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June 25, 2009

To: Members of the House of Delegates

Re: Proposed Amendments to Rules and Regulations

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Attached are proposed amendments to our Rules and Regulations that will be considered during the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. They have been reviewed by the Rules & Regulations Committee during its meeting in May 2009 and each item includes the Committee's tentative recommendations. The Committee will reconsider each item during its regularly scheduled meeting at convention and at that time will finalize its recommendation to the House of Delegates on each item.

You are encouraged to review the attached information prior to arriving at the Convention. If you have questions regarding any of the proposed amendments, please direct any questions to the person listed as making the proposal, or to any member of the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce W. Stratton', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce W. Stratton  
Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

# USA SWIMMING

## RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

### PROPOSED

### AMENDMENTS TO 2009 RULES AND REGULATIONS

No.	Description	Location	Recommendation
R-1	Composition of Meet Committee	Glossary	Approval
R-2	Definition of open water terms: abandonment, escorted swim, unescorted swim	OW Glossary	Approval
R-3	Eliminate the references to gun and discontinue use of the starters pistol in USA Swimming	101.1.1 102.16.1 103.15	Approval
R-4	Correct an inconsistency regarding false starts	101.1.3A	Approval
R-5	Change wording on breaststroke to correspond to the way it is currently officiated	101.2.2 101.2.3	Rejection
R-6	Clarification regarding the use of automatic relay take-off judging	101.7.3B	Rejection
R-7	Clarify seeding when lanes are numbered left to right	102.5.3	Rejection
R-8	Remove requirement for empty lane between different genders or age groups	102.8.2	Rejection
R-9A-1	Extend swimwear restriction to all swimmers at all meets below the level of USA Swimming Championships; additional coverage restrictions; apply restrictions to approved meets and observed swims	102.9.1A 202.4 202.5	Postponed Action
R-9A-2	Extend swimwear restriction to all swimmers at all meets below the level of USA Swimming Championships; additional coverage restrictions; do not apply restrictions to approved meets and observed swims	102.9.1A 202.4 202.5	Postponed Action
R-9B	Extend swimwear restriction to all competition below the level of LSC Championships; additional coverage restrictions	102.9.1A	Postponed Action
R-9C	Extend swimwear restriction to 14 & under age group defined competition; additional coverage restrictions	102.9.1A	Postponed Action
R-10	Relocate swimwear restriction for age groupers to Part 2 of Rule Book; add provision for exemption due to religious/medical reasons	102.9.1A 205.10 (new)	Approval
R-11	Create new section regarding approval and availability of swimwear & include in approved meet and observed swims requirements	102.9 202.4 202.5	Postponed Action
R-12	Bring USA Swimming rules into compliance with FINA regarding wearing only one swimsuit at a time; include provision for approved meets and observed swims	102.9 202.4 202.5	Approval
R-13	Allow modesty wear for age group swimmers	102.9 205.10 (new)	No Recommendation
R-14	Make rule about advertising consistent with FINA verbiage	102.9.3A	Approval
R-15	Clarification of "teaching racing starts"	103.2.2	Approval
R-16	Allow LSCs flexibility regarding placement of backstroke flags	103.14.2	Approval
R-17	Allowing personal assistants for swimmers with a disability	105.1.3	Approval

R-18	To require a non-auditory recall device (such as a rope) for deaf swimmers	105.3.1	Referred back to committee
R-19	Provide for necessary modification for swimmers with no leg function	105.5.3	Approval
R-20	Remove a sentence that causes a great deal of confusion about closed competition and sanctions	202.1	Approval
R-21	Clarify allowing foreign swimmers to compete in sanctioned competition	202.3.1	Approval
R-22	Require meet announcement to include information about water depth	202.3 202.4	Approval
R-23	Impose criteria for member clubs hosting approved meets	202.4	Approval
R-24	Include section on determination of official time as requirement for approval	202.4.4	Approval
R-25	Make Rule Book consistent with actual practice regarding observed swims	202.5	Approval
R-26	Clarify that LSCs or clubs cannot prohibit the transfer of an athlete from one club or LSC to another	203.5	Approval
R-27A	Move entry fee amounts for USA Swimming Championships to Policy Manual	207.9.3	Approval
R-27B	Raise the entry fees for USA Swimming Championships	207.9.3	Approval if R-27A is not adopted
R-28	Delete references to entry blanks and electronic entries	207.10.1	Approval
R-29	Allow entries to be updated until the entry deadline; delete references to entry forms	207.10.5	Approval
R-30	Update entry provisions regarding relay-only swimmers	207.10.8	Approval
R-31	Clarification on team scoring	207.12.9D	Rejection
R-32	Specifically protect athletes under sexual misconduct section	304.3.5	Approval
R-33	Clarify that LSCs may not impose requirements for club or individual membership beyond those described in Article 502; proof of age may be required prior to competition in age classified events	502.2	Approval
R-34	Clarify that athletes are appointed to 1-year terms on committees	506.1	Approval
R-35	Allow Rules Committee to submit legislation after May 15 but before publication at normal approval percentage	511.5	Approval
R-36	Change effective date of amendments to Part One to May 1	511.6	Approval
R-37	Require entry information to designate whether race will be escorted or unescorted	701.2.2	Not yet reviewed
R-38	Conform open water start language to FINA	701.2.3	Approval
R-39	Guidance regarding athlete numbering	701.3	Approval
R-40	Re-write disqualification section to clarify red/yellow flags	701.5	Approval
R-41	Re-write disqualification procedures to correspond to re-write of disqualification section	701.6	Approval
R-42	Include new language from FINA	701.16	Approval
R-43	Safety precautions regarding starts from a fixed platform	702.3	Approval
R-44	Provide for microchip technology	702.5	Approval
R-45	Bring abandonment policy into compliance with FINA	704.2	Approval
R-46	Allow for on-line entry to Open water National Championships	704.4	Approval
R-47	Allow flexibility in establishing qualifying times for Open Water Championships	704.10	Approval

HK-1	Remove reference to OW Guide (unnecessary language)	102.1 701.1	Approval
HK-2	Correct for grammar and consistency	102.8.3	Approval
HK-3	Relocate existing 102.10.10 in Disqualification section to 102.9, Swimwear section	102.9 102.10	Approval
HK-4	Update FINA's name	Global change	Approval
HK-5	Clarify "tapper"	105.2	Approval
HK-6	LSC Model Bylaws are now referred to as Required LSC Bylaws	509.1	Approval
HK-7	Updated references and terminology in Required LSC Bylaws	Required LSC Bylaws	Approval
HK-8	Delete Internet Distance Challenge	701.1	Deleted as Inappropriate Submission

# USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 2009 USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS

R-1 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1 **Location:** Page 12 Glossary Swimming Words and Terms

2  
3 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

4  
5 **Purpose:** A definition is needed as to what constitutes a meet committee, especially as it  
6 relates to 102.8.4, Postponement or Cancellation.

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8 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

9 **Meet Committee** – Unless otherwise specified in the meet information, the meet committee shall consist  
10 of the Meet Director, Meet Referee, and coach and athlete members as appropriate.

R-2 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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13  
14 **Location:** Page 16 Glossary Open Water Swimming Words and Terms

15  
16 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

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18 **Purpose:** Clarifies the meaning of “Abandonment”, “Escorted” and “Unescorted” swims in the  
19 context of the Open Water swimming event.

20  
21 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

22 **Abandonment** – Termination of an event prior to its completion due to safety considerations.

23 **Escorted Swim** – An event where each swimmer is required to have a support craft which accompanies  
24 the swimmer throughout the race.

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26 **Unescorted Swim** – An event where swimmers compete without a designated support craft. Mutual  
27 support for swimmers is available through the use of safety craft and feed stations.

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**Location:**           **Page 17 Article 101.1 Starts**  
                          **Page 33 Article 102.16 Timing**  
                          **Page 45 Article 103.15 Loudspeaker Start System**

**Proposed by:**       Michael Lawrence, on behalf of Illinois Swimming Officials Committee

**Purpose:**             To eliminate the references to gun and discontinue the use of the starter’s pistol in USA Swimming. The use of guns in sport and any reference to guns should be eliminated from the sport of swimming. Our athletes and spectators know what a Starting Pistol is, but a student or person walking in the halls and hearing gunshots could become alarmed. Potential problems can arise and have been reported. We are making these suggested rule changes to make our sport safer for all, spectators, our swimmers, and others.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

**101.1 STARTS**

.1 **Equipment** — A loudspeaker start system conforming to 103.15, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all manual timers and for forward and backstroke starts, shall be the preferred starting device. ~~A .22 caliber starting pistol may be used.~~

**102.16 TIMING**

.1 **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 ~~that whose start is started by an electric impulse generated~~ activated by a starting device ~~or a transducer capable of detecting a gun report~~ and stopped at the finish by the swimmer touching the touchpad.

B **Semi-Automatic** — A timing system ~~that whose start is started by an electric impulse generated~~ activated by a starting device ~~or transducer capable of detecting a gun report~~ 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 102.16.3C. Only hand-held, battery powered, digital read-out type watches designed for timing purposes shall be used.

**103.15 /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 ~~gun~~ final lap signal option.

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R-4 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 17 Article 101.1 Starts

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**Proposed by:** Don Hougardy, Inland Empire

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**Purpose:** Eliminate an inconsistency.

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**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

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**101.1 STARTS**

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**.3 False Starts**

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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. ~~The Starter shall restart the race upon signal by the Referee.~~

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R-5 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
<i>This item must be adopted by 90%.</i>						

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**Location:** Page 18 Article 101.2 Breaststroke

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**Proposed by:** Ohio Swimming

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**Purpose:** The inserted language makes the written rule conform to actual practice. The definition of horizontal in the rule book is "parallel to the surface level of the water". In the modern breast stroke pull, the "arms" are rarely in a horizontal plane (if the term "arm" refers to the totality of the limb). In fact, at the culmination of the pull, in most instances, the elbows are at the sides of the body and the hands at the breast, which puts each arm in an almost vertical plane. If the rule is to mean that the pull should be executed so that the arms are symmetrical in their location relative to a horizontal plane passing through them at any part of the stroke, the proposed language will make this clear and unambiguous.

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**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends rejection because the rule is clear enough as currently written and changing the wording will only create more problems.*

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**101.2 BREASTSTROKE**

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.1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.

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.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. Throughout the race the stroke cycle

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120 must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.

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122 All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and corresponding parts of each arm shall be in  
123 the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

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

129  
130 During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water.  
131 After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs.  
132 The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the  
133 second stroke.

134  
135 .3 **Kick** — After the start and each turn, a single butterfly kick, which must be followed by a  
136 breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. Following which, all  
137 movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and corresponding parts of each leg shall be in  
138 the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

139  
140 The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or  
141 downward butterfly kick is not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water  
142 with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.

143  
144 .4 **Turns and Finish** — At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both  
145 hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. The head may be submerged after the last  
146 arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last  
147 complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

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R-6 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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151 **Location:** Page 21 Article 101.7 Relays

152  
153 **Proposed by:** Jim O'Neill, New Jersey

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155 **Purpose:** Based on the current wording, it would appear that the team would be disqualified if  
156 any of the swimmers failed to touch the pad or touchplate at the conclusion of their  
157 leg, otherwise they would not have finished. If automatic take-off equipment is not  
158 employed, the finish of each leg would occur when the swimmer touches the wall at  
159 the conclusion of the leg. So there are two sets of rules regarding the legality of relay  
160 leg finishes depending on the equipment used. Perhaps the intent of the rule is to  
161 advise that the take-off equipment can only be considered if the swimmer touches the  
162 touchplate or pad at the conclusion of their leg.

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**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends rejection because it is redundant.*

164 **101.7 Relays**

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166 .3 **Rules Pertaining to Relay Races**

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B When automatic relay take-off judging is used, each swimmer must touch the touchplate or pad in his/her lane at the end of the course to have finished his/her leg of the relay race if the equipment is to be used to determine a disqualification.

R-7 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 24 Article 102.5 Lane Assignments – Seeding – Counters – Order of Heats

**Proposed by:** Jim O’Neill, New Jersey

**Purpose:** Current wording presumes the pool lanes are numbered right to left when facing the start end of the pool, but it doesn’t state that fact. If someone employed the wording to seed in a pool where the lanes are numbered left to right or were employing chase starts (starting from both ends of the pool), they would not get the correct seeding.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends rejection because the change would cause more confusion.*

184

185 **102.5 LANE ASSIGNMENTS — SEEDING — COUNTERS — ORDER OF HEATS**

186 .3 **Finals** — In finals, the times to be considered are those times made in preliminary heats. If any  
187 qualifying swimmers have the same time their respective lanes shall be determined by draw. Lane  
188 assignments shall be made in descending order of qualifying times by placing the fastest swimmer or  
189 team in the center lane in a pool with an odd number of lanes, or in lanes 3, 4, or 5 respectively in  
190 pools having 6, 8, or 10 lanes. ~~The swimmer having the next fastest time is to be placed in the lane to~~  
191 ~~the left, then alternating the other swimmer(s) to the right and left in accordance with the submitted~~  
192 ~~times. (See chart below) The remaining swimmers would be placed in their respective lanes as shown~~  
193 ~~in the chart below.~~

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R-8 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 27 Article 102.8 Change of program and Postponement

**Proposed by:** Don Hougardy, Inland Empire

**Purpose:** During a non-championship meet there are many reasons why a Meet Referee may wish to make a combination as discussed in Rule 102.8.2. Two of which, in an eight lane pool, might be: 1) to combine a heat of age 9-10 girls with seven swimmers with a heat of 9-10 boys with one swimmer, or 2) to add a 10 year old girl who missed her heat through no fault of her own with a heat, of the same stroke, of 10 year old boys where there is only one empty lane. Under the current rule these types of combinations would not be allowed. In today’s environment where we have the four hour rule for younger swimmers and we are motivated to accommodate our swimmers, and make swim meets more streamlined and an enjoyable event for all, it

210 seems that Rule 102.8.2 as proposed would give the Referee one more tool towards  
211 accomplishing these goals.  
212

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends rejection in order to eliminate the possibility of pacing, drafting, or other competitive advantage.*

213  
214 **102.8 Change of Program and Postponement**  
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- 216 .1 *no change*  
217  
218 .2 At the Meet Referee's discretion, events may be combined by age, gender, distance, and/or stroke  
219 provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events when such combined events  
220 involve different strokes and/or distances.  
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**R-9** *There are 3 proposals (A, B, C) dealing with expansion of swimwear restrictions. Only one or some combination of the proposals may be adopted.*

**R-9A** *This item has two alternatives; one requires that the provision be included as a requirement for approved meets and observed swims; the other does not impose this requirement on approved meets and observed swims.*

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R-9A -1 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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225 **Location:** **Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear**  
226 **Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval**  
227 **Page 59 Article 202.5 Requirements for Observed Swims**  
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229 **Proposed by:** Paul Lundsten, Rules and Regulations Committee  
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231 **Purpose:** To make swimming a sport that is accessible to all athletes. Economically  
232 disadvantaged athletes should have a level playing field in which to compete. USA  
233 Swimming is committed to creating opportunities for the economically disadvantaged  
234 through allocations of funding, time, and promotional programs such as Make a  
235 Splash. Otherwise USA Swimming should stop spending money to bring those  
236 athletes into swimming when they will never be able to afford it.

**Effective Date:** **Immediately**

237 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee is postponing action on this item until its September meeting.*

238  
239 **102.9 Swimwear**  
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241 .1 **Design**  
242

243 A ~~Swimsuits~~ A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined any competition except USA

244 Swimming Championships as defined in Article 207 or other meets designated by the National  
245 Team Director and General Manager, shall meet the following requirements: ~~not cover the~~  
246 ~~neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee.~~

247  
248 (1) For male swimmers, the swimsuit shall not extend below the knees nor above the navel.

249  
250 (2) For female swimmers, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders,  
251 nor past the pelvis.

252  
253 **202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or  
254 withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

255 .4 No competition shall be approved unless a sufficient number of USA Swimming officials, certified by  
256 the LSC at a minimum of Stroke and Turn level, are present to observe and certify that the conduct of  
257 competition and all times achieved in such competition were in conformance with all applicable USA  
258 Swimming technical rules including, but not limited to, the following:

259 A Article 101 (all) Start, individual stroke and relay rules  
260 or Article 105 (Disability)  
261 or Article 701 (Open Water)

262 B 102.2.2 & 3 Entry limit per day

263 C 102.9.1A Swimsuit restriction

264 ~~D~~ 102.16.4 A (1) & (2) Requirements for official time/performance

265 ~~E~~ 102.16.4 B & C Timing Resolution (including table)

266 ~~F~~ 103.2.3, 103.3.1, 103.4 Minimum standards for facilities  
267 103.12.1 & 2 and 103.14  
268 or Article 702 (Open Water)

269 **202.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS** — Swims may be observed by assigned USA  
270 Swimming officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under  
271 other than USA Swimming rules. Official times achieved as observed swims may be submitted for entry  
272 into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

273 .1 *no change*

274 .2 *no change*

275 .3 At least two USA Swimming observers, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or  
276 approved by the LSC, must be present, one at each end of the course, to verify compliance of the  
277 swim or swims, when blanket observed (all swims observed), with USA Swimming rules specified in  
278 202.4.4A, C, ~~and D~~, and E and 103.3.1. An individual swim being observed requires notification to  
279 the observers prior to the start of the competition. The times should be entered, upon request, into  
280 SWIMS, the National Times Database.

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R-9A-2 ACTION:    Adopted    Defeated    Adopted/Amended    Tabled    Postponed    Pulled <i>If R-9A-1 is adopted, this item will not require action and will be withdrawn.</i>
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283  
284 **Location:                      Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear**

285  
 286 **Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee  
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 288 **Purpose:** The Rules Committee feels that the HOD should be able to consider this legislation  
 289 absent the provision requiring adherence to this suit restriction for approved  
 290 competition or observed swims.  
 291  
 292 **Effective Date:** **Immediately**  
 293  
 294 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee is postponing action on this item until its*  
 295 *September meeting.*

293 **102.9 Swimwear**

294  
 295 **.1 Design**

296  
 297 A ~~Swimsuits~~ A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined any competition except USA  
 298 Swimming Championships as defined in Article 207 or other meets designated by the National  
 299 Team Director and General Manager, shall meet the following requirements: not cover the  
 300 neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee.

301  
 302 (1) For male swimmers, the swimsuit shall not extend below the knees nor above the navel.

303  
 304 (2) For female swimmers, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders,  
 305 nor past the pelvis.

R-9B ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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 309 **Location:** **Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear**

310  
 311 **Proposed by:** John Leonard on behalf of ASCA

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 313 **Purpose:** In order to maximize the accessibility of the sport to people of all financial means,  
 314 we want to limit swimsuits to the most basic design in the developmental levels of  
 315 the sport, (as defined by both age and performance levels). Limiting design will also  
 316 limit costs. In addition, we believe that at the age group/developmental level,  
 317 improvement in the athletes performance should come from increasing athleticism,  
 318 learning with attention to detail and appropriate training, without technical elements  
 319 of swimsuit design adding to the enhancement of improvement.

**Effective Date:** **Immediately**

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee is postponing action on this item until its*  
*September meeting.*

320 **102.9 Swimwear**

321  
 322 **.1 Design**

324 A ~~Swimsuits~~ A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition ~~shall not cover~~  
325 ~~the neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee~~ and for all 13 and older competitions  
326 below the level of LSC Age Group Championship meets shall meet the following  
327 requirements:

328  
329 (1) For male swimmers, the swimsuit shall not extend below the knees nor above the navel.

330  
331 (2) For female swimmers, the swimsuit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders,  
332 nor past the pelvis.

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R-9C ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled

335  
336 **Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9. Swimwear

337  
338 **Proposed by:** Peter Malone, on behalf of the Senior Development Committee

339  
340 **Purpose:** The Senior Development Committee believes that age group competition from 14  
341 and under should limit the type of technical swimming suit that is used. This is an  
342 increase of one age group (from 12 and under to 14 and under).

343  
344 **Effective Date:** Immediately

345  
**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee is postponing action on this item until its  
September meeting.*

346 **102.9 Swimwear**

347  
348 .1 **Design**

349  
350 A ~~Swimsuits~~ A swimsuit worn for all ~~12~~ 14 & under age group defined competition shall not  
351 cover the neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the ~~knee~~ pelvis for females, and shall not  
352 extend above the navel or below the knees for males.

353  
354  
R-10 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled

*Note: if R-9A is adopted, the provision to move this section to Article 205 will be withdrawn, but the  
additional language regarding exemptions and procedures for exemptions will be presented under  
102.9.1A.*

355  
356 **Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9. Swimwear

357  
358 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

359  
360 **Purpose:** To move swimsuit restrictions from Part One of the Rulebook to Part Two. Part One  
361 contains the technical rules to our sport and as a general rule, we do not allow  
362 modifications of any kind to the rules in Part One. Some LSCs have enacted stricter  
363 swimsuit restrictions for age group swimmers and by moving the provision to Part  
364 Two, it does not require any waivers to our technical rules. In addition, the current

365 practice that allows for an exemption due to religious or medical reasons is added.  
366

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

367  
368 **102.9 Swimwear**

369  
370 **.1 Design**

371  
372 ~~A Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck,~~  
373 ~~extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee.~~

374  
375 *Renumber B & C*

376  
377 **205.10 SWIMWEAR IN AGE GROUP COMPETITION**

378  
379 .1 A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend  
380 past the shoulders, nor past the knee.

381  
382 A Exemptions to this restriction may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the  
383 Chair of the Rules & Regulations Committee, or his/her designee. Exemptions will be  
384 granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's religious beliefs or due to medical conditions.

385  
386 B Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules & Regulations  
387 Committee and posted on the USA Swimming website. The decision of the Rules Chair can  
388 be appealed only to the entire Rules & Regulations Committee whose decision shall be final  
389 and binding on all parties.

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R-11 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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392  
393 **Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9. Swimwear  
394 Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval  
395 Page 59 Article 202.5 Requirements for Observed Swims

396  
397 **Proposed by:** Peter Malone, on behalf of the Senior Development Committee

398  
399 **Purpose:** Due to FINA swimwear rule changes, it has become necessary to create rules within  
400 USA Swimming to accommodate for approved swimwear.

401  
402 **Effective Date:** Immediately

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee is postponing consideration of this, as well as any modifications, until its September meeting which will be after the FINA Congress in Rome.*

403 **102.9 SWIMWEAR**

404  
405 **.1 Approval and Availability**

406

407 A All swimsuits for Senior level competitions within USA Swimming must be on the FINA list of  
408 approved suits.

409  
410 B All swimsuits for Senior level competitions must be available for all competitors by January 1 of  
411 that year.

412  
413 C Swimsuits at Senior level competitions may be inspected by the head official at a competition (or  
414 his/her designee) to ensure the swimsuits meet FINA standards.

415  
416 *Re-number remaining*

417  
418 **202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or  
419 withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

420 .4 No competition shall be approved unless a sufficient number of USA Swimming officials, certified by  
421 the LSC at a minimum of Stroke and Turn level, are present to observe and certify that the conduct of  
422 competition and all times achieved in such competition were in conformance with all applicable USA  
423 Swimming technical rules including, but not limited to, the following:

424 A Article 101 (all) Start, individual stroke and relay rules  
425 or Article 105 (Disability)  
426 or Article 701 (Open Water)

427 B 102.2.2 & 3 Entry limit per day

428 C 102.9.1 Swimwear (Approval and Availability)

429 ~~C~~ D 102.16.4 A (1) & (2) Requirements for official time/performance

430 ~~D~~ E 102.16.4 B & C Timing Resolution (including table)

431 ~~E~~ F 103.2.3, 103.3.1, 103.4 Minimum standards for facilities  
432 103.12.1 & 2 and 103.14  
433 or Article 702 (Open Water)

434 **202.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS** — Swims may be observed by assigned USA  
435 Swimming officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under  
436 other than USA Swimming rules. Official times achieved as observed swims may be submitted for entry  
437 into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

438 .1 *no change*

439 .2 *no change*

440 .3 At least two USA Swimming observers, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or  
441 approved by the LSC, must be present, one at each end of the course, to verify compliance of the  
442 swim or swims, when blanket observed (all swims observed), with USA Swimming rules specified in  
443 202.4.4A, C, ~~and D~~, and E and 103.3.1. An individual swim being observed requires notification to  
444 the observers prior to the start of the competition. The times should be entered, upon request, into  
445 SWIMS, the National Times Database.

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**Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear  
Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval  
Page 59 Article 202.5 Requirements for Observed Swims

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** To make our rules regarding the number of swimsuits that may be worn during a competition conform to those of FINA.

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

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**102.9 Swimwear**

**.1 Design**

- A ~~Swimsuits~~ A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee.
- B During a race, a competitor is permitted to wear only one swimsuit, in one or two pieces.

*renumber remaining*

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**202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

.4 No competition shall be approved unless a sufficient number of USA Swimming officials, certified by the LSC at a minimum of Stroke and Turn level, are present to observe and certify that the conduct of competition and all times achieved in such competition were in conformance with all applicable USA Swimming technical rules including, but not limited to, the following:

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- A Article 101 (all) Start, individual stroke and relay rules  
or Article 105 (Disability)  
or Article 701 (Open Water)
- B 102.2.2 & 3 Entry limit per day
- C 102.9.1B One-suit rule
- ~~C~~D 102.16.4 A (1) & (2) Requirements for official time/performance
- ~~D~~E 102.16.4 B & C Timing Resolution (including table)
- ~~E~~F 103.2.3, 103.3.1, 103.4 Minimum standards for facilities  
103.12.1 & 2 and 103.14  
or Article 702 (Open Water)

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**202.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS** — Swims may be observed by assigned USA Swimming officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under other than USA Swimming rules. Official times achieved as observed swims may be submitted for entry

490 into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

491 .1 *no change*

492 .2 *no change*

493 .3 At least two USA Swimming observers, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or  
494 approved by the LSC, must be present, one at each end of the course, to verify compliance of the  
495 swim or swims, when blanket observed (all swims observed), with USA Swimming rules specified in  
496 202.4.4A, C, ~~and D~~, and E and 103.3.1. An individual swim being observed requires notification to  
497 the observers prior to the start of the competition. The times should be entered, upon request, into  
498 SWIMS, the National Times Database.

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R-13 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled  
*This item is contingent upon the passage of R-12. Additionally, if R-10 is not adopted, all provisions will be incorporated into 109.2 instead of the new 205.10.*

501

502 **Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear  
503 Article 205.10 Swimwear in Age Group Competition (*new R-10*)

504  
505 **Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee

506  
507 **Purpose:** To allow for an exception for age group athletes to wear modesty garments  
508 underneath the competition suit.

509  
510 **Effective Date:** Immediately

511  
512 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee makes no recommendation.*

513  
514 **102.9 Swimwear**

515  
516 **.1 Design**

517  
518 B During a race, a competitor is permitted to wear only one swimsuit, in one or two pieces  
519 (*new, R-12*), except as provided in 205.10.2.

520  
521 **205.10 SWIMWEAR IN AGE GROUP COMPETITION** (*new, R-10*)

522  
523 **.1 Swimsuits** A swimsuit worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the  
524 neck, extend past the shoulders, nor past the knee.

525  
526 A Exemptions to this restriction may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the  
527 Chair of the Rules & Regulations Committee, or his/her designee. Exemptions will be  
528 granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's religious beliefs or due to medical conditions.

529  
530 B Procedures for applying for an exemption will be established by the Rules & Regulations  
531 Committee and posted on the USA Swimming website. The decision of the Rules Chair can  
532 be appealed only to the entire Rules & Regulations Committee whose decision shall be final

533 and binding on all parties.

534

535 .2 For age group competitions, it is permissible for an athlete to wear a single set of garments underneath  
536 his or her competition swimsuit for modesty and privacy reasons. (Note: if R-10 is not adopted, this  
537 paragraph will be moved to 102.9).

538

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R-14	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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540

541 **Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9.3A Swimwear Advertising

542

543 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

544

545 **Purpose:** To make our rules for advertising on swimwear consistent with those of FINA

546

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

547 **102.9 Swimwear**

548

549 .3 **Advertising**

550

551 A In the competition venue or complex of all events conducted by and under the control of USA  
552 Swimming or any LSC or division thereof, no swimsuit shall carry any visible marquee or  
553 insignia in the form of advertising (except design or trademarks of members or Organizing  
554 Committees for Olympic, World, Continental and Regional Championships) other than the  
555 trademark on technical equipment or clothing, that is in excess of ~~16~~ 20 sq. cm. (~~2.48~~ 3.1 sq.  
556 in.) in area. A trademark may be repeated provided a name is used only once on a suit.  
557 Offenders may be barred from competition, until they comply with this rule.

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R-15	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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560

561 **Location:** Page 41 Article 103.2 Water Depth

562

563 **Proposed by:** Board of Directors

564

565 **Purpose:** To clarify that racing starts should be taught only under the direct supervision of a  
566 USA Swimming member coach; to expand the definition of teaching racing starts to  
567 make clear that no swimmer who has not been certified as proficient by his or her  
568 coach should be performing racing starts in less than six feet of water.

569

**Effective Date:** Immediately

570

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

571 **103.2 WATER DEPTH**

572 .1 /NC/2 meters (6 feet 7 inches) deep throughout the course.

573 .2 /M/**Teaching Racing Starts** – Minimum water depth for teaching racing starts in any setting from  
574 any height starting blocks or the deck shall be 6 feet (1.84 meters) measured for a distance of 3 feet 3  
575 ½ inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall. Teaching racing starts shall  
576 only take place under the direct supervision of a USA Swimming member coach and shall include:

577 A All racing start instruction until a swimmer has been certified by his or her USA Swimming  
578 member coach as proficient in performing a racing start, and

579 B All instruction, subsequent to certification, which seeks to alter a swimmer’s basic technique in  
580 performing a racing start.

581

R-16 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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582

583 **Location:** Page 45 Article 103.14 Location of Backstroke Flags and Lines

584

585 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

586

587 **Purpose:** Some local pools do not have the ability to position backstroke flags at the proper  
588 distance or height from the end of the course and/or from water’s surface. LSCs  
589 should be able to waive strict compliance where they do not have the ability to meet  
590 those requirements.

591

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

592

593 **103.14 /M/ BACKSTROKE FLAGS AND LINES**

594

595 .1 *no change*

596

597 .2 **Location /LSC/:**

598

599 A Long course and short course meters: 5 meters (16 feet 5 inches) from each end of the course, a  
600 minimum of 1.8 meters (5 feet 11 inches) to a maximum of 2.5 meters (8 feet 3 inches) above  
601 the water surface.

602

603 B Short course yards: 15 feet (4.57 meters) from each end of the course, 7 feet (2.13 meters)  
604 above the water surface.

605

606 C Height shall be measured to the horizontal line from which the pennants are suspended.

607

608 .3 For long course backstroke, individual medley, and medley relay events a firmly stretched 1/4 inch  
609 line without flags or pennants shall be suspended at midpoint of the course. /LSC/

610

611

R-17 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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612

613 **Location:** Page 51 Article 105.1 General

614

615 **Proposed by:** Disability Committee, co-sponsored by Rules & Regulations Committee

616  
617 **Purpose:** To clarify that having a personal assistant(s) can be a reasonable accommodation for a  
618 swimmer with a disability.  
619

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

620 **105.1 GENERAL**

621 .1 **Authority** — *no change*

622  
623 .2 **Responsibilities** – *no change*

624  
625 .3 **Modifications** — Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.10.10). Some of the  
626 modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the athlete with a disability are:

- 627  
628 (1) A change in starting position.  
629  
630 (2) Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.  
631  
632 (3) Allowing the athlete's to have a personal assistant(s). on the deck to assist with a start. A  
633 personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming unless acting in a  
634 coaching capacity.  
635  
636 (4) Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of  
637 disability.  
638  
639

R-18 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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640  
641 **Location:** **Page 52 Article 105.3 Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

642  
643 **Proposed by:** Gail Dummer, on behalf of the Disability Committee

644  
645 **Purpose:** To allow for a non-auditory recall device such as a rope.  
646

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee has referred this item back to the Disability Committee.*

647 **105.3 Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

648  
649 .1 Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal, i.e., a strobe light and/or Starter's  
650 arm signals. The Referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat, i.e., exchanging one lane for  
651 another, so that the strobe light or Starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of  
652 hearing swimmer. Standard Starter's arm signals are shown in Figure 1. ~~A false start rope is required~~  
653 ~~in the event of a recall.~~ A non-auditory recall signal (such as a false start rope) is required in the  
654 event of a recall.

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R-19 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 52 Article 105.5 PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

**Proposed by:** Disability Committee, co-sponsored by Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** To provide authority for necessary modifications in the rules regarding a swimmer with no leg function.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

**105.5 PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

- .1 no change
- .2 no change
- .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 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.

R-20 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 55 Article 202.1 Sanctions and Approvals

**Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** Inter-squad meets are tantamount to practices and are therefore insured activities not requiring a sanction; however, if teams want the times to be entered into SWIMS, they must get the inter-squad competitions sanctioned or approved. This legislation seeks to eliminate a sentence that causes a good deal of confusion among the membership.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

**202.1 JURISDICTION** — As the National Governing Body for competitive swimming in the United States and as a Federation member of FINA, USA Swimming has the sole and exclusive authority to sanction or approve domestic and international swimming competition conducted within its jurisdiction. Each Local Swimming Committee (LSC), as the administrative arm of USA Swimming, is authorized to issue the sanction or approval for all swimming competition and benefits, exhibitions, clinics and entertainment involving competitive swimming within its geographical boundaries. Additional

700 requirements/conditions for sanction or approval, other than those listed in 202.2, 202.3 and 202.4, may  
701 be established by a vote of the LSC House of Delegates in accordance with LSC Bylaws. ~~Sanction is not~~  
702 ~~required for closed competition which is restricted to members of a single Group Member of USA~~  
703 ~~Swimming, although it may be issued by the LSC upon proper application.~~  
704  
705

R-21 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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706  
707 **Location:** Page 57, Article 202.3.1 Conditions of Sanction  
708  
709 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee  
710  
711 **Purpose:** To clarify that in certain circumstances we do allow foreign swimmer to participate  
712 in our sanctioned swim meets even if they are not members of USA Swimming. The  
713 two primary circumstances are when swimmers are participating under the provisions  
714 of 202.6, International Events within the Unites States, or under our “open border”  
715 policy which allows athletes from certain countries to participate without restriction.  
716  
**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

717  
718 **202.3 Conditions of Sanction** – Any event for which a sanction is required according to 202.1 is subject  
719 to the following conditions:  
720  
721 .1 No swimmer who is not a member as provided in Article 302 will be allowed to compete or  
722 participate except as provided under 202.6 or USA Swimming’s “open border” policy included in  
723 its Registration Manual.  
724  
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R-22 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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726  
727 **Location:** Page 57 Article 202.3 Conditions of Sanction  
728 Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval  
729  
730 **Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee  
731  
732 **Purpose:** To be consistent with the focus on safety, the meet announcement should include  
733 information about water depth.  
734  
**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

735 **202.3. CONDITIONS OF SANCTION** — Any event for which a sanction is required according to  
736 202.1 is subject to the following conditions:  
737  
738 .6 The meet announcement shall include information about water depth measured for a distance of 3 feet  
739 3 ½ inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from both end walls.  
740  
741 *Renumber remaining*  
742  
743 **202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or

744 withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

745  
746 .12 The meet announcement shall include information about water depth measured for a distance of 3 feet  
747 3 ½ inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from both end walls.

748  
749 *Renumber remaining*

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751

R-23 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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752  
753 **Location:** Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval

754  
755 **Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee

756  
757 **Purpose:** To discourage the use of approved meet status as a means to avoid USA Swimming  
758 membership.

759  
760 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

761 **202.4 REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** – Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or withdrawn  
762 by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

763 .1 Approvals may be issued to ~~either USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs or non-member clubs/ or~~  
764 organizations for meets conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules.

765  
766 .2 Approvals may be issued to member clubs for closed competition (such as YMCAs) conducted in  
767 accordance with USA swimming technical rules.

768  
769 .3 Approvals may be issued to member clubs for open competition conducted in accordance with USA  
770 Swimming technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the USA Swimming  
771 Program Operations Vice-President or his/her designee.

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R-24 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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774  
775 **Location:** Page 58 Article 202.4 Requirements for Approval

776  
777 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

778  
779 **Purpose:** Determination of official time should be a requirement for approved meets.

780  
781 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

782 **202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or  
783 withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

784 .4 No competition shall be approved unless a sufficient number of USA Swimming officials, certified by  
785 the LSC at a minimum of Stroke and Turn level, are present to observe and certify that the conduct of  
786 competition and all times achieved in such competition were in conformance with all applicable USA  
Swimming technical rules including, but not limited to, the following:

787	A Article 101 (all)	Start, individual stroke and relay rules
788	or Article 105	(Disability)
789	or Article 701	(Open Water)
790	B 102.2.2 & 3	Entry limit per day
791	C 102.16.4 A (1) & (2)	Requirements for official time/performance
792	D 102.16.4 B & C	Timing Resolution (including table)
793	<u>E 102.16.5</u>	<u>Determination of Official Time</u>
794	<del>E</del> F 103.2.3, 103.3.1, 103.4	Minimum standards for facilities
795	103.12.1 & 2 and 103.14	
796	or Article 702 (Open Water)	
797		
798		

R-25	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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799  
800 **Location:** Page 59 Article 202.5 Requirements for Observed Swims  
801  
802 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee  
803  
804 **Purpose:** The Rule Book should be consistent with actual practice. This legislation seeks to  
805 clarify that observers should observe only that part of a swim where the rules of USA  
806 Swimming differ from the rules of the organization under whose rules the meet is  
807 being conducted. In all other instances, the judgment of the organization officials is  
808 respected.  
809

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

810 **202.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS** — Swims may be observed by assigned USA  
811 Swimming officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under  
812 other than USA Swimming rules. Official times achieved as observed swims may be submitted for entry  
813 into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

- 814 .1 The meet must be a season-culminating Championship, e.g., League, Conference, District, Sectional,  
815 State, Regional, or be specifically approved by the USA Swimming Program Operations Vice  
816 President or designee. A time trial held in conjunction with the season-culminating championship  
817 meet that is officiated in accordance with the same standard as the championship meet may also be  
818 observed.
- 819 .2 Requests for USA Swimming observers for certification of times from meets in the championship  
820 progression must be made to the host LSC in accordance with LSC procedures at least 10 days prior  
821 to the meet. Applications for observation of all other meets must be made to the host LSC at least 10  
822 days prior to the meet. Authorization of such non-championship meets must then be approved by the  
823 USA Swimming Program Operations Vice President or designee.
- 824 .3 A USA Swimming official must verify that all swims approved for USA Swimming purposes were in  
825 accordance with the requirements of 102.16.4 (Requirements for Official Times), 102.16.5  
826 (Determination of Official Time), 103.3.1 (Racing Course Dimensions), and 103.12.1 & 2 (Starting  
827 Platforms).

828 .34 Where the technical rules of the stroke differ from USA Swimming as defined in Article 101, at least  
 829 two USA Swimming observers, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or approved by  
 830 the LSC, must be present, one at each end of the course, to verify compliance of the swim or swims;  
 831 when blanket observed (all swims observed), with USA Swimming rules specified in 202.4.4A, C,  
 832 and D, and 103.3.1. with that part of the USA Swimming rule that differs from the organization's  
 833 rule. Where the technical rules as listed in Article 101 are identical to those of the organization under  
 834 whose rules the meet is being conducted, the judgment of the organization officials shall be sufficient.  
 835 An individual swim being observed requires notification to the observers prior to the start of the  
 836 competition. The times should be entered, upon request, into SWIMS, the National Times Database.  
 837  
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R-26 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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839  
 840 **Location:** Page 61 Article 203.5 Representation  
 841  
 842 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee  
 843  
 844 **Purpose:** To remove a conflict and to clarify that an LSC or club cannot prohibit the transfer of  
 845 an athlete from one club to another club. This article deals only with representation  
 846 during competition and cannot be used to prohibit an athlete from transferring from  
 847 one club to another. Article 203.6 separately deals with representation, not  
 848 membership, when there is an outstanding court judgment for non-payment of dues  
 849 or fees.  
 850

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

851 **203.5** When transferring between LSCs or clubs the swimmer shall submit a completed transfer form in  
 852 accordance with USA Swimming and LSC procedures. When transferring from one club to another  
 853 within the same LSC, the procedural requirements established by the LSC shall be followed. LSCs may  
 854 not establish procedures for transfers which effectively deny a swimmer the right to transfer from one  
 855 LSC or club to another.  
 856  
 857

**R-27** *There are two proposals (A,B) relative to entry fees. R-27A is preferred by the proposer; if it is not adopted, the second proposal should be considered.*

858

R-27A ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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859  
 860 **Location:** Page 70 Article 207.9 Entry Forms and Official Meet Information  
 861  
 862 **Proposed by:** Peter Malone, on behalf of the Senior Development Committee  
 863  
 864 **Purpose:** Entry fees should be listed in the Policy Manual so that adjustments can be made as  
 865 necessary by the appropriate committees/individuals, subject Board approval, as  
 866 opposed to HOD approval.  
 867

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

868 **207.9 ENTRY FORMS AND OFFICIAL MEET INFORMATION**

- 869 .1 The entry forms and information shall be prepared under joint direction of the Program Operations Vice President,  
870 the Rules Chairman, the Meet Director, and the Executive Director.
- 871 .2 The meet information shall state qualifying times and procedures necessary for proof of entry times. (See 207.8)  
872 For a USA Swimming Championship meet, Program Operations may permit bonus events. For each qualifying  
873 time achieved in an individual event, additional bonus events may be allowed. Requirements for bonus events will be  
874 specified in the meet information.
- ~~3 Entry fees shall be \$10.00 for individual events and \$25.00 for relay teams.~~

875

R-27B ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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876

877 **Location:** Page 70 Article 207.9 Entry Forms and Official Meet Information

878

879 **Proposed by:** Peter Malone, on behalf of the Senior Development Committee

880

881 **Purpose:** The Senior Development Committee believes that the time is appropriate to increase  
882 entry fees for national level meets. This belief is based on a comparison of other  
883 national level meets from comparable organizations. The last time a change was  
884 made to the entry fee amounts was at the 2000 convention.  
885

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval if R-27A is not adopted.*

886 **207.9 ENTRY FORMS AND OFFICIAL MEET INFORMATION**

- 887 .1 *no change*
- 888 .2 *no change*
- 889 .3 Entry fees shall be ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00 for individual events and ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00 for relay teams.

890

R-28 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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891

892 **Location:** Page 70 Article 207.10 Entries

893

894 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

895

896 **Purpose:** This rule change deletes the reference to entry blanks and electronic entries. The  
897 wording gives flexibility for future OME system enhancements and procedures by  
898 referring to the Meet Information for the current entry procedure.  
899

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

900

901 **207.10 Entries**

902

903 .1 A swimmer and/or relay team will be officially entered when the ~~entry blanks or electronic~~ entries are  
904 received by USA Swimming prior to the meet entry deadline. The method and procedure for  
905 submission of entries will be stated in the meet information.

906

R-29 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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907

908 **Location:** Page 70 Article 207.10 Entries

909

910 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

911

912 **Purpose:** This rule change deletes the reference to entry forms. This rule would also permit  
913 coaches to update entry times up to the entry deadline. This may encourage coaches  
914 to begin entries sooner as opposed to waiting until last chance meets in the event the  
915 athletes achieved faster times.

916

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

917

#### 918 207.10 Entries

919

920 .5 Only swimmers and relay teams ~~listed on the official entry~~ entered using the procedures stated in the  
921 meet information shall be eligible to compete. ~~No changes in Submitted times may be updated up to~~  
922 the entry deadline. Corrections or changes of events entered, or additional entries shall be allowed.  
923 No corrections or changes of events entered or additional entries will be accepted after the entry  
924 deadline. Typographical or transcription errors which can be readily verified by entry data or National  
925 Times Data Base data may be corrected if attested to by the swimmer, coach, or the swimmer's  
926 representative prior to the scratch deadline.

927

R-30 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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928

929 **Location:** Page 70 Article 207.10 Entries

930

931 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

932

933 **Purpose:** This rule change deletes reference to relay athletes having to be entered on an entry  
934 form. The current process is that a "Roster" is built in OME and "Relay Only"  
935 athletes are designated as such within OME. This rule also refers to the Meet Book  
936 for the current entry procedure.

937

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

938

#### 940 207.10 Entries

941

#### 942 . 8 Relay Entries

943

944 A A club may enter no more than two relay teams in each relay event.

945

946 B Only swimmers ~~listed on the entry form for an organization~~ entered in accordance with the

947 meet information shall be eligible to compete for that organization in relay events.

R-31 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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948

949 **Location:** **Page 71 Article 207.12 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming**  
950 **Championships**

951

952 **Proposed by:** Dale Petranech, Middle Atlantic

953

954 **Purpose:** To add wording re: team scoring

955

956 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends rejection as not necessary.*

957

958 **207.12 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships**

959

960 **.9 Scoring** - Except for Trials Class meets, scoring at the USA Swimming national Championships shall  
961 be mandatory.

962

963 D Team score shall be determined by the aggregate of points scored by individual swimmers and  
964 relays representing the team. To be eligible for Combined Men's and Women's Team Awards a  
965 team must have scored points in both the Men's and Women's Team ~~C~~categories.

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R-32 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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968

969 **Location:** **Page 90 Article 304.3 Code of Conduct**

970

971 **Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

972

973 **Purpose:** Amendments were made on the floor of the House of Delegates last year which failed  
974 to emphasize the need to specifically protect athletes. We need a “hands-off” rule as  
975 to athletes regarding sexual misconduct from a coach (particularly their own coach)  
976 or any other adult involved in USA-S activities. There is an inherent imbalance of  
977 power in such relationships that requires our protection. The second sentence is  
978 meant to cover everybody and provide protection from sexual harassment, etc. by  
979 clearly defining sexual harassment (by an adult against another adult or an athlete  
980 member) as a violation, and define who could be an offending party regarding an  
981 athlete (the old language basically only covered coaches).

982

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

983 **.5** Any sexual conduct, advance or other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior or action directed  
984 towards ~~a member~~ an athlete by (i) a coach member or other non-athlete member, or (ii) any other  
985 adult participating in any capacity whatsoever in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming ~~or its~~  
986 ~~LSCs~~ (whether such adult is a member or not). Any nonconsensual physical sexual conduct, or pattern  
987 of unwelcome advances or other sexual harassment in connection with or incidental to a USA  
988 Swimming-related activity by any person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming ~~or~~  
989 ~~its LSCs~~ (whether such person is a member or not) directed toward any member or other person  
990 participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming ~~or its LSCs~~.

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**Location:**           **Page 110 Article 502.2 Group Membership**  
                              **Page 110 Article 502.3 Individual Membership**

**Proposed by:**       Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:**             To clarify that LSCs may not impose additional requirements for membership beyond those described in Article 502. Some LSCs currently require a birth certificate or other evidence of birth date for initial athlete and/or coach membership. Such additional membership requirements are not authorized by the Rules of USA Swimming. One need not prove one's birth date in order to become a member of USA Swimming. If a credible issue arises as to whether an athlete has properly indicated his/her birth date for age group competition purposes, and, after proper request from the LSC, refuses to provide such proof, then the athlete may be required to compete in the Senior or Open classification but must be allowed to compete under the Amateur Sports Act.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1010   **502.2 Group Membership**

1011    .1 Club Membership

1012       A Club membership is for a calendar year. A club applying for membership on or after September 1  
1013       will receive membership valid through December 31 of the following year.

1014       B An LSC may provide for a seasonal club membership for the period established by the LSC  
1015       pursuant to Article 302.2.3. Seasonal clubs may not compete at or above the Zone Championship  
1016       level.

1017       C An LSC shall not impose requirements for Club Membership in addition to those set forth in  
1018       Article 502.

1019    .2 Organizational Membership

1020       A The Board of Directors may establish classes of organizational membership.

1021       B Any organization which is interested in competitive swimming, on either the national, state, or  
1022       local level, may join USA Swimming.

1023   **502.3 Individual Membership**

1024    .1 Any individual may join USA Swimming as a member.

1025    .2 Athlete members who register with an LSC and USA Swimming are eligible for swimming  
1026    competition. An athlete member shall not be registered in more than one LSC simultaneously.

1027    .3 Non-athlete membership consists of three classes: individual, family, and life.

1028    .4 Each class of membership (except life membership, seasonal membership and single-meet open water  
1029    membership) is for a calendar year period. Individuals applying for calendar year membership on or  
1030    after September 1 will receive membership credentials through the following year.

1031    .5 An LSC shall not impose requirements for Individual Membership in addition to those set forth in  
1032    Article 502. An LSC may require proof of birth date prior to competition in age classified events.

R-34 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 115 Article 506.1 Committees and Coordinators

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** To reflect what is actually happening with respect to athlete members of USA Swimming Committees. Athlete members of committees are appointed by the Athletes Committee under the provision of 506.2.5 to serve for a one-year term and are not subject to the two four-year term limits.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

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**506.1 Committees and Coordinators**

- .1 Standing committees of USA Swimming shall be as listed in this Article.
- .2 Except for those individuals who qualify for their positions under some other provision of Article 506:
  - A Non-athlete Committee members shall serve four year terms;
  - B Non-athlete Committee members' terms shall be staggered so that one-fourth of all non-athlete members are appointed each year by the President following the annual meeting of the corporation;
  - C *no change*
  - D *no change*
  - E *no change*
  - F *no change*
  - G An appointed non-athlete committee member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms and may be reappointed following a lapse of one year.

R-35 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 125 Article 511.5 Late Submission and Majority Required

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** The Rules & Regulations Committee does not meet until after the May 15 deadline for submitting legislation. There are occasions the Committee, during this meeting, identifies portions of the Rulebook that require an amendment. This amendment will allow the Committee to consider and submit legislation during this meeting without it being subject to a 90% approval.

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**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

**511.5 Late Submission and Majority Required** After the deadline has expired for submission of legislation to the Rules & Regulations Committee, new and/or additional amendments may be proposed, but they may be adopted only by an affirmative vote of nine-tenths (9/10) of the members of the House of Delegates present and voting. For purposes of this Article, legislation originating within the Rules & Regulations Committee will be considered as being submitted before the deadline as long as it is published in accordance with Article 511.3.

*Renumber remaining provisions*

R-36 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 125 Article 511.6 Amendments

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** The short course season is typically completed before the end of April and the long course season often starts before May 15. It is desirable to have the technical rules consistent throughout the season.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

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**511.6 Effective Date** All amendments to Part One of these Rules and Regulations approved as prescribed shall become effective on May ~~15~~ 1 of the year following their adoption, unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption. All other amendments to these Rules and Regulations approved as prescribed shall become effective on January 1 of the year following their adoption unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

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R-37 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled\
<i>This item must pass by 90%.</i>						

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**Location:** Page 142 Article 701.2 Rules

**Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, Rules and Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** Host Committees should be required to notify all participants whether they will be required to provide an escort support craft and what type of support will be provided to the swimmers.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee has not yet reviewed this item.*

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**701.2 Rules**

.2 The Host Committee must ~~declare~~ include in the meet information the policy for abandonment and whether the race will be an “escorted” or “unescorted” swim. Under most circumstances, races

1120 longer than 10KM will be designated “escorted” swims.

1121

R-38 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1122

1123 **Location:** Page 142 Article 701.2 Rules

1124

1125 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1126

1127 **Purpose:** This conforms to the change to FINA OWS 4.1 – Manchester

1128

1129 **Effective Date:** Immediately

1130

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1131

1132 **701.2 Rules**

1133

1134 .3 The Start

1135

1136 A *no change*

1137

1138 B In all starts the start signal shall be both audible and visible. For fixed platform starts, the Starter shall give the command “Take Your Mark” at which time the swimmers will assume a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

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R-39 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1145 **Location:** Page 143 Article 701.3 Marking

1146

1147 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1148

1149 **Purpose:** Gives guidance on athlete numbering so that each athlete is numbered identically.

1150

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1151

**701.3 Marking** - Prior to the start, entrants shall be marked with their race number on both upper arms and their upper backs. The competitors shall be numbered vertically down the arms and horizontally across the upper backs. Depending on the finish system used, the Referee may also require numbering elsewhere on the body (hands or thighs). Paddlers and escort boats for escorted swims ~~individual swimmers~~ shall also be marked on both sides with the swimmers race number so it is easily seen from either side.

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R-40 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1160 **Location:** Page 143 Article 701.5 Disqualifications

1161  
1162 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations  
1163  
1164 **Purpose:** This change clarifies what OWS infractions are penalized with a Red Flag and which  
1165 are penalized with a Yellow flag. Used in conjunction with 701.6.  
1166  
1167 **Effective Date:** **Immediately**  
1168

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1169 **701.5 Disqualifications** — ~~A swimmer shall be disqualified for:~~

- 1170  
1171 ~~.1 Willfully or intentionally delaying or impeding the progress of another swimmer. (Note: Incidental~~  
1172 ~~contact, especially at the start of the event, shall not be a basis for disqualification.);~~  
1173  
1174 .1 **RED FLAG** — A swimmer shall receive a Red Flag and be disqualified from further competition for:  
1175  
1176 A Accumulating two yellow flag infractions for any combination of rules violations. The Red Flag  
1177 will be issued at the time of the second infraction;  
1178  
1179 B Failing to swim or complete the prescribed course. Competitors who do not finish the course  
1180 within the time limit shall be removed from the water except that the Referee may allow a  
1181 competitor outside the time limit to complete the course but not participate in any points or prizes  
1182 awarded;  
1183  
1184 C Receiving assistance by pulling the cables, lane markers, buoys or buoy lines (Note: Incidental  
1185 contact shall not be grounds for disqualification.);  
1186  
1187 D Receiving propulsive aid from anyone in boats or other escort craft of any kind;  
1188  
1189 E Walking or pushing off the bottom or objects thereon. (Note: Pushing off at the start or walking at  
1190 the finish where an on-shore finish is employed is permitted.);  
1191  
1192 ~~.6 Violating the swimwear rules. No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may~~  
1193 ~~be an aid to his/her speed, endurance or buoyancy. Goggles, a maximum of two (2) caps, nose clip,~~  
1194 ~~and earplugs may be used;~~  
1195  
1196 ~~.7 Receiving aid from a non-competing person in the form of pacing;~~  
1197  
1198 ~~.8 Taking an unfair advantage by slipstreaming an escort safety craft (Race judges shall instruct~~  
1199 ~~swimmers who are taking unfair advantage by pacing or slipstreaming with escort safety craft to~~  
1200 ~~move clear.);~~  
1201  
1202 ~~.9 Actions of his/her escort safety craft or coach that interfere with another swimmer's progress or for~~  
1203 ~~