- Rationale: Precludes two swimmers having to share a lane.
- R15(22) 102.10.4A6.b SDI
- Obstructing and the disqualified offender shall ~~immediately~~ be removed from the lane as soon as practical.
- Rationale: How fast is "immediately" and what official will accomplish such a removal?
- R16(26) 102.15.9 PNA **DISQUALIFICATIONS**
- Grasping the lane line or side wall to assist forward motion is not permitted.
- Rationale: Grasping the side wall would also be a violation.
- R21(28) 103.2.3 PMS **Starting Commands**

~~A—For Backstroke starts, the Starter gives the command "Place your feet."~~

Rationale: When USMS made this command mandatory, it went against the USS rule, and USS officials officiate most of our meets. In addition, having this command leaves the swimmer hanging from the blocks longer than necessary before starting.

R26(37) 104.3.2I PMS

~~Out-of-rotation meet—While the procedures for awarding National Championship Meets need to be clarified and followed whenever possible, It is in the best interest of Masters Swimming to rotate the awarding of National Championship Meets. The Championship Committee shall have the right to override the procedures set forth above with the concurrence of three-fourths of the House of Delegates.~~

Rationale: The meet area rotation system should be kept intact unless there is an extremely good reason to change in a particular year. By requiring 3/4 of the House to approve an out-of-rotation bid (when acceptable in-rotation bids have been presented), it will be less likely that the meet area will be changed simply because delegates want to go to a particular place. The out-of-rotation bidder can be encouraged to bid for the next appropriate year.

R27(37) 104.4.4 CHAM

~~Meet Evaluation Committee - A five member Meet Evaluation Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee, if present, plus at least three Championship Committee members, plus two additional USMS members who are knowledgeable in Championship procedures who are not serving on the Protest Committee. No member of the Protest Committee, Host Club, or Host LMSC may serve on the Meet Evaluation Committee. If the Meet Evaluation Committee does not consist of five members, then elected USMS officers present at the meet may be asked to serve. A written evaluation shall be submitted to the meet host.~~

Rationale: Having results in proper format is a matter of contractual agreement, it is not necessary for the Records Chair to be on the Evaluation Committee. The Host Club/LMSC should not be allowed because of their financial interest.

R41(41) 104.5.5A CHAM

~~7.6. If, in any age group, there are not enough swimmers for a one complete heat, all swimmers in that age group shall be seeded in adjacent lanes for pre-seeded events. A swimmer may be seeded in an incomplete heat of another age group if the swimmer's entry time would have a significant impact on the timely running of the meet, as determined by the Championship Committee.~~

6.7. After all full heats are seeded within each age group, the remaining swimmers ~~shall may~~ be seeded with ~~the next~~ any available age group of remaining swimmers.

8. In situations where all seeding rules can not be simultaneously met, the seeding of these heats may diverge slightly from the general seeding procedures with the concurrence of the Championship Committee Liaison.

9. A swimmer may be seeded in an incomplete heat of another age group if the swimmer's entry time would have a significant impact on the timely running of the meet, as determined by the Championship Committee.

~~8~~10. There will be no splitting ...

Rationale: This is the intent of the rule and the way it's currently done.

R44(42) 104.5.7B CHAM

USMS Championship ~~patch~~ award (i.e., patch or some similar award to be determined by the Championship Committee) - Each individual who wins a short course or long course individual or relay championship shall be awarded a USMS Championship ~~patch~~ award. Swimmers winning more than one championship may purchase one additional ~~patch~~ award for each additional championship won.

Rationale: Consider alternatives and allow for creativity.

R45(43) 104.5.9B CHAM

Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual or a team to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee, ~~Registration Committee,~~ and Rules Committee, if present, plus ~~two~~ three other swimmers participants selected from other than the host team by the ~~other three panel members~~ Protest Panel Chairman. This panel shall be chaired by the representative from the Championship Committee. Protests shall ... shall be final.

Rationale: In practice, this panel changes during most meets. Protests arising late in the day often need quick resolution after some of the panel members have left for the day. We end up forming an impromptu panel, always keeping the Championship member as the chair.

R47(44) 105.1.3 PMS

Each LMSC is responsible for reporting the Top Ten Times ~~and,~~ USMS National Records, and World Records achieved in its LMSC in the appropriate format (see Appendix B), including all times achieved by swimmers from other LMSCs.

Rationale: It is necessary to add reporting of world records because it is now possible for a world record to be swum in a higher age group which would not be a Top Ten or national record time in the swimmer's USMS age group.

R53(45) 105.3.10 SDI

When a record ... and transmitted ~~immediately within fifteen~~ days following performance ... to the LMSC Records and Tabulations Chairman. Responsibility ... meet.

Rationale: Conforms to documentation requirements in Appendix B.

R 59(42) 104.5.B.3 CHAM

In the 800meters/1000yards and 1500meters/1650yards freestyle, all men and women swimming slower than a standard established by the Championship Committee will be seeded together by time only.

R60 (28) 103.2.3 RULES Startings Commands

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

R(61)

### Guidelines For Officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USMS Meets

#### 105.1 General-

- .1 Authority- The USMS Rules and Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications.
- .2 Responsibilities-
  - A. Athlete- The athlete (or the athlete's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the athlete. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.
  - B. Referee- The Referee's responsibilities include:
    1. Inquiring regarding the athlete's needs and determining what modifications will be required.
    2. Instructing the Starter and Stroke and Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the athlete with a disability are:

1. A change in starting position.
2. Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
3. Allowing the athlete's assistant(s) on the deck or in the water to assist with a start.

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

#### 105.2. Blind and Visually impaired-

- .1 Start- With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a blind or visually-impaired swimmer. The swimmer may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block.
- .2 Turns and Finishes - A blind or visually impaired swimmer is permitted to have a "tapper", which is a pole with a soft-tipped end. The swimmer is tapped with the "tapper" as notification of turns and the finish. Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer's responsibility to provide the tapper(s) and operator(s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer's lane at the ends of the pool.
- .3 Relay Take-Offs - A physical touch may be required to signal when the relay swimmer's teammate has touched the wall. The specific method may be tailored to the swimmer's preference so long as it does not aid the swimmer's take-off or interfere with the timing.

105.3. Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal, i.e., a strobe light and/or Starter's arm signals. The Referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat, i.e., exchanging one lane for another, so that the strobe light or Starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard Starter's arm signals are shown in Figure 1.

105.4. Mentally Impaired - The swimmer may be permitted to have an assistant on the deck when necessary. No other specific rule modifications are required other than patience and clarity in communicating instructions.

#### 105.5. Physical Disabilities -

- .1 Start- Swimmers with physical disabilities:
  - A. May take longer to assume their starting position;
  - B. May not be able to hold onto the starting grips or gutter for a start;
  - C. May need assistance on the deck or from in the water to maintain a starting position;
  - D. May need to assume a modified starting position on the blocks, deck, gutter or in the water.

For freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly, a forward start (facing the course) shall be used. The Referee, however, may allow modifications such as the following:

- A. The swimmer may start from a sitting position on the block or on the deck;
- B. The swimmer may assume a starting position in the water, with or without assistance;
- C. If the swimmer cannot use a hand and/or foot to maintain contact with the wall, some other part of the body may be used.

Examples of modified starting positions are shown in Figures 2 through 5.

- .2 Stroke/Kick- In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the Referee and Stroke and Turn Judge should follow the general rule that if a part

of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be in accordance with the USMS rules.

Judgments should be made based on the actual rule - not on the swimmer's technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other, may have a non-symmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule. Floatation devices shall not be permitted.

.3 Turns/ Finishes - Touches shall be judged in the same manner as strokes and kicks, e.g., on the basis of the arm(s) and/or hand(s) that the swimmer can use. In breaststroke and butterfly events, the competitor must reach forward as if attempting a simultaneous two-hand touch. When a swimmer has different arm lengths, only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. Swimmers with no arms or with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head may touch the wall with any part of the upper body provided the shoulders remain horizontal with the water surface.

#### 1996 RULES PROPOSALS

#### APPROVED AS AMMENDED BY RULES COMMITTEE (SIMPLE MAJORITY TO CARRY)

R2(13) Glossary RBk

##### Must - Mandatory

Rationale - to clarify that the use of these words means something is mandatory.

R8(19) 102.1.1 PNA

##### ELIGIBILITY

.1 Swimmers 19 years of age and over may register with USMS. An individual who has not achieved the age of 19 applies to register with USMS, the registration date shall be the individual's 19th birthday.

Rationale: Clarifies current practice.

R11(19) 102.5 PNA

##### EVENTS -

In planning any meet, ...sheltered rest areas.

The following events may be conducted for each age group.

~~Note: It is not necessary to conduct all of the above listed events in each meet. Note: For long distance events, see Article 302.2.~~

Delete "Notes" from 102.5.2

Rationale: Eliminate "Notes" and include that information as part of text.

R12(20) 102.7 SDI

##### ENTRY FEES -

Entry fees and/or policies for local Masters events shall be set by the LMSC.

Rationale: Many LMSCs do not set entry fees for local events, as a Club or Meet Director prerogative.

R19(27) 103 OFF

ARTICLE 103

~~OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES~~

DUTIES OF OFFICIALS AND MEET PERSONNEL

R3(15) Intro RBk

PART ONE: SWIMMING RULES

All provisions ... over another.

It is not the purpose ... safety of the swimmer. Safety considerations should be addressed by the swimmer, the swim coach, and the local public entity or pool owner where in whose facility events are held.

Rationale: This sentence needs to be rephrased to be grammatically correct.

R20 (26)

103.1. REQUIRED OFFICIALS (Renumbered from 102.17)

The minimum number of officials at USMS sanctioned meets or recognized events shall include the following for each course:

.1 A. One Referee. The Referee may also serve as a Stroke and Turn Judge but shall not serve the duties of Starter.

B. One Starter. The Starter may also serve as a Stroke and Turn Judge.

C. Two Stroke and Turn Judges. At least two people shall perform these duties during competition.

.2 Two timers per lane if automatic timing is not used. One timer per lane if automatic timing is used.

103.2 CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIALS (Renumbered from 102.17.2)

~~One of the officials~~ The Referee shall be a Referee, Starter, or Stroke and Turn Judge, certified as Referee, Starter, or Stroke and Turn Judge, by USS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body.

103.3 REPORTING OF OFFICIALS AND MEET PERSONNEL (renumbered from

102.17.1) All officials and meet personnel accepting an invitation to ~~officiate work~~ at a swimming meet should arrive promptly and report immediately to the Meet Director or Meet Referee

103.4 MEET DIRECTOR (renumbered from 102.18 with the indicated changes. Note: the portion stricken out is moved to 103.5). The Meet Director shall be the chair of the Meet Committee and is responsible for the overall operation of the meet. ~~Appointed ... filing LMSC report.~~

103.5 MEET COMMITTEE - (this combines 102.18 and 102.19 and moves it to 103.5). Appointed by meet sponsor. The committee consists of a minimum of the Meet Director, Referee or Starter, and a participating athlete as appointed by the Meet Director prior to the start of the meet. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: ordering awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing entries; printing programs; arranging appropriate publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing summary of results within fourteen days after the meet; and filing LMSC report.

103.6 REFEREE (the remainder of this section is renumbering from 103.6)

R28(38) 104.5.2 CHAM

Program - A four day program for National Championships will~~shall~~ be used. With the approval of the Championship Committee and the House of Delegates, a five day program may be used.

Rationale: A bidder could offer an alternative five day format to compete in bidding with the usual four day format. Championship Committee approval assures review of practical and competitive considerations.

R30(39) 104.5.2C CHAM

Alternative Meet Schedules - A meet bidder may, with the approval of the Championship Committee, bid for a National Championship Meet with a different schedule than those defined in Section A above.

Rationale: A bidder would be allowed to present an alternative schedule - perhaps with two long events on different days. Championship Committee approval assures review of practical and competitive considerations.

R34 104.5.3C2 CO



Altitude Adjustment - Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or higher may be adjusted for NQT purposes by subtracting the times (in seconds) in the following table from the actual time achieved.

Note: Times submitted for Records and Top Ten shall not be adjusted for altitude.

	3000-4250 ft	4250-6500 ft	6500+ ft
50 yd/mtr	0.0	0.0	0.0
100 yd/mtr	0.0	0.1	0.15
200 yd/mtr	0.5	1.2	1.6
400-500 yd/mtr	2.5	5.0	7.0
800-1000 yd/mtr	5.0	10.0	15.0
1650 yd/1500 mtr	11.0	23.0	32.5

R36(40) 104.5.3.C3 CO

Verification of times -Any competitor who does not meet the qualifying time in a designated time standard event will may be required to show verification of the time unless it is listed on the USMS Top Ten list.

Rationale: Verification is unenforceable. Competitors are assumed to be honest and in compliance with USMS Rules.

R37(40) 104.5.4A3 CHAM

Affiliation - A swimmer's affiliation as stated on the entry form, if valid as of the first day of the meet, shall apply throughout the meet, except that a swimmer may declare unattached status at any time. If the club listed on the entry form and on the USMS Registration Card submitted with the entry form do not match, the swimmer must prior to the first day of competition, submit a new USMS registration card or verification from their LMSC Registrar confirming the new affiliation. A swimmer's failure to establish their affiliation shall cause that swimmer to compete as unattached.

Rationale: It is a hassle for the Meet Host to verify and clarify when the card and entry do not match.

R38(41) 104.5.4D CHAM

.5 The Meet Host shall not be required to refund overpayments of \$10 or less . Any overpayments greater than \$10 shall be subject to a \$10 processing fee.

- Rationale: Every Nationals has swimmers who can't add, and the Host should not have to refund these small amounts.
- R39(41) 104.5.5A3 CHAM  
All events 200 yards/meters or less shall be pre-seeded, with oldest age groups first, slowest heats ~~swam~~ seeded first within each age group.
- Rationale: Simultaneous running of 2 courses is most efficient for meet length but delays in one course can result in 2 heats of the same age group swimming slightly out of the usual order of swimming. This rule change allows for minor deviations to occur without delaying the meet.
- R40(41) 104.5.5A4 CHAM  
The 400meter/500yard freestyle events shall be deck seeded by age group with the oldest age group first, slowest heats seeded first within each age group then by time. Events longer than 200 yards/meters-The 400yd/mtr IM, 800/1500 mtr and 1000/1650 yd freestyle events shall be deck seeded by one of the following methods: (a.) by entry time only, (b) by age group the oldest age group first,slowest heats seeded first within each age group then by time, or (c) by a combination of (a) and (b). The USMS Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions.
- Rationale: Swimmers in these events should race against their competition whenever practical.
- R46(44) 105.1.2 SDI  
Times ... September -15 30 ... July 15, October 20, and February 5, respectively.
- Rationale: Adds modest extension to Long Course Meters season and reporting.
- R52(45) 105.3.7 PMS  
Add section D. A relay lead-off swimmer's time shall not be eligible for a Record or Top Ten time if the second swimmer starts in the water.
- Rationale: With automatic timing, it is impossible to tell which time is the finishing swimmer of the relay and which time is the swimmer pushing off in the water.
- R54(45) 105.5 PMS  
**WORLD RECORDS--**  
Applications and documentation for World records (25 meter and 50 meter courses only) shall be supplied to the USMS Records and Tabulation Chairman as detailed in Appendix B. A swimmer who is eligible for World Records in an older age group than his current USMS age group is responsible for informing the meet director of his eligibility.

Rationale:

While it is the responsibility of the LMSC to document and submit records applications, it is the position of USMS that a swimmer compete at his age. In order not to put our swimmers at a disadvantage to world competitors, the LMSC should submit out-of-age group World Records, but the swimmer should be the one to bring his age to the attention of the meet director, so that there will be no delay in getting the swimmer's birth certificate and the pool measurement. This rule would not preclude meet directors from pointing out to competitors that they might be eligible for World Records in a higher age group.

R55(48) 107.12 SDI

FLOATING LANE LINES/DIVIDERS

.1 Installation - Lane lines ~~Floating lines~~ shall extend ... its entire length. ...

2 Size, Color, and Safety - Dividers shall ... both short and long course pools. ~~Additionally, in long course pools, a distinctive warning line or lane markers may be placed at a distance of 13 meters from each end wall. There shall be ... and replaced. (M)~~

3 Number ...

4 National ... Meets. (NC)

Rationale:

Useless clutter, never used, get rid of it.

#### 1996 RULES PROPOSALS

#### REJECTED BY RULES COMMITTEE (TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO CARRY)

R4(15) 101.1 OFF STARTS

.1 Forward Start- The forward start ... Those starting in the water ~~must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting block, but may face toward or away from the wall with their body on the breast, back, or side.~~

Rationale -

Clarifies that a "backstroke-style" start may be used for a forward start.

R5(16) 101.1.3 ORE

BUTTERFLY

Kick - All up and down movements ...while doing the butterfly stroke at any time during the race through September 15, 1997. After September 15, 1997, the breaststroke kick or whip kick may not be used by any swimmer 54 years of age or younger. Every five years the youngest age group permitted to use the breaststroke or whip kick shall increase by one age group: i.e., 60-64 in 2002, 65-69 in 2007, 70-74 in 2012, 75-79 in 2017, 80-84 in 2022, 85-89 in 2027, 90-94 in 2032, 95-99 in 2037, and 100-104 in

2042. However, when ... A scissors kicking movement is not permitted.

Rationale: It is time to eliminate the difference in the stroke and have all butterflyers really swim the fly. The rule is written to phase in the change for older swimmers.

R6(17) 101.5.1 SDI Start - The forward start or backstroke start shall be used.

Rationale: Allows backstroke or forward start in a freestyle event.

R7(18) 101.7.3F ERIE

Mixed Relays shall consist of two men and two women who may swim in any order. Women's relays shall consist of four women. Any other combination (if not entered as a mixed relay) will be considered a men's relay.

Rational: To allow women to swim on men's relays gives smaller clubs a chance to participate in relays.

R9(19) 102.2 SDI AGE DETERMINING DATE -

The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the birth age as of the last day of the meet.

Rationale: Clarifies our age system from the FINA method.

R13(20) 102.9.2 SDI

~~Clubs entering~~ Two or more relay teams entered by a club in an event ~~may shall designate them on the entry blank be designated~~ as Team A, Team B, etc.

Rationale: Relay team designation is normally done by the person seeding the relays, not the Club.

R17(26) 102.16 SDI PROTESTS

.5 Protests arising from events or conditions outside of the actual competition (scheduling, order of events, etc.) should be resolved within the LMSC, if possible. Otherwise, or when the protest involves two or more LMSC's from the same Zone, the Zone Chairman may assume jurisdiction. If the foregoing does not occur, the protest may be forwarded to the USMS Rules Committee Chairman for adjudication.

Rationale: Adds new paragraph to address protests of matters outside of the actual meet competition.

R18(26) 102.17.2 ORE REQUIRED OFFICIALS

~~The~~ There are requirements for the minimum number of officials at USMS sanctioned Masters Swimming meets or recognized events ~~shall include the following, which are as follows:~~

One Referee

One Starter

Two Stroke and Turn Judges

A. Two timers per lane (if automatic timing is not being used).  
One timer per lane if automatic timing is being used.

B. All other officials - a minimum of two persons shall serve on deck to fill the following positions:

One Referee

One Starter

Two Stroke and Turn Judges

The Referee and Starter may double as Stroke and Turn Judges, but the Referee and Starter may not be the same person. One of the officials shall be a Referee, Starter or Stroke and Turn Judge certified by USS, YMCA, or any other USMS-approved certifying body.

Rationale:

Language clarification to specifically state that a minimum of two officials are required.

R22(29) 103.2.5 PNA

False Starts

~~D When the starting signal is given ... by a second signal:~~

DE A swimmer can be charged with a false start by the Starter ~~or recall starter~~ only if the Referee ... confirms that the violation occurred.

EF The Starter shall indicate ... false start.

FG Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a false start shall be disqualified and ~~shall not be permitted to swim the event.~~ This rule...shall apply.

~~GH 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 may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.

Note: Related Sections

103.3 RECALL STARTER Delete in its entirety and renumber the rest.

103.4 RECALL ROPE OPERATOR Delete in its entirety and renumber the rest.

107.15 FALSE START RECALL ROPE Delete in its entirety and renumber the rest.

Rationale: Recalling the heat is unfair to those swimmers who started legally and expended precious energy on the first start and portion of the race. Disqualify the swimmer at the end of the race and avoid arguments about swimming for time only (exhibition).

R23(29) 103.2.5G PMS

Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a false start shall be disqualified and shall not be permitted to swim the event. This rule shall not apply to USMS international events, the Pan Pacific Aquatic Games, or FINA World Championships, where current FINA false start rules shall apply, except that all false starts shall be recalled.

Rationale: Recalling all false starts is essential as the swimmers competing against someone who made a false start may have their own race affected by that false start. In addition, USS officials are trained to automatically recall any false start.

R24(32) 103.7 OFF

Renumber as 102.21

(34) 103.8 OFF

Renumber as 102.22

RATIONALE: Timing details logically belong with article 102 (COMPETITION), not 103 OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES

R29(39) 104.5.2B1 PMS

In each schedule, women's events shall precede men's events when each sex has its own course. In short course meets where one sex will swim an entire event before the other sex, women's heats and men's heats will alternate starting first from meet to meet. Likewise, in long course meets where one sex swims an entire event before the other sex, women's and men's heats will alternate starting first from one such meet to the next.

Rationale: In meets where all of one sex swims each event before the members of the other sex swim, fairness demands that one sex not always have to swim early or swim late. Since every year may not use this type of scheduling, it is best that the alternating of who starts first shall be between meets of the same course rather than simply odd and even years.

R31(40) 104.5.3C.1 CO

Determination of qualifying times - The qualifying times shall be the slower of (a.) 10% slower than the previous year's tenth place time on the USMS Top Ten list, or (b) the slowest tenth place time in the past three National Championship meets. Where there have been less than (X) entries in an event in any of the past three National Championships, there will be no qualifying time.

("X" is determined by the USMS Championship Committee and is to be reviewed and adjusted year to year to stimulate a balanced National Championship.)

Rationale: Current standards discriminate against older age groups, should be about three times the number of entries competing for the available awards or places (recommended X=30).

R32(40) 104.5.3C 1 PNA

Determination of qualifying times - The qualifying times shall be the slower of a) 10 percent slower than the previous year's tenth place time on the USMS Top Ten list or b) the fastest tenth place time in the past 3 National Championship Meet of the corresponding course. If there are fewer than ten swimmers on the Top Ten list, there shall be no qualifying time.

Rationale: Since the rate of decline of times varies greatly with aging, the current rule discriminates against older swimmers. It is reasonable to expect that ten people qualify for most events. However, at the 1996 Short Course National Championship at Cupertino, CA, the tenth place time made standard in only 8 of the 113 events with qualifying times for women 50 and over. Similarly, for men 60 and over the tenth place made standard in only 11 events of the 83 with qualifying times.

R33(40) 104.5.3C1CHAM

Determination of Qualifying Times - The qualifying times for events 200 meters and shorter shall be 10 percent slower than the previous year's tenth place time on the USMS Top Ten list. The qualifying times for events longer than 200 meters shall be 5 percent slower than the previous year's tenth place time on the USMS Top Ten list. If there are fewer than ten swimmers on the Top Ten list, there shall be no qualifying time.

Rationale: Shorter races have more competitors so achieving 10th place in Top Ten is more difficult; therefore, it is not unfair to allow more leeway in the NQT for shorter events. Distance events use more time; therefore, we would potentially shorten the meet.

R35(40) 104.5.3C2 CO

Event Limit - When qualifying times are in effect, competitors may enter and swim in up to six a maximum of three individual events without meeting the established qualifying standards. Competitors may enter up to three additional events (or two

five if the maximum event limit of five is in effect) in which they have in the past two years swum a time equal to or better than the qualifying time for those events.

Rationale: There have been at least six events in any age group with 30 or fewer entries in most nationals. The "three free" event concept is unnecessary.

R42(41) 104.5.5A6 PMS

After all full heats are seeded within each age group, and when there are at least two full heats of the age group, the remaining swimmers shall be seeded with the next available age group of remaining swimmers closest to them in time.

Rationale: Swimmers who are not competing for a top ten placing at Nationals generally prefer to swim against competitors who are close to them in time so that they might have a competitive race. Meet efficiency will also improve.

R43(42) 104.5.5A7 PMS

If in any age group, there are not enough swimmers for a ~~complete heat~~ two complete heats, all swimmers in that age group shall be seeded in adjacent lanes for pre-seeded events. A swimmer may be seeded in an incomplete heat of another age group if the swimmer's entry time would have a significant impact on the timely running of the meet, as determined by the Championship Committee.

Rationale: In eight lane courses, swimmers in the second fastest heat of any age group are definitely competing against each other for a place award. Therefore, swimmers in the age group should be placed next to each other in two heats rather than in one. Leaving in the last sentence of this section allows the Championship Committee to override the requirement in the case of an extremely slow swimmer.

R48(44) 105.2.2C SDI

The swimmer (s) completes ... initial distance.

Rationale: This paragraph addresses split times, not relay lead-off times.

R49(44) 105.2.2D SDI

Should the first swimmer on a relay team complete his/her leg satisfactorily for that stroke/distance, his/her performance shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of his/her team members.

Rationale: Brings rule into compliance with FINA and USS.

R50(44) 105.3.7C SDI

The swimmer (s) completes ... at the initial distance.



Rationale: Addresses split times, not relay lead-off times.

51(45)105.3.7D SDI

Should the first swimmer on a relay team complete his/her leg in record time for that stroke/distance, his/her performance shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of his/her team members.

Rationale: Brings rule into compliance with FINA and USS. Precludes violation of 102.15.12.

R53(45) 105.3.10 SDI

When a record ... and transmitted ~~immediately~~ within fifteen days following performance . to the LMSC Records and Tabulations Chairman. Responsibility ... meet.

Rationale: Conforms to documentation requirements in Appendix B.

R56(49) 107.13.2C SDI

Measurement - Height shall be measured ... are suspended. Both pennant lines should be the same height.

Rationale: There is currently no requirement to have the two pennant lines the same height. There could be as much as 2 ft. 4 in. difference.

R57(105) App B. SDI

Records. USMS records ... establish a record. Relay lead-off split times will be considered for records or Top Ten Times, provided the swimmers completes his/her leg of the event without being disqualified, and provided automatic timing is used.

Rationale: Complements previous proposals.

1996 RULES PROPOSALS  
WITHDRAWN

R1(12) Glossary CO

Fellowship and Camaraderie - USMS recognizes various social activities that may take place in conjunction with Masters competition filling the role and meeting the goals of Masters

Swimming. Such activities are recognized as a part of Masters swimming.

Rationale:

Item D of the USMS Goals and Objectives (page 11) states "To enhance fellowship and camaraderie among Masters Swimmers".

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Not acted on by Rules Committee, should be referred to the Executive Committee

R58(107) App B.      ERIE      Individual Events

1. Print ...

4. ... from shortest to longest.

5. Name of the swimmer (first name, space, last name), age, club affiliation (optional), time

Relay Events

1. Print ...

4. ... from youngest to oldest.

4. Club name, time, name and age of all four swimmers.

Results, tapes, timing printouts ...conclusion of the meet.

Reminder - Results that are submitted to the LMSC Top Ten Recorder must indicate the LMSC designation for each of the participating swimmers and clubs.

Rationale:

This information is not presently specified. Names of participants in relays are needed for Top Ten, as are the LMSC codes.