

Except as otherwise noted, all provisions under Part One, Technical Rules, are effective beginning May 1, 2021, and until changed. All provisions under Parts Two through Seven are effective beginning January 1, 2021, unless otherwise indicated. Rules in effect on the first day of a meet shall govern throughout that meet.

## PART ONE

### TECHNICAL RULES

All competitive swimming events held under USA Swimming sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules that are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition.

It is recommended that the LSC and regional short course and long course championships be held annually and that they be conducted under the rules governing National Championships (Article 207), subject to available facilities and personnel. Events other than such championships may use Article 207 as a guide, subject to local conditions and preferences.

**It is not the purpose of the Rules and Regulations of USA Swimming (the National Governing Body) contained herein to set standards of care for the safety of the swimmer. The swimmer, the swim coach, the swim club and the local public entity or pool owner should address safety considerations where events are held.**

#### ARTICLE 101

#### INDIVIDUAL STROKES AND RELAYS

##### 101.1 STARTS

- .1 **Equipment** — A loudspeaker start system conforming to 103.18, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all manual timers for forward and backstroke starts, shall be the preferred starting device.
- .2 **The Start**
  - 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 swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take and maintain their positions on the starting platform, the deck, or in the water. 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.
  - 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, in the forward start, with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck. Swimmers starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.

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- D When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "take your mark," the Starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command "stand up" upon which the swimmers may stand up or step off the blocks.
- E A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter.

### .3 False Starts

- A Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the starting blocks shall be relieved from their starting positions with the "stand up" command and may step off the blocks.
  - B If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who have false started shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.
  - C If the recall signal is activated, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the Starter shall restart the race upon signal by the Referee.
  - D A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "stand up" command.
  - E Declared false start: swimmers reporting to the Referee prior to the start of their race and declaring their intent not to compete will be disqualified except as noted in 207.11.6D(1).
- .4 **Warning Signal** — With the exception of relays, in events 500 yards or longer, the Starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus five yards or five meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each lane by a lane judge or timer for that lane.

### .5 Deliberate Delay or Misconduct

- A The Starter shall report a swimmer to the Referee for delaying the start, for willfully disobeying an order or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, but only the Referee may disqualify a swimmer for such delay, willful disobedience or misconduct.
- B The Referee shall disqualify a swimmer who fails to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of his/her heat.
- C Such disqualification shall not be charged as a false start.

## 101.2 BREASTSTROKE

- .1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.
- .2 **Stroke** — After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.

All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.

During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

- .3 **Kick** — After the start and each turn, at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick, a single butterfly kick is permitted. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Scissors, alternating movements or downward butterfly kicks are not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.

- .4 **Turns and Finish** — At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish, an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

### 101.3 BUTTERFLY

- .1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.
- .2 **Stroke** — After the start and after each turn, the swimmer's shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast. The swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface. The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish. From the beginning of the first arm pull, the body shall be kept on the breast except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and pulled back simultaneously under the water throughout the race.
- .3 **Kick** — All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. A scissors or breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.
- .4 **Turns** — At each turn the body shall be on the breast. The touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall.

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- .5 **Finish** — At the finish, the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

### 101.4 BACKSTROKE

- .1 **Start** — The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter, before or after the start, is prohibited. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.
- .2 **Stroke** — The swimmer shall push off on his back and continue swimming on the back throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it is permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water.
- .3 **Turns** — Upon completion of each length, some part of the swimmer must touch the wall. During the turn the shoulders may be turned past the vertical toward the breast after which an immediate continuous single arm pull or immediate continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall.
- .4 **Finish** — Upon the finish of the race, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back.

### 101.5 FREESTYLE

- .1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.
- .2 **Stroke** — In an event designated freestyle, the swimmer may swim any style, except that in a medley relay or an individual medley event, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.
- .3 **Turns** — Upon completion of each length the swimmer must touch the wall.
- .4 **Finish** — The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance.

**101.6 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY** — The swimmer shall swim the prescribed distance in the following order: the first one-fourth, butterfly; the second one-fourth, backstroke; the third one-fourth, breaststroke; and the last one-fourth, freestyle.

- .1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.
- .2 **Stroke** — The stroke for each one-fourth of the designated distance shall follow the prescribed rules for that stroke, except in the freestyle, the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn.
- .3 **Turns**
  - A Intermediate turns within each stroke shall conform to the turn rules for that stroke, except that in the freestyle turn, the swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

- B The turns when changing from one stroke to another shall conform to the finish rules for the stroke just completed, and shall be as follows:
- (1) **Butterfly to Backstroke** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.3.5. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the back when the swimmer leaves the wall.
  - (2) **Backstroke to Breaststroke** — The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.
  - (3) **Breaststroke to Freestyle** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.2.4. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner and must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.
- .4 **Finish** — The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his/her person touches the wall after the prescribed distance.

### 101.7 RELAYS

- .1 **Freestyle Relay** — Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance using any desired stroke(s). Freestyle finish rules apply.
- .2 **Medley Relay** — Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance in the following order: first, backstroke; second, breaststroke; third, butterfly; and fourth, freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke used as described in 101.6 (Individual Medley) shall govern where applicable. At the end of each leg, the finish rule for each stroke applies in each case.
- .3 **Mixed Gender Relays** — must consist of two (2) males and two (2) females.
- .4 **Rules Pertaining to Relay Races**
  - A No swimmer shall swim more than one leg in any relay event.
  - B When automatic relay take-off judging is used, each swimmer must touch the touch-plate or pad in his/her lane at the end of the course to have finished his/her leg of the relay race.
  - C In relay races a swimmer other than the first swimmer shall not start until his/her teammate has concluded his/her leg.
  - D Any relay team member and his/her relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member other than the swimmer designated to swim that leg enters the pool in the area where the race is being conducted before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race. Exception: When an in-the-water start is required or such start is approved by the Referee.
  - E Each relay team member shall leave the water immediately upon finishing his/her leg, except the last member.
  - F In relay races, the team of a swimmer whose feet have lost touch with the starting platform (ground or deck) before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified.
  - G In relay races involving in-the-water starts, the team of a swimmer who has lost touch with the end of the course before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be

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disqualified, unless the swimmer in default returns to the original starting point at the wall.

- H On relays, the second, third and fourth swimmers are prohibited from starting from the top of the adjustable back plate. A swimmer must have at least part of one foot in contact with the starting platform in front of the adjustable back plate during a relay exchange.

## 101.8 LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING — POOL EVENTS

- .1 Events 5000y/5000m or greater conducted in a pool will be subject to the following special rules:
  - A It is permissible for a swimmer to leave the water for brief periods because of pool safety and health considerations. When re-entering the water, the swimmer shall resume the event commencing with the last completed length using an in-water start with a push off the wall. A dive re-entry is not permitted.
  - B The swimmer's time includes the period the swimmer is out of the pool.

## ARTICLE 102

### CONDUCT AND OFFICIATING OF ALL SWIMMING COMPETITION

**102.1 EVENTS** — Meets should be planned to terminate within a maximum period of eight (8) hours of competitive events for any group of swimmers in any one day and to provide adequate meal and rest breaks and properly supervised sheltered rest areas. Refer to 205.3.1 F for additional provisions.

- .1 **SENIOR EVENTS** — The following events for National Championships are recommended for LSC and other championship meets. Eligibility for these championships shall be determined by the LSCs involved.

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y, 1500m/1650y freestyle  
100, 200 backstroke  
100, 200 butterfly  
100, 200 breaststroke  
200, 400 individual medley  
200, 400, 800 freestyle relay  
200, 400 medley relay  
200, 400, 800 mixed gender freestyle relay  
200, 400 mixed gender medley relay

- .2 **AGE GROUP EVENTS** — Competitions may be composed of events selected from the following recognized list of events or other such events/meet types as may be sanctioned by the LSC.

#### **10 Years and Younger**

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y freestyle  
50, 100 backstroke  
50, 100 breaststroke  
50, 100 butterfly  
100, 200 individual medley  
200 freestyle relay  
200 medley relay  
200 mixed gender freestyle relay  
200 mixed gender medley relay

#### **11, 12 Years**

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y, 1500m/1650y freestyle  
50, 100, 200 backstroke  
50, 100, 200 breaststroke  
50, 100, 200 butterfly  
100, 200, 400 individual medley  
200, 400 freestyle relay  
200, 400 medley relay  
200, 400 mixed gender freestyle relay  
200, 400 mixed gender medley relay

**13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 Years**

50, 100, 200, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y, 1500m/1650y freestyle  
 100, 200 backstroke  
 100, 200 breaststroke  
 100, 200 butterfly  
 200, 400 individual medley  
 200, 400, 800 freestyle relay  
 200, 400 medley relay  
 200, 400, 800 mixed gender freestyle relay  
 200, 400 mixed gender medley relay

- .3 **OPEN WATER AND LONG DISTANCE POOL EVENTS** — The following events are recommended for Sectional, Zone, and LSC competitions. Competitions may be composed of events selected from the following list of events or other such events/meet types as may be sanctioned by the LSC.

**10 Years and Younger**

1 kilometer open water  
 800m/1000y—pool

**11, 12 Years**

1, 3, 5 kilometer open water  
 1600m/2000y—pool

**13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 Years**

1, 3, 5, 10 kilometer open water  
 2400m/3000y—pool

**Senior**

5, 10, 25 kilometer open water  
 4000m/5000y—pool

- .4 **CONSOLIDATED EVENTS** — As a local option, events may be sanctioned and seeded as a single event, without regard to swimmers' ages or gender, in the order of submitted entry times. Places, awards, and published results for these events may be separate for each age group and gender.
- .5 **TIME TRIALS** — Time trial events may be held in conjunction with a sanctioned, approved, or observed competition if all information about the conduct of the time trials is included in the meet announcement as sanctioned or approved by the LSC. If time trials are held as a separate event, they shall be sanctioned, approved, or observed in compliance with Article 202.
- .6 **VIRTUAL EVENTS** — A Virtual Meet shall be conducted with the same order of events with all results merged. All venues shall complete their competition within a ten (10) day period. It shall be officiated in accordance with 102.10 at each venue and conducted according to the Virtual Meet guidelines.

**102.2 GENERAL RULES**

- .1 In order to compete in a meet, a swimmer must be entered in compliance with the event entry requirements stated in the meet announcement.
- .2 In a preliminaries and finals meet, a swimmer may compete in not more than three (3) individual events per day.
- .3 In a timed finals meet, a swimmer may compete in not more than six (6) individual events per day.
- .4 If, due to conditions beyond the meet officials' control (e.g., a thunderstorm), an event or events are postponed to a subsequent day of the meet, such postponed events shall not be included in the above events-per-day limitations.
- .5 In a meet where finals for an event(s) are scheduled to be contested on a day subsequent to preliminaries for that event(s), that finals event(s) shall not be counted in the daily event limitation.
- .6 In a meet where a combination of preliminary and final events and timed finals are scheduled,

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a swimmer may compete in not more than three (3) individual events per day, unless entered exclusively in timed final events that day.

- .7 The above limitations on individual events apply regardless of the classification mixture or if separate meets or time trials are being conducted. These, and additional limitations on entries which may be established by the LSC's sanction or approval, shall be clearly stated in the meet announcement.
- .8 In a mixed classification meet, a swimmer may enter the same stroke and distance individual event in an age group and any other classification, provided the limit of events per day for the type of meet is not exceeded. The same entry time must be used for all repetitive entries.
- .9 If a meet or an event has no qualifying time standards, a swimmer who has no official time for an event may enter that event with no submitted time. Meet hosts may specify in the meet announcement that swimmers must submit estimated times if they have no official times.

## 102.3 RELAYS

- .1 Relay teams shall not compete unattached. In all cases, relay teams must be composed of USA Swimming members of the same club, school or organization which is a member of USA Swimming. This requirement does not apply to relay teams representing an LSC at a Zone meet or similar all-star competition sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming. Foreign relays competing in USA Swimming sanctioned meets must consist of members of the same foreign club or may represent their recognized FINA federation if so authorized by that federation.
- .2 Relays may be conducted on a timed final basis or with preliminaries and finals.
- .3 Organizations entering two or more relay teams in an event shall designate them on the entry blank as Team A, Team B, etc.
- .4 The time of each relay team shall be entered on the entry blank for seeding purposes and no change in time will be permitted.
- .5 First and last names of swimmers eligible to compete in relay events shall be entered in accordance with the meet announcement.
- .6 The composition of a relay team may be changed between preliminaries and finals. All members competing on a relay team disqualified during preliminaries shall be barred from further competition in that event.
- .7 Names of eligible relay swimmers and order of swimming shall be submitted to the clerk of course or to the head lane timer. Any changes in names of the competing swimmers or their order of swimming must be declared to the head lane timer prior to the start of the heat in which such relay team is entered. No changes will be permitted thereafter.

**102.4 SCRATCH PROCEDURES** — Each swimmer shall become informed of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call. Meet announcements and advance information shall specify check-in and scratch procedures for individual and relay events and penalties for violation of those procedures.

## 102.5 SEEDING, LANE ASSIGNMENTS, SWIM-OFFS, AND ORDER OF HEATS

- .1 **Preliminary Heats When Finals Are Scheduled** — Entry times shall be listed by the meet committee with the fastest swimmer first and the slowest swimmer last. Swimmers whose submitted times are identical should be assigned places in the list by draw. Swimmers with no submitted times shall be considered the slowest and shall be placed at the end of the list by draw. Swimmers shall be seeded in lanes under the procedure outlined for finals seeding in 102.5.



Swimmers shall be seeded in heats according to submitted times in the following manner:

- A Fewer than three heats**
- (1) If there is only one heat, it shall be swum as scheduled during the preliminaries and finals.
  - (2) If there are two heats, the fastest swimmer shall be seeded in the second heat, next fastest in the first heat, next fastest in the second heat, next in the first heat, next in the second heat, next in the first heat, etc.
- B Three heats** — Except for 400y, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc.
- C Four heats or more** — Except for 400y, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the fastest three heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with B above. The heat preceding the fastest three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the fastest four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in 102.5.
- D** For 400y, 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the fastest two heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with 102.5.1A(2). The heat preceding the fastest two heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the fastest three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in 102.5.
- E Exception** — When there are two or more heats in an event, there shall be a minimum of three swimmers seeded into any one preliminary heat, but subsequent scratches may reduce the number of swimmers in such heat to less than three.
- 2 Swim-Offs** — A swim-off is considered to be part of the total preliminary process of qualifying for the finals. In no case may a swimmer with a faster time displace another who placed ahead of him within a heat as the result of a decision by the Referee or Place Judges in accordance with 102.24. If this situation results in disputed qualifications, all swimmers having times tied or within the disputed times shall swim-off to qualify for the disputed place or places in the final. The swim-off shall be timed and judged in the same manner as the original event unless a subsequent timing system malfunction requires that an adjustment be made. For the seeding of finals, the times used for the swimmers involved shall be the times achieved in their original preliminary heats. This elimination may be held at any time set by the Referee, but not more than 45 minutes after the last heat of any event in which any one of these swimmers is competing in that session. In the case of a disqualification in a swim-off, the swimmer so disqualified is relegated to the lowest qualifying position for which he/she is competing. Disqualification in a swim-off for a qualifying position shall not eliminate a swimmer from eligibility to compete in the accompanying finals, or as an alternate. If disqualifications leave a vacancy for the full complement of finalists, swim-offs shall be continued among the disqualified swimmers until a full complement of finalists is assured.

**Note:** It shall be the swimmer's responsibility to become acquainted with information pertaining to swim-offs, final events and the participants therein.

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- .3 **Finals** — In finals, the times to be considered are those times made in preliminary heats. If any qualifying swimmers have the same time, their respective lanes shall be determined by draw. Lane assignments shall be made in descending order of qualifying times by placing the fastest swimmer or team in the center lane in a pool with an odd number of lanes, or in lanes 3, 4, or 5 respectively in pools having 6, 8, or 10 lanes, with the swimmer having the next fastest time in the adjacent lane, then alternating the other swimmer(s) to the right or left in accordance with the submitted times. (See chart below)

Lanes in Pool											
					4	2	1	3	5	5	
			6		4	2	1	3	5	6	
		6		4	2	1	3	5	7	7	
	8		6	4	2	1	3	5	7	8	
	8	6		4	2	1	3	5	7	9	9
10	8	6	4	2	1	3	5	7	9	10	
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	< Lane	

### .4 Timed Finals

- A **Heats** — The last heat shall be composed of the swimmers with the fastest submitted times, the next to last heat composed of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in .3 above. When there are two or more heats there shall be a minimum of three swimmers or relay teams seeded into the first heat. The last heat should be a full heat, but the requirement of seeding three swimmers or relay teams into the first heat may result in failure to fill the last heat.
- B **Places** — In timed finals, places shall be determined on a time basis, subject to the order of finish within each heat and based upon the ranking system used at the meet. Any ties resulting from the procedure used shall be declared officially tied for awards and points, with no further attempt at resolution.
- .5 **Seeding of 50 meter events in a 50 meter course** — 50 meter events swum in a 50 meter course shall be seeded as provided above. If the event is started at the turning end of the course, no change in the lane numbering shall be made, i.e., the lanes shall be numbered the same on both ends of the course.
- .6 **Order of Heats**
- A **Preliminary Heats and Timed Finals** — The normal order of heats may be reversed by swimming the fastest heats first. Women's and men's heats may be alternated.
- B **Finals** — The order of heats during the finals of a preliminaries and finals meet may be reversed, with the B and C (consolation and bonus) heats, if any, swum following the A (final) heat. In the event of scratches, the empty lanes may be filled by moving the swimmers up in order from the slower heats and by using the available alternates in the slowest heat without reseeding the heats. For heats other than team selection finals

where athletes are not provided any recognition other than the opportunity to swim (e.g., scoring points, earning prize money, etc.) alternates may be inserted into empty lanes in any heat regardless of order swum.

- C The order of heats shall be stated in the meet announcement.

## 102.6 COUNTERS

- A A swimmer in the 500/1000/1650 yard or 800/1500 meter freestyle or other long distance pool event (see 102.1.3) may appoint one counter to call lengths or indicate lengths by visual sign.
- B Verbal counters shall be limited to one per swimmer and shall be stationed at the end of the course opposite the starting end. They may use watches and signal intermediate times to the swimmer.
- C If visual counters are used, they may be stationed at the end or either side of the pool, beyond the halfway point toward the end of the course opposite the starting end. Visual counters may be lowered into the water at the end of the swimmer's lane, provided that, in the opinion of the Referee, they neither physically aid the swimmer nor interfere with another swimmer or present any safety hazard.
- D The count may be in ascending or descending order.
- E In the event of official or counter error, it is the responsibility of the swimmer to complete the prescribed distance.

## 102.7 POSTPONEMENTS AND CHANGES IN PROGRAM

- .1 The order of events, as stated in the meet announcement, shall not be changed. The announced arrangement of heats in any event shall not be added to or altered, except by the authority of the Referee, to the extent of consolidating the heats.
- .2 At the Meet Referee's discretion, events may be combined by age, gender, distance, and/or stroke provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events. The Referee may waive the empty lane requirement with the concurrence of the coaches of the affected swimmers.
- .3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement (except as permitted under .4 below) and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated on the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers or their coaches must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Any affected swimmer or his or her coach may file a written protest with the Referee prior to running of the event or meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.
- .4 **Postponement or Cancellation**
  - A If, prior to its commencement, unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or an event, the meet committee may cancel or postpone it. Meets postponed to a start date within fourteen (14) days from the original start date shall define age as the first day of the original meet. Meets postponed to a date more than fourteen (14) days from the original start date

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shall define age as the first day of the rescheduled meet.

- B If, after commencement, conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or an event, the meet committee may cancel or postpone. If postponed to continue within fourteen (14) days of the date of postponement, age of the swimmers shall not change. If postponed to continue at a date beyond fourteen (14) days of the date of postponement, age of the swimmers shall change to the first day of the rescheduled events.
- C Should a meet or event have actually commenced, and in the judgment of the Referee cannot safely and effectively continue because of weather conditions, or for some other compelling reason, the Referee, in his/her sole discretion, may suspend the meet or event until conditions warrant continuance. If circumstances do not warrant continuance, the Referee may cancel the meet or event, or postpone it to a future date or time, with the approval of the meet committee.
- D A decision to cancel or postpone shall be final.
- E Should an event have actually commenced but is terminated prior to an official finish, and is postponed to another time or date, it shall then be conducted between the swimmers who were officially competing in the event at the time of the termination.
- F Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with 102.24 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.
- G Entry fees for teams or swimmers may be refunded, in whole or part, at the discretion of the meet committee, upon cancellation of a meet or particular event. The decision of the meet committee on refunding may be appealed to the LSC Administrative Review Board or National Board of Review for hearing under the provisions of Part Four.

## 102.8 SWIMWEAR

### .1 Design

- A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap, and goggles. It is not permissible to wear more than two (2) caps. Armbands or leg bands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.
- B In swimming competitions, the swimmer must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces, except as provided in 205.10.1. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the knee (see 701.5.4 for open water exception).
  - (1) Exemptions to the foregoing restriction may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the Chair of the Rules & Regulations Committee (or his/her designee). Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs, verified medical conditions or other reasons deemed appropriate by the Rules Chair.
  - (2) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules & Regulations Committee and posted on the USA Swimming website.
  - (3) No exemption to this restriction will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

- (4) The decision of the Rules Chair may be appealed only to the entire Rules & Regulations Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- C Only swimsuits complying with FINA swimsuit specifications may be worn in any USA Swimming sanctioned or approved competition.
- D Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.
- E No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device, substance or swimsuit to help his/her speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.
- F No Technical Suits shall be worn by any 12 & Under USA Swimming athlete member in competition at any sanctioned, approved or observed meet.
- (1) Exceptions to the foregoing restriction are only for Junior Nationals, U.S. Open, National Championships, and Olympic Trials.
- (2) A Technical Suit is one that has the following components:
- Any suit with any bonded or taped seams regardless of its fabric or silhouette; or
  - Any suit with woven fabric extending past the hips.
- (Note: WOVEN FABRIC — A suit with woven fabric and sewn seams that does not extend below the hips is permitted.)
- (Note: KNIT FABRIC — A suit with knit fabric and sewn seams not extending below the knees is permitted.)
2. **Insignia** — Swimmers may wear the insignia and/or name of the club or organization they represent or of which they are a member or the insignia of their FINA National Federation or Organizing Committees for Olympic, World, Continental or Regional Championships, except as otherwise provided in 202.9.3 for international competition and in FINA rules GR5 and GR6. Swimmers shall not be allowed to wear the insignia and/or name of any club or organization which they are not entitled to represent in open competition, if such action is objectionable to that club or organization.
3. **Advertising**
- A Advertising means the normal display of the name, designation, trademark, logo, or any other distinctive sign of the manufacturer of the item or any other advertiser permitted in accordance with this rule. FINA labeling and the USA Swimming logo or club logo shall not be considered as advertisements. Logos of the swimwear manufacturer shall be considered as advertising and are included in the limits described in (1) through (3) below. In the competition venue or complex of all events conducted by and under the control of USA Swimming or any LSC or division thereof, advertising appearing on swimwear is allowed as follows:
- Swimsuits** — A total of three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 30 square centimeters (4.65 sq. in.) each, measured as worn, shall be permitted.
  - Caps** — A total of three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 20 square centimeters (3.1 sq. in.) each, as measured as applied, shall be permitted. A club

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logo is not considered as advertising and is not subject to the size limitations.

- (3) **Goggles** — A total of three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 6 square centimeters (.9 sq. in.) each, as measured as applied, shall be permitted, but only on the spectacle frame or band.
- B Body advertising in the form of temporary tattoos or other embellishments is not allowed.
- C Advertising for the following shall not be allowed:
  - (1) Products involving tobacco, nicotine, psychoactive cannabinoids, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing substances banned under IOC or FINA rules;
  - (2) Political statements; and
  - (3) Any products or services that would be counter to the values of the sport or bring disrepute to USA Swimming.
- D Swimmers in violation of the above provisions may be barred from the competition venue until they comply. However, any swimmer who competes in an event wearing swimwear in violation of these advertising provisions shall not be subject to disqualification.

**102.9 MEET DIRECTOR** — Shall be appointed by the meet host. The Meet Director's responsibilities include, but are not limited to: procuring the awards; obtaining a sanction; preparing the facility; arranging for personnel, equipment (including appropriate timing equipment as specified in 102.24), and supplies necessary for meet operation; processing of entries; printing of programs; arranging for publicity and media coverage; preparing and distributing meet results and filing the LSC report.

## 102.10 OFFICIALS

- .1 All officials accepting an invitation to officiate at a swimming meet should arrive promptly and report immediately to the Meet Director or Meet Referee.
- .2 All officials acting in the capacity of Referee, Starter, Administrative Official, or Stroke and/or Turn Judge at a swimming meet shall be certified in such position by their LSC prior to being assigned to officiate in that capacity. Uncertified trainees may perform the duties of such positions when they are under the direct supervision of a certified official. See Article 202 for USA Swimming membership requirements.
- .3 With the exception of intra-squad and dual meets, there should not be fewer than the following officiating positions filled or approved by the LSC in authority for all swim meets and time trials. Officials other than the Referee and Administrative Official may act in more than one officiating capacity only when sufficient qualified officials are not available, but no one may simultaneously time and judge the order of finish. An LSC House of Delegates may establish additional minimum requirements.

- 1 Referee
- 1 Starter
- 3 Timers per lane (one minimum if automatic equipment with touchpads is used)
- 1 Clerk of Course (if applicable)
- 1 Place Judge (2 are preferred)
- 2 Stroke Judges and 2 Turn Judges or 2 Stroke & Turn Judges
- Relay Take-off Judges (if applicable)
- 1 Administrative Official
- 1 Announcer
- Timing Equipment Operators (as needed)

Marshal(s) (number determined by the LSC)

#### .4 **Minimum Number of Officials Required for Dual and Intra-Squad Meets**

- 1 Referee, who may also act as a stroke and turn judge
- 1 Starter
- 1 Other Stroke and Turn Judge (may be the Starter)
- 1 Announcer
- 3 Timers per lane (one minimum if automatic timing equipment with touchpads is used)
- 1 Administrative Official
- 1 Place Judge
- Relay Take-off Judges (if applicable)
- Timing Equipment Operators (as needed)
- Marshal(s) (number determined by the LSC)

#### .5 **Officials for USA Swimming Championships**

- A Officials for USA Swimming championship meets shall be assigned by the National Officials Chair with the approval of the Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee).
- B The following officials shall be required and assigned for all USA Swimming championships and team selection trials competitions:
  - 1 Referee
  - 1 Starter
  - 1 Administrative Referee
  - 1 Chief Timer
  - 1 Place Judge where overhead video cameras are not used (2 are preferred)
  - 1 Chief Judge
  - 1 Stroke Judge per each side of pool
  - 1 Timer/Relay Take-off Judge per lane (start end)
  - 1 Head Lane Timer per lane (start end)
  - 1 Timer/Turn Judge per lane (start end)
  - 1 Turn Judge per lane (turn end)
  - 4 Relay Take-off Judges — two each side of pool
  - 1 Recall Rope Operator
  - 4 Marshals (minimum)
- C In addition to the officials listed above, assistant referees, assistant chief judges, one additional stroke judge per each side of the pool and relief personnel may be assigned. In the event of insufficient officials, the Referee may modify or combine assignments, subject to the provisions of 102.10.3. Where overhead video cameras are used, the Referee may make further modifications as appropriate.
- D Additional Required Meet Personnel
  - 1 Clerk of Course
  - 1 Announcer
  - 2 Timing Equipment Operators
  - 1 Computer Operator

#### 102.11 **REFEREE**

- .1 Shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed.

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- .2 Has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the Referee does not make such a signal there shall be no disqualification.
- .3 Shall signal the Starter before each race that all officials are in position, that the course is clear, and that the competition can begin.
- .4 Shall assign marshals with specific instructions.
- .5 Shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ; and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage, to ensure that the appropriate racing conditions are observed.
- .6 For LSC and local records only, may assign three (3) additional official timers on request to record a record attempt at initial distances in accordance with 102.24 and Article 104.
- .7 Shall make an immediate investigation when an apparent malfunction of the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment has occurred, to determine whether the swimmer finished in accordance with the rules and/or if there was an actual equipment malfunction.
- .8 May prohibit the use of any device that disrupts or interferes with the meet, such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker.
- .9 May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability. Any such modification shall be in accordance with Article 105 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, shall affect only the current meet, and shall not set a precedent.
- .10 Shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to Part One of the rules and local conditions when the meet sanction allows conducting the events by starting them from the alternate ends of a 50-meter course.
- .11 Refer to 102.23 concerning protests.

## 102.12 STARTER

- .1 **Preparation** — The Starter shall stand on the side of the pool within approximately five meters of the starting end of the pool and, upon signal from the Referee, shall assume control of the swimmers until a fair start has been achieved.
- .2 **Optional Instructions** — The Starter may:
  - A Announce the event.
  - B Advise the heat when a swimmer will be attempting to achieve a time at an initial distance.
  - C For backstroke starts, give the command, "Place your feet."

**102.13 JUDGES** — Shall have jurisdiction over the swimmers immediately after the race has begun.

- .1 **Chief** — An overall "Chief Judge" may assign and supervise the activities of all stroke, turn, place and take-off judges and may report their decisions. If desired, any judging category may have a designated "Chief." Any "Chief" may act as liaison for the judges and may serve simultaneously in one of the judging positions and shall assign those judges within the "Chief's" category.
- .2 **Place Judge** — One or two place judges shall be positioned on the side of the course near the finish and shall judge the order of finish of all swimmers. If two place judges are used,



they shall independently record the order of finish of all swimmers. A place judge shall record a tie if a place distinction cannot be made. Judging results shall be used only in accordance with 102.24.5C in determining the order of finish.

3. **Stroke Judge** — Shall operate on both sides of the pool, preferably walking slightly behind the swimmers during all strokes except freestyle, during which events they may leave pool-side, at the Referee's discretion; shall ensure that the rules relating to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed; and shall report any violations to the Referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number and the infraction.
4. **Turn Judge** — Shall operate on both ends of the pool; shall ensure that after the start and when turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the rules applicable to the stroke used; and shall report any violations to the Referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, lane number and infraction observed.
5. **Jurisdiction of Stroke and Turn Judges** — Before the competition begins, the Referee shall determine the respective areas of stroke and turn responsibility and jurisdiction, which may include joint, concurrent, and coordinated responsibility and jurisdiction. The Referee shall insure that all swimmers shall have fair, equitable, and uniform conditions of judging.
6. **Relay Take-Off Judges**
  - A Relay take-off judges shall be assigned by the Referee and shall stand so that they can clearly see both the feet of the departing swimmer(s) as they leave the starting platform and the touch of the incoming swimmer(s), and shall judge whether the swimmer is in contact with the platform when the incoming swimmer touches the end of the pool.
  - B If dual relay take-off judging is used, the lane and side take-off judges shall independently report infractions in writing without the use of the infraction hand signal. A relay will be disqualified only if the lane take-off judge has reported an infraction and the assigned side take-off judge has confirmed the same infraction.
  - C When automatic relay exchange judging equipment is in use, the system printout will provide the information to judge relay exchanges. Integrated back-up timing cameras may be reviewed by the Referee to confirm the automatic system's results. When backup timing cameras are not available, the Referee will determine the confirmation process.

#### 102.14 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL

- .1 Shall be responsible to the Referee for the supervision of the following:
  - A The entry and registration process
  - B Clerk of Course
  - C Timing Equipment Operator
  - D Scoring personnel
  - E Other administrative personnel
- .2 Shall be responsible to the Referee for:
  - A The accurate processing of entries and scratches.
  - B Accurate seeding of preliminary, semi-final and final heats.
  - C Determination and recording of official time.

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- (1) Receiving and reviewing the automatic and/or semi-automatic timing results from the Timing Equipment Operator and comparing primary timing results with the back-up timing results to determine their validity.
- (2) Receiving the times recorded by the Head Lane Timers from the Chief Timer and the order of finish data from the Place Judges and using that data to the extent needed to determine the official time for each swimmer.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed, notifying the Referee whenever a time obtained by the primary timing system cannot be used as the Official Time.
- (4) Recording disqualifications approved by the Referee.

D Determination of the official results.

E Publication and posting of results and scores.

.3 Shall perform other duties assigned by the Referee.

**102.15 SCORERS** — In a scored meet, shall receive from the Administrative Official the results in timed finals, or consolation finals and championship finals for each event. They shall compile team and high-point scores as applicable.

**102.16 RECORDER OF RECORDS** — Shall obtain from the Administrative Official all times made in each event, including preliminaries and finals, shall have proper application forms and shall duly process all record claims as set forth in Article 104.

## 102.17 TIMING PERSONNEL AND THEIR DUTIES

.1 **Chief Timer** — The Chief Timer shall:

- A Assure the assignment of Lane Timers to lanes and the designation of one timer on each lane to be the Head Lane Timer.
- B On the starting signal, start a watch(es) on every race. The time of this watch shall be used if a Lane Timer's watch fails.
- C Be responsible for delivering all manual watch times, including those of disqualified swimmers, to the Administrative Official.

.2 **Head Lane Timer** — The Head Lane Timer shall:

- A Determine whether the swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct lane, heat and event, and record the names and order of relay swimmers prior to the start of the race, and determine that the relay swimmers are swimming in the order listed.
- B Determine and record manual watch times or the absence of a swimmer or the relay team seeded in that lane.
- C Assign one timer to time relay splits and initial distance times if requested by the Chief Timer.
- D Report and indicate on the timing recording form if the swimmer has delayed in touching or has missed the touch pad at the finish, or if there is reason to believe the semi-automatic or manual times may be inaccurate.

.3 **Lane Timers** — Officials assigned as Lane Timers may simultaneously operate two dissimilar devices (one watch and one button) but not two similar devices (two watches or two but-

tons). It is not within the Lane Timer's jurisdiction to judge if the swimmer's touch conforms to the applicable finish rules or if a relay take-off infraction has occurred unless assigned concurrent responsibility as a Lane Timer and Turn Judge or Relay Take-off Judge. Each timer shall:

- A Be in position at the start to have an unobstructed view and shall start the watch at the instant of observing the visual starting signal. If the visual starting signal is not observed, the watch shall be started upon hearing the starting signal.
  - B Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish to observe a touch above, at, or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semi-automatic system button when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall.
  - C Report the watch time to the Head Lane Timer or the designated recorder, report if a late or missed pad touch is observed; and, if requested, present the watch for inspection. Lane Timers shall not clear their watches until a command to "clear watches" is given or the Referee signals that the next heat is ready to start.
- .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 or Administrative Official 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.

**102.18 PRESS STEWARD** — Shall obtain from the Clerk of Course or the Administrative Official the names of all swimmers in each event, the results of each finish with times or record performances, and keep the press and TV personnel thoroughly informed on all details of the competition during the meet.

**102.19 MARSHALS** — Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The Marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and, with the concurrence of the Referee, to remove, or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

**102.20 CLERK OF COURSE** — The Clerk of Course shall be provided with a list of the names of all swimmers in all events including relay swimmers in the order in which they will swim. If manual seeding is used, the Clerk of Course shall assign heats and lanes. A Clerk of Course may be used to organize swimmers and escort them to the blocks for their assigned heats.

**102.21 ANNOUNCER** — The announcer shall make any announcements requested by the Referee, the Clerk of Course, or meet management.

#### **102.22 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- .1 A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Except for the Relay Take-off Judges when dual confirmation relay take-off judging, as provided in 102.13.6B, is used, the Referee, Stroke, Turn, or Relay Take-off Judge upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification unless the meet is being conducted under FINA procedures.

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- .2 The Referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or his/her coach and inform him/her as to the reason for the disqualification. Failure to notify does not negate the disqualification.
- .3 For swimwear disqualifications, refer to 102.8.1.
- .4 Any swimmer who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue may be considered for appropriate action or penalty by the Referee.
- .5 A swimmer must start and finish the race in the same lane.
- .6 Standing on the bottom during a freestyle race shall not disqualify a swimmer, but a swimmer must not leave the pool, or walk, or spring from the bottom. Standing on the bottom during any other stroke shall result in disqualification.
- .7 Obstructing or otherwise interfering with another swimmer shall disqualify the offender, subject to the discretion of the Referee.
- .8 Any swimmer not entered in a race who enters the pool or course in the area in which said race is being conducted before all swimmers therein have completed the race shall be barred from the next individual event in which that swimmer is entered on that day or the next meet day, whichever is first.
- .9 Dipping goggles in the water or splashing water on the swimmer's face or body prior to an event shall not be considered as entering the pool unless the Referee finds that such action is interfering with the competition.
- .10 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer(s), the Referee may allow the affected swimmer(s) to reswim the event. In case of collusion to foul another swimmer, the Referee may, at his/her discretion, disqualify the swimmer for whose aid the foul was committed, as well as the swimmer committing the foul.
- .11 Grasping lane dividers to assist forward motion is not permitted.
- .12 For relay disqualifications, refer to 101.7.4.
- .13 The time and/or place of any swimmer or relay team disqualified either during or following an event shall not be recorded in the results of that event. If awards have been made prior to the decision to disqualify, they shall be returned and made to the proper recipient(s) and if points have been scored by those disqualified, the event shall be rescored.
- .14 Time and/or place officially recorded for a swimmer shall not be nullified for violations occurring subsequent to such performance.
- .15 Video replay footage from cameras approved in writing in advance of the competition by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee) may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck. The official(s) reviewing the video may only confirm the call made on deck, overrule the call, or advise the Referee that the review proved inconclusive.

## 102.23 PROTESTS

- .1 Protests against the judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the Referee and the Referee's decision shall be final.
- .2 Protests regarding an athlete's competition category may only be heard by the National Eligibility Appeal Panel as outlined in the current USA Swimming Policy Manual. A protest shall not prohibit the athlete from competing in his or her stated competition category until such time as the National Eligibility Appeal Panel has issued a decision.

- .3 For consideration of all other protests lodged at the meet, the Referee may appoint a meet jury. The jury shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons, at least one of whom shall be a coach and one an athlete.
- .4 Protests made prior to the race contesting the eligibility of a swimmer to compete or to represent an organization shall be made to the Referee in writing. If a protest is not resolved, the Referee or the meet jury shall allow the swimmer to compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race.
- .5 All other competition-related protests, including protests concerning eligibility and representation, must be made to the Referee and submitted in writing within thirty (30) minutes after the race in which the alleged infraction occurred.
- .6 Except as provided in 102.23.1, the Referee's or the meet jury's ruling may be appealed as follows:
  - A Protests concerning interpretation of the rules in Part One and Part Seven of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations shall be submitted in writing within ten (10) days to the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee who shall issue a ruling within five (5) days from the date of the receipt of such protest. This ruling shall be final and binding on all parties.
  - B All other protests, together with the Referee's or the jury's written decision, shall be submitted to the National Board of Review, in accordance with Part Four of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.
- .7 With the exception of a competition category protest, the official results of any protested race shall not be announced, the affected awards shall not be given, and points scored shall not be allocated until the protest is resolved or is withdrawn in writing.

## 102.24 TIMING RULES

### .1 Requirements for Official Time

#### A Performance Requirements

- (1) An official time can be achieved only in USA Swimming sanctioned or USA Swimming approved competition, or in an observed swim in accordance with all applicable rules. It may be achieved in:
  - (a) Any heat.
  - (b) A swim-off.
  - (c) A lead-off leg in a relay swum by four eligible relay members; the lead-off swimmer's time shall not be nullified by a subsequent disqualification of his/her team members.
  - (d) A split time recorded from the official start to the completion of an initial distance with a legal finish within a longer event, provided the swimmer completes the event or the lead-off portion of the relay in compliance with applicable rules.
  - (e) A time trial or a record attempt.
- (2) An official time for an event or a stroke can be achieved only in that event or stroke, or in an initial distance of such event or stroke (e.g., a backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event or the backstroke leg of a medley relay).

Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

- B Timing Resolution** — All timing systems, including manual watches, shall have a resolution of one one-hundredth of a second (0.01 second). Times from all systems shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. The digits representing thousandths shall be dropped with no rounding.
- C System Requirements for Specific Purposes**
- (1) Official times achieved using a timing system in accordance with 102.24.3 are valid for all entry time and recognition program purposes with the following exception: World, American, and U.S. Open Records can be established only when timed by an automatic timing system, a backup camera system, or semiautomatic system if the automatic system fails.
  - (2) A backup time adjusted as described in 102.24.4 may be used as an official time.
- D Backup Timing System Requirement** — Except when the primary system consists of watches, backup timing shall be provided for all competitors. No swimmer shall be required to re-swim a race due to equipment failure which results in unrecorded or inaccurate time or place. It is the Meet Director's responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of 102.24.1C.
- E Use of Secondary and Tertiary Times** — Secondary and tertiary times shall be recorded but shall not be used except to corroborate or correct missing or inaccurate primary/secondary results.
- .2 Timing Systems** — Every race in a swimming competition shall be timed with one or more of the following systems, listed in their preferred order of use:
- A Automatic** — A timing system activated by a starting device and stopped at the finish by the swimmer touching the touchpad.
  - B Semi-Automatic** — A timing system activated by a starting device and stopped by buttons pushed by timers at the finish touch of the swimmer.
  - C Manual** — A timing system consisting of individual lane timers, each operating a manual watch that is both started and stopped by the timer as described in 102.17.3. Only hand-held, battery-powered, digital read-out type watches designed for timing purposes shall be used.
- .3 Timing System Designation** — Timing systems shall be designated in the order in which results are used as follows:
- A Primary System** — The primary system shall determine the official time of each swimmer unless a comparison of the primary with secondary and/or tertiary system times indicates a malfunction of the primary system. A primary system shall always be in place and shall consist of one of the following, listed in their preferred order of use:
    - (1) Automatic Timing.
    - (2) Semi-Automatic, with three (3) or two (2) buttons per lane, each operated by a separate timer.
    - (3) Manual, with three (3) watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.
  - B Secondary System** — If manually operated watches are not the primary system, a

secondary system of precedence equal to or lower than the primary system must be used. The secondary system may be:

- (1) Stationary overhead video cameras recording 100 images per second. The cameras must be fully integrated with the primary timing system.
- (2) Semi-Automatic with one (1), two (2), or three (3) buttons, each operated by a separate timer.
- (3) Manual with one (1), two (2) or three (3) watches per lane, each operated by a separate timer.

- C **Tertiary System** — Unless the primary system consists of manual watches or the secondary system is a fully integrated video system or includes at least one (1) manual watch per lane, a tertiary system of at least one (1) manual watch per lane shall be provided.

#### 4 Determining Official Time

- A **Automatic Timing** — When recorded by properly operating automatic timing equipment, the pad time shall be the official time.
- B **Semi-Automatic and Manual Timing** — Whenever semi-automatic or manual timing is used, only valid times shall be used in calculating the official time. The times shall be determined as follows:

- (1) If two of the three valid button or watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.
- (2) If three valid buttons or watches disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.
- (3) If only two valid button or watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two buttons or the average of the two watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.
- (4) If only one button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system unless that time conflicts with other information. If such a conflict exists, the Administrative Official shall gather as much data as possible and determine the time.

- C **Primary Timing System Malfunction** — A malfunction may have occurred if:

- (1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the back-up system(s) is approximately .30 second or greater; or
- (2) The place judge(s) reports a different order of finish; or
- (3) It is reported the swimmer missed the touchpad or had a soft touch.

- D **Adjustment for Malfunction on a Lane** — When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the back-up times for that lane shall be calculated in accordance with 102.24.4B and integrated with the accurate primary times in establishing the official time and determining the results.

- E **Adjustment for Malfunction Equally Affecting an Entire Heat** — When, because of an early or late start, or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semi-automatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all the lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swim-

## 102.24

mers is accurate, the times of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid back-up times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of every lane in that heat. (See Appendix 1 on page 46)

### 5 Determining Results

A **Place and Ranking** — The results shall be by integration of official times including those times adjusted in accordance with 102.24.4.

B **Ties** — Official times identical to the hundredths shall be ties, with swim-offs as required to determine qualifiers or alternates for semi-final, consolation or final heats.

C **Judging** — Judging shall only be used to change the results produced by ranking the Official Times if:

- (1) The swimmers competed in the same heat;
- (2) Times obtained from properly operating automatic timing equipment are not available; and
- (3) The Place Judges both observed a different relative order of finish and made a written record of their observation immediately following the conclusion of that heat.

**Note:** A different relative order of finish means there is agreement that a different swimmer finished ahead of another swimmer; there need not be agreement on their exact placement within the heat.

D **Impact of Judging on Order of Finish** — If judging changes the results:

- (1) In timed finals meets and the finals of preliminaries and finals meets, such placement by judges decision (JD) shall be indicated in the meet results.
- (2) In the preliminaries of preliminaries and finals meets, in no case may a swimmer with a faster time displace a swimmer who was judged to have placed ahead of him within a heat according to 102.24.5C. If this should result in disputed qualifications, all swimmers having times tied or within the disputed times shall swim-off for the disputed places in accordance with 102.5.2.

## 102.25 SCORING

### .1 Dual Meets

Individual events: 5-3-1-0

Relays: 7-0

### .2 Triangular meets

Individual events: 6-4-3-2-1-0

Relays: 8-4-0

### .3 All other meets — Individual events (Individual point values shall be doubled for relays):

4-lane pools: 5-3-2-1

8-lane pools: 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

5-lane pools: 6-4-3-2-1

9-lane pools: 10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

6-lane pools: 7-5-4-3-2-1

10-lane pools: 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

7-lane pools: 8-6-5-4-3-2-1

When consolation and championship finals are swum, scoring shall be as follows for individual events (Individual point values shall be doubled for relays, even when relays are swum as timed finals):

**6-lane pools (12 places):**

A (final): 16-13-12-11-10-9

B (consolation): 7-5-4-3-2-1

**9-lane pools (18 places):**

A (final): 22-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12

B (consolation): 10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1



**7-lane pools (14 places):**

A (final): 18-15-14-13-12-11-10

B (consolation): 8-6-5-4-3-2-1

**10-lane pools (20 places):**

A (final): 24-21-20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13

B (consolation): 11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

**8-lane pools (16 places):**

A (final): 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11

B (consolation): 9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

- 4 **LSC Options** — For mixed classification meets, non-standard events, or when an additional (bonus) heat or only a single championship final heat is swum in some or all of the events, the LSC sanctioning the meet shall establish the scoring point values to suit the format of the meet. These point values shall be stated in the meet announcement.
- 5 **Ties** — Where two or more swimmers tie for any place in any event, the points credited to such place or places, if any, next in order shall be equally divided between such swimmers; i.e., if two tie for first place, the points to be credited to first place and the points to be credited to second place shall be added and divided one-half and one-half. If three tie for first place, the points credited to first, second and third places shall be added and divided one-third, one-third and one-third, and so on for four or more tying for first place. The same is true for those tying for second place, third place, and whatever places there may be.
- 6 **Disqualifications** — When a relay team or individual swimmer is disqualified, the subsequent places will move up accordingly and points shall be awarded to conform to the new places. Consolation finalists shall not receive championship final placing. Alternates shall not receive consolation final placing.

**102.26 AWARDS** — When two or more swimmers tie for any place, duplicate awards shall be given to each of such tied swimmers. In such cases, no awards shall be given for the place or places immediately following the tied positions. If two tie for 1st place, no award for 2nd place; if three tie for 1st place, no awards for 2nd or 3rd, and so on.

**102.27 MEET RESULTS** — Meet results shall be provided, as directed by the LSC, within fourteen (14) days after the meet. The results may also be provided in an electronic format or posted to a website. Meet results shall include the following information:

- 1 Meet name, date, location, sanction number, and the pool length (25y, 25m or 50m) must appear on every page and the pages must be numbered.
- 2 Any scores, team or individual, if kept.
- 3 For each individual event, the order of finish in preliminaries, finals and swim-offs, when applicable, listing the swimmer's first and last name, age, club affiliation and official time; disqualified swimmers shall be listed last and indicated "DQ," with no times listed. Time Trial results shall be provided in the above format, when applicable. If the meet is computerized and connected directly to or interfaced with the automatic timing system, then all available initial distance times satisfying the requirements listed in 102.24.1A shall be provided upon request.
- 4 For relays, in addition to the order of finish, affiliation, and official time, the swimmers' first and last names, ages, the order in which they swam, and, if available, lead-off swimmer's time, shall be included.

**Note:** First names may be abbreviated within the limitations of the printing or computer program.

# APPENDIX 1

## EXAMPLE OF HEAT MALFUNCTION

**Primary** - Automatic (Late manual start confirmed);

**Secondary** - Semi-automatic, three buttons (button time not valid);

**Tertiary** - Manual, one watch

\*Adjustment calculation:

▼ Add the differences between the pad and watch times; total = 24.50; ▼ Divide 24.50 by the number of lanes to determine an average: 24.50 divided by 8 = 3.0625; the digits after hundredths are dropped, leaving a heat adjustment of 3.06; ▼ Add the adjustment factor of 3.06 seconds for late start of the primary system to each pad time to obtain the official time for that lane.

LANE	PRIMARY PAD TIME	WATCH TIME	WATCH TIME LESS PAD TIME	HEAT ADJUSTMENT*	OFFICIAL TIME
1	52.12	55.14	3.02	+3.06	55.18
2	51.56	54.61	3.05	+3.06	54.62
3	51.09	54.18	3.09	+3.06	54.15
4	50.12	53.18	3.06	+3.06	53.18
5	49.78	52.90	3.12	+3.06	52.84
6	49.06	52.06	3.00	+3.06	52.12
7	52.21	55.30	3.09	+3.06	55.27
8	52.92	55.99	3.07	+3.06	55.98
			24.50 total		

## ARTICLE 103 FACILITIES STANDARDS

### 103.1 DEFINITIONS

- .1 /M/ = Indicates mandatory requirement for all competition.
- .2 /NC/ = Except as noted otherwise, indicates mandatory requirement for USA Swimming Championships and International Competition.
- .3 /LSC/ = Predicated on facility availability, LSCs may waive strict compliance with these requirements in sanctioning local competition.
- .4 Where dimensions are given, the dimension listed first shall govern, and dimensions given in parenthesis are for reference only.

### 103.2 WATER DEPTH

- .1 /NC/ **2 meters (6 feet 7 inches) deep throughout the course.**
- .2 /M/ **Teaching Racing Starts** — Minimum water depth for teaching all racing starts, prior to certification, in any setting from any height starting blocks, from backstroke ledges or from the deck shall be 6 feet (1.84 meters) measured for a distance of 3 feet 3-1/2 inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall. Teaching racing starts shall only take place under the direct supervision of a USA Swimming member coach and shall include:
  - A All racing start instruction until a swimmer has been certified by his or her USA Swimming member coach as proficient in performing a racing start; and
  - B Subsequent to certification, instruction which seeks to alter a swimmer's basic technique in performing a racing start.

Prior to certification, all racing starts must take place from a position in the water, and without use of the backstroke ledge, regardless of pool depth. Subsequent to certification, practicing of racing starts may take place in water depth of four (4) feet (1.22 meters) and deeper.
- .3 /M/ **Racing Starts** — Minimum water depth for racing starts during practice and competition shall be measured for a distance 3 feet 3-1/2 inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall. Starting requirements and height of starting block shall be:
  - A In pools with water depth less than 4 feet (1.22 meters) at the starting end;
    - (1) The swimmer must start in the water;
    - (2) Backstroke starting ledges are not permitted.
  - B In pools with water depth 4 feet (1.22 meters) or more at the starting end, starting platforms shall meet the height requirements of 103.14.1.

**Note:** Local, state and municipal statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, may have depth limitations in conflict with this section. The LSC and all Member Clubs should check for this at all times.

**103.3 RACING COURSE DIMENSIONS****.1 /M/ Length.**

- A **Long Course:** 50.00 meters (164 feet and 1/2 inch).
- B **Short Course:** 25.00 yards or 25.00 meters (82 feet and 1/4 inch).
- C **Dimensional Tolerance:** Against the required length, a tolerance of minus (-) 0.000 meters in a vertical plane extending 0.3 meters (12 inches) above and 0.8 meters (2 feet 7-1/2 inches) below the surface of the water at all points of both end walls. The plus tolerances apply for National, Trials Class, FINA and international competition. See the current Policy Manual and FINA Facilities Rules FR2 for details.
- D When automatic officiating equipment touch pads are used at one or both ends, the course shall be of such length that ensures the required distance between the two touch pads or between either pad and the opposite end of the course.
- E When the racing course is fixed by the use of movable bulkheads, such bulkheads shall be designed to resist lateral deflection due to tension exerted by the attachment of the lane dividers to ensure the required course distance in all lanes.
- F See Article 104, Rules for Swimming Records, for course measurements certification requirements.

**.2 Width.**

- A /NC/ Eight or ten lanes, minimum width of 2.5 meters (8 feet 2-1/2 inches), from center line to center line of the lane dividers, with approximately 0.45 meters (1 foot 6 inches) of additional open water outside lanes 1 and 8 (or 10). The Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee) may waive this requirement for National Championships.
- B /LSC/ Minimum lane width for competitive swimming shall be 7 feet (2.13 meters).

**103.4 /M/ RACING COURSE WALLS**

- .1 **Permanent Course Walls** — Walls enclosing the racing course shall be parallel and vertical. The end walls shall be at a right angle to the water surface and shall be constructed of solid material with non-slip surface that extends no less than 0.8 meters (2 feet 7-1/2 inches) below the water surface.
- .2 **Movable Bulkhead Course Walls** — If a continuous recessed hand grip is provided at or near the water surface in a movable bulkhead, the horizontal dimension of the recess perpendicular to the bulkhead should be not less than six inches (.15 meters) and designed in a manner to prevent the swimmer's fingers from contacting the back surface of the recess.

**103.5 /LSC/ POOL AND BULKHEAD MARKINGS**

- .1 **Pool bottom lane markers:** Minimum 10-inch (25-centimeter) wide lines of a dark contrasting color (preferably black) shall be provided in the middle of each racing lane on the bottom of the pool. The lines should be uninterrupted the length of the course and shall end with a distinctive cross line 1.0 meters (3 feet 4 inches) long and the same width as the bottom marker. The line, including the cross line, shall terminate 2.00 meters (6 feet 7 inches) from each end wall.
- .2 **End wall targets:** Flush, non-slip targets in a shape of a "T" or a cross and the same width as the lane bottom markers shall be provided in the center of each lane on each end wall of the course and shall extend at least 3 feet 4 inches (1.0 meters) below the level of the water surface. It is recommended that the top edge of the deck be of a contrasting color to provide a visual target above water at the end of the course.

.3 **/M/ 15-Meter Markings:** Fixed distinctive marks shall be placed on either the pool wall or deck surface adjacent to any outside lane at a distance of 15 meters from each end wall of the course. These marks should also be used to correctly align the distinctive floats on the lane dividers, but the fixed marks on the deck or walls take precedence for judging.

.4 **Lane Numbers**

- A The lanes shall be numbered from right to left as the swimmers stand facing the course.
- B Lane numbers shall clearly identify the lanes to officials stationed on each side of the course.

**103.6 /M/ OVERFLOW RECIRCULATION SYSTEM** — The pool water recirculation and overflow system shall maintain water level in line with the overflow rim of the pool gutters without creating appreciable current or water turbulence and shall maintain smooth and calm water surface during competition.

**103.7 WATER AND AIR TEMPERATURE**

- .1 /LSC/ Water temperature between 25 to 28 degrees Celsius (77 to 82.4 degrees Fahrenheit) shall be maintained for competition.
- .2 Air temperature within 8 feet above deck level in indoor facilities shall be not lower than 76 degrees Fahrenheit, with relative humidity maintained at about 60% and air velocity at about 25 feet per minute.

**103.8 /M/ LADDERS** — All ladders, steps or stairs within the racing course shall be recessed in the pool side walls or shall be removed during competition.

**103.9 OTHER DECK EQUIPMENT**

- .1 /LSC/ Use of portable lifeguard chair stands and other deck fixtures is recommended and they should be removed from the competition area to allow free passage and unobstructed view for competitors and officials along all sides of the course.
- .2 /M/ 1-meter diving boards which overhang the racing course shall be hinged out of the way or removed during competition.

**103.10 /M/ LIGHTING**

- .1 /LSC/ A minimum of one hundred (100) foot candle illumination level is required at the water surface over the entire course. Overhead light fixtures shall be located to avoid the casting of shadows by the pool walls over the racing course.
- .2 /NC/ At National Championships, the same type and level of illumination that will be used for finals must be provided and maintained during the warm-up period and preliminaries.

**103.11 /M/ TOBACCO PRODUCTS** — Smoking and use of other tobacco products is prohibited in all areas of the venue.

**103.12 /M/ ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** — Alcoholic beverages or the recognition of alcohol sponsors are prohibited in all areas of the venue. Exceptions to this provision include USA Swimming National Championships, Trials Class meets, U.S. Open Championships, USA Swimming Open Water National Championships and the Pro Series events or other events approved by the USA Swimming Chief Commercial Officer.

**103.13 /M/ DRONES** — Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over

## 103.13

the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open-ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present.

Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee).

## 103.14 /M/ STARTING PLATFORMS

### .1 Height.

- A **Long course and short course meters:** The front edge of the starting platform shall be no less than 0.50 meters (1 foot 8 inches) nor more than 0.75 meters (2 feet 5-1/2 inches) above the surface of the water.
  - B **Short course yards:** The front edge of the starting platform shall be not higher than 2 feet 6 inches (0.762 meters) above the surface of the water.
- 2 The front edge of the starting platform shall be flush with the face of the end walls.
  - 3 The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than 0.50 by 0.50 meters (1 foot 8 inches square) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It may have an adjustable setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent non-slip material. Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms.
  - 4 **Backstroke starting grips:** Starting platforms shall be equipped with firm starting grips located between 0.3 meters (12 inches) and 0.6 meters (24 inches) above water surface. The front edge of the grips shall be parallel to and flush with the face of the end wall.
  - 5 Starting platforms shall be clearly marked with lane numbers visible to competitors and officials. (See 103.5.3)
  - 6 Starting platforms shall be anchored to the deck or bulkhead to remain stable at all times.

**103.15 BACKSTROKE LEDGE** — The backstroke ledge shall conform to FINA's specifications when used in competition as follows:

- 1 /M/ The ledge may be adjustable to 4 centimeters above or 4 centimeters below the water level.
- 2 /M/ The ledge shall be a minimum of 65 centimeters in length.
- 3 /M/ The ledge must be 8 centimeters in height, 2 centimeters at the width with 10 degrees of slope.
- 4 /M/ The ledge may not be used in water depth less than 4 feet (1.22 meters).
- 5 /M/ Should backstroke ledges be used, identical ledges shall be provided for all lanes.

## 103.16 /M/ FLOATING LANE DIVIDERS AND MARKINGS

- 1 Floating lane dividers shall extend the full length of the course and shall be attached at each end wall with recessed anchors so located that the center line of the cable securing the dividers shall be on the surface of the water with the bottom half uniformly submerged for its entire length. They shall:
  - A Separate the racing lanes.
  - B /LSC/ Be outside the outermost lanes being used.
- 2 Dividers shall consist of contiguous floats having a minimum diameter of 5 centimeters (2 inches) to a maximum diameter of 15 centimeters (6 inches). The color of the floats extend-

ing from the walls the distance of 5 meters for long course and short course meters and 15 feet for short course yards shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. Distinctive colored floats, or markers extending around the full circumference of the floats, shall be placed at 15 meters (49 feet 2-1/2 inches) from each end wall in both short course 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. Damaged or broken floats shall be removed and/or replaced, to the extent possible.

- .3 /LSC/ A single line of dividers between racing lanes shall be used in long course and short course meters competition. Multiple lines may be installed for short course yards competition, provided the width of water between dividers is not reduced to less than 7 feet.
- .4 /NC/ Minimum 11 centimeter diameter floats shall be required for National Championships.

### 103.17 /M/ BACKSTROKE FLAGS AND LINES

- .1 **Design:** At least three triangular pennants six (6) to twelve (12) inches in width at the base and twelve (12) to eighteen (18) inches in vertical length, of two or more alternating and contrasting colors shall be suspended on a firmly stretched line over each lane during all warm-up periods and during competition for all backstroke, individual medley and medley relay events.
- .2 **Location:**
  - A **Long course and short course meters:** 5 meters (16 feet 5 inches) from each end of the course, a minimum of 1.8 meters (5 feet 11 inches) to a maximum of 2.5 meters (8 feet 3 inches) above the water surface.
  - B **Short course yards:** 15 feet (4.57 meters) from each end of the course, 7 feet (2.13 meters) above the water surface.
  - C Height shall be measured to the horizontal line from which the pennants are suspended.

**103.18 /NC/ LOUDSPEAKER START SYSTEM** — An electronic sound generating device shall be provided to give the starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two platforms, on each side of the racing course, or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light, or similar visual signal, located on the starter's side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to manual timers and deaf and hard-of-hearing swimmers. The start system may include an underwater recall speaker and final lap signal option.

**103.19 /M/ RECALL DEVICE** — A device to recall swimmers shall be provided. If a recall rope is used, it shall be placed at the mid-point of the course in long course facilities and at the turn end backstroke flags in short course facilities.

**103.20 /LSC/ PACE CLOCKS** — There shall be at least two large accurate timing devices or clocks, preferably located one on each side of the course, clearly visible to all swimmers in all warm-up/warm-down areas.

### 103.21 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING EQUIPMENT

- .1 /NC/ See 102.24 for Automatic and Semi-Automatic Timing equipment types and performance requirements. Equipment powered directly from the utility line electrical service shall have the capability to automatically switch to stand-by battery power source in case of line power failure without affecting the continuity and accuracy of the timing system.

- .2 **/M/ Installation and Safety:** Equipment shall be installed so that it will not interfere with swimmers' start, turns, or finish and the normal overflow functions of the pool water recirculation system. All deck-level wiring shall carry no more than 12 volts.
- .3 **/NC/ Touch Pads:**
- A **Size and thickness:** Recommended pad size shall be 6 feet 6 inches (2 meters) wide and not less than 2 feet (0.60 meters) deep. Minimum width of pads shall be 5 feet (1.52 meters). Thickness shall not exceed 3/8 of an inch (1 centimeter).
  - B **Markings:** Panel face markings shall conform and superimpose on pool end wall markings as closely as possible. Perimeter edges of the panel shall have a one-inch wide black border.
  - C **Sensitivity:** Panels shall stop the timing system instantaneously by a light hand touch anywhere on the flat surface facing the racing course and the upper edge but shall not be activated by water turbulence.
  - D Panels shall be installed and firmly anchored in the center of each lane and shall have no sharp edges, corners, or other protrusions on any exposed surfaces.
  - E At the facilities in which competition to select USA Swimming National Teams for the Olympic Games and World Championships is held, the touch pads must be minimum 0.9 meters (2 feet 11-7/16 inches) high, 2.4 meters (7 feet 10-1/2 inches) wide and maximum one centimeter (3/8 of an inch) in thickness. Such pads shall be installed at end of the course and shall extend 0.3 meters each (11-3/16 inches) above and 0.6 meters (1 foot 11-5/8 inches) below the water surface. The Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee) may waive this requirement for National Championships.
- .4 **Optional Accessories:** Automatic officiating equipment may provide relay judging capability, automatic lap counting, split times' readouts for all lanes, correction of erroneous touch, and television equipment tie-in. Any corrections or impulses generated by the equipment operators shall be clearly identified on the results printout.
- .5 **Time Display Board (optional):**
- A An automatic display board visible to all swimmers shall give a digital time read-out to two decimal places, displaying split times, final times, and places for all lanes. In the event of a tie, the place shall be displayed as a tie.
  - B **/NC/** A separate line of display for each lane meeting the above requirements shall be provided for National Championships.

**103.22 /M/ ELECTRICAL SAFETY** — All permanent or temporary electrical connections to the electronic loudspeaker start system, automatic officiating equipment, and other electrical or electronic devices operating on line voltages in the vicinity of the racing course shall be made only from ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected convenience receptacles or circuits. In the event such receptacles or circuits are not available in the facility used for competition, portable U.L. approved self-contained type GFCI outlet fittings shall be provided (furnished and installed) at the non-protected convenience receptacles by the meet management, Meet Director, or the equipment operator(s) whenever such equipment is connected and in use.

## ARTICLE 104



## RULES FOR SWIMMING RECORDS

### 104.1 WORLD RECORDS

- .1 May be established only in 25-meter and 50-meter pools and shall conform to the recognized distance, stroke and other current governing regulations of the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA).
- .2 All claims shall be sent by facsimile transmission immediately following performance to the National Headquarters. Supporting evidence must be filed on official FINA World Record application forms, which must be in the National Headquarters within 21 days following performance. Responsibility for this filing shall rest with the meet recorder of records, official scorer, or LSC Records Chair.

### 104.2 USA SWIMMING RECORDS

#### .1 General Requirements and Conditions for Records

- A The official time for establishing specific records must be achieved and determined in accordance with 102.24.
- B Record times registered by automatic equipment shall be submitted in hundredths of a second (two decimal places). If first place times are tied to a hundredth of a second, the results shall be declared to be a tie and the record shall be shared by each swimmer.
- C No record shall be considered which is applied for by or through a conference, league, LSC, allied member, or organizational member whose rules governing performance do not conform to Parts One, Two and Seven of USA Swimming Rules & Regulations unless such swim is observed in accordance with 202.8.

**Exception:** When such rules do not conform to these rules but performance by the swimmer is claimed to conform to them, application may be made to the President/CEO (or his/her designee), for consideration. Such application must be supported by documentary or other evidence of performance as may be requested.

- D For LSC and local records only, unless prohibited by the LSC, the Referee, if requested, for the purposes of recording record attempts at an initial distance for an individual event or for the lead-off leg of a relay, may for any lane:
  - (1) Permit the use of the split function button of digital manual watches where all three official lane timers on the lane are using digital watches with split function, or
  - (2) Assign three (3) additional official timers to the lane to time the record attempt.

**Note:** Performances in this category require the swimmer(s) to complete the full distance of the scheduled event in compliance with applicable rules including a legal finish at the initial distance.

- E Should the first swimmer on a legally composed relay team complete his/her leg in a record time for that stroke/distance, his/her performance shall not be nullified by a subsequent disqualification of his/her team members.
- F To be eligible for a record a swimmer must have won his/her heat. Only the time of the winner is recognized for record purposes even though another swimmer may have a

faster time but is displaced by judge's or ballot decision. If the judge's or ballot decision results in a tie, all tied swimmers shall share the faster time of such finish. The requirement to win the heat does not apply:

- (1) When age or representation is a condition for setting LSC or Age Group records;
- (2) To a U.S. citizen setting an American record in competition with non-U.S. citizens; or
- (3) When achieved as the lead-off leg in a relay race or at an initial distance.

## 2 American and United States Open Records

### A Classification

- (1) **American** — May be established only by United States Citizens who are also U.S. Sports Citizens who achieve an official time in accordance with USA Swimming rules.
- (2) **United States Open** — May be established only within the geographical territory of the United States by any person eligible to compete under and achieving an official time in accordance with USA Swimming rules.

### B Recognized Distances and Strokes (Men and Women)

- (1) **Short Course Yards** — Made only over courses 25 yards long
 

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 1650 yards
Backstroke	100, 200 yards
Breaststroke	100, 200 yards
Butterfly	100, 200 yards
Individual Medley	200, 400 yards
Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 yards
Mixed Gender Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 yards
Medley Relay	200, 400 yards
Mixed Gender Medley Relay	200, 400 yards
- (2) **Short Course Meters** — Made only over courses 25 meters long
 

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500 meters
Backstroke	50, 100, 200 meters
Breaststroke	50, 100, 200 meters
Butterfly	50, 100, 200 meters
Individual Medley	100, 200, 400 meters
Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 meters
Mixed Gender Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 meters
Medley Relay	200, 400 meters
Mixed Gender Medley Relay	200, 400 meters
- (3) **Long Course** — Made only over courses 55 yards or 50 meters long
 

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500 meters
Backstroke	50, 100, 200 meters
Breaststroke	50, 100, 200 meters
Butterfly	50, 100, 200 meters
Individual Medley	200, 400 meters
Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 meters
Mixed Gender Freestyle Relay	200, 400, 800 meters
Medley Relay	200, 400 meters
Mixed Gender Medley Relay	200, 400 meters

### C Special Requirements and Conditions

- (1) Lead-off legs/initial distances of mixed gender relays shall not count for American

- or U.S. Open records.
- (2) Records established outside of the United States shall be applied for on official record application forms. When an American Record results from a World Record performance outside the United States, it shall be accepted as such upon formal approval by FINA without further certification.
  - (3) When a record is claimed, an official record application form shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials, and transmitted to Headquarters with all supporting data, including official meet results and the primary printout tape from the automatic timing equipment, within 14 days after the performance.
  - (4) Pool Certification
    - (a) Record applications will not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies them or is on file with USA Swimming.
    - (b) Pool certification shall be reported on the standard form available from the President/CEO.
    - (c) Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since original certification.
  - (5) Pool Measurement
    - (a) The length of the course shall be measured and certified by a qualified person in accordance with the standards established by USA Swimming. Such measurements shall be stated in feet and inches and fractions of an inch, or feet and hundredths of a foot for short course yards pools, or in meters for long or short course meters pools.
    - (b) A statement of the conditions under which the course was measured must be included.
    - (c) Where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the lane in which the record was set must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved.
  - (6) Pending record claims properly documented and approved by the Times & Recognition Committee Chair (or his/her designee) shall be approved and declared effective immediately.
  - (7) American and United States Open Records established at the USA Swimming National Championships, the U.S. Open, any World Cup event sponsored by USA Swimming, and at events conducted by FINA, shall, upon receipt of final results, proper completion of pool certification, and approval by the Times & Recognition Committee Chair (or his/her designee), be declared effective immediately unless a faster claim is pending.
  - (8) Record claims not previously accepted and declared effective under (6) or (7) above shall be considered by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator (or his/her designee) for recommendation and acceptance. Applications ruled incomplete may be reconsidered by the Times & Recognition Chair (or his/her designee) and final action recommended to the Board of Directors.
  - (9) Swimmers who establish a record shall be presented with a certificate signed by the Board Chair of USA Swimming and the President/CEO (or his/her designee).

### .3 National Age Group Records

#### A Requirements

- (1) Only USA Swimming members, who are U.S. citizens representing a USA Swimming club or competing unattached, are eligible to establish National Age Group records.
- (2) Times submitted for Age Group records must comply with all the requirements of the National Age Group Recognition Program as listed in 205.9.

**B Reporting** — When a listed Age Group record is bettered, an official Age Group Record Application Form (provided by Headquarters to the LSC and posted on the USA Swimming website) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials, and transmitted within thirty (30) days. The swimmer or the swimmer's representative shall be responsible for initiating the record validation and reporting procedures established by the Times & Recognition Committee Chair (or his/her designee).

**C Recognition** — Upon receipt of the record application, a certificate of record achievement will be sent to all swimmers and members of relays whose time meets or betters the current National Age Group Record.

### .4 Zone Age Group Records

**A Requirements** — Zone records must be achieved in Zone championship meets.

**B Reporting** — Each Zone shall determine the means of reporting Zone records.

**C Recognition** — Each Zone shall determine appropriate recognition for Zone records.

### .5 LSC Records

#### A Requirements

- (1) LSC Records must be achieved by LSC member swimmers in USA Swimming or FINA sanctioned competition. This competition can be at any level including Senior and international competition.
- (2) LSCs may elect to recognize times achieved by member swimmers in approved competition or in USA Swimming observed swims.
- (3) An LSC may establish All-Star records which would include All-Star relay performances achieved by swimmers representing the LSC in Zone, Regional, or dual meets involving All-Star teams. Individual times including lead-off splits should be recognized by the LSC with the swimmer's LSC club of record (or unattached if appropriate) for any LSC records, National records or NAG Recognition Times.

**B Reporting** — The LSC shall determine the method of reporting LSC records.

**C Recognition** — The LSC shall determine appropriate recognition for LSC records.

## ARTICLE 105

### GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY IN USA SWIMMING MEETS

## 105.1 GENERAL

- .1 **Authority** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications. Reference 701.24 for Open Water competitions.
- .2 **Responsibilities**
  - A **Swimmer** — The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.
  - B **Referee** — The Referee's responsibilities include:
    - (1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and can be met.
    - (2) Instructing the Starter and Stroke & Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.
- .3 **Modifications** — Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.8.1E). Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:
  - A A change in starting position.
  - B Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
  - C Allowing the swimmer to have a personal assistant(s). A personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming unless acting in a coaching capacity.

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

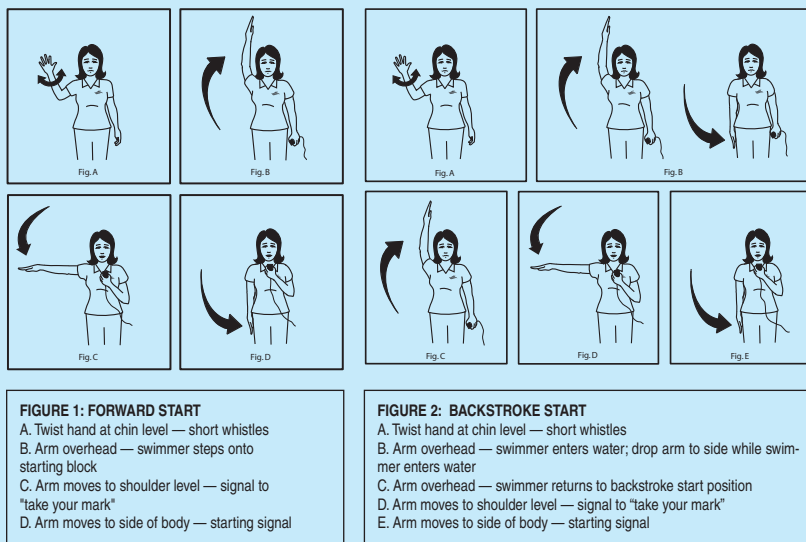
## 105.2 BLIND AND VISION LOSS

- .1 **Start** — With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a swimmer who is blind or has vision loss. A swimmer may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block. Should the swimmer feel insecure starting from the block or deck, an in-the-water start is allowed.
- .2 **Turns and Finishes** — A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have personal assistants ("tappers" who use poles with soft-tipped ends to tap the swimmer as notification of turns and the finish). Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer's responsibility to provide the tapper(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 the relay swimmer when his/her 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

- .1 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 Fig-



ures 1 and 2. A false start rope is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.

2. **Strobe Light Location** — The Starter shall advise the swimmers about the location of the strobe light and the light shall be located where the swimmers can clearly see it for the start. For backstroke starts, the light should be positioned so that the swimmers don't have to turn their heads to look backwards.

**105.4 COGNITIVELY DISABLED** — A 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

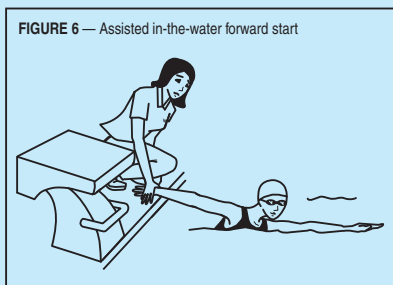
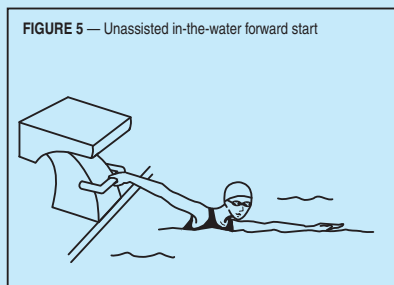
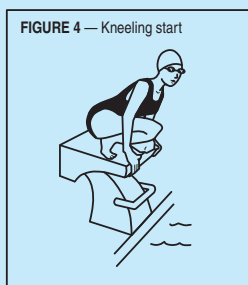
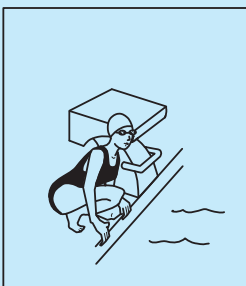
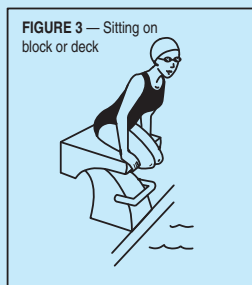
1. **Start** — Swimmers with physical disabilities:
  - A May take longer to assume their starting position;
  - B May have difficulty holding the starting platform or pool end for a start;
  - C May need assistance from someone on the deck to maintain a starting position;
  - D May use a modified starting position on the blocks, deck or in the water.
  - E Shall use a forward start for freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly. The Referee, however, may allow modifications such as the following:
    - (1) The swimmer may start from a sitting position on the block or on the deck;
    - (2) The swimmer may assume a starting position in the water, with or without assistance;
    - (3) 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.

- (4) For breaststroke and butterfly, after the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg(s) may perform one arm stroke that need not be simultaneous or on the horizontal plane to attain the breast position.

Examples of modified starting positions are shown in Figures 3 through 7.

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

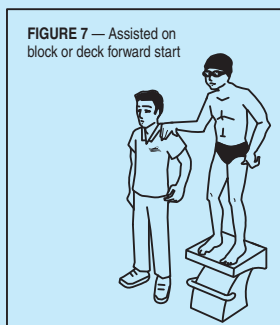


absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be judged in accordance with the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.

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. No flotation devices should be permitted.

### .3 Turn/Finishes

- A Touches shall be judged in the same manner as strokes and kicks, i.e., on the basis of the arm(s) and/or hand(s) that the swimmer can



## 105.5

use. In breaststroke and butterfly events, the competitor must reach forward as if attempting a simultaneous two-hand touch. When a swimmer has a different arm length, 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.

- B At the turn and finish of the butterfly, an athlete with no leg function is permitted to perform a partial stroke with the arm(s) recovering forward under the surface of the water in order to touch the wall.
- .4 **Relays** — Relay swimmers who cannot exit the water immediately may be allowed to remain in the lane until all relays have finished so long as they do not interfere with the other swimmers or the timing equipment.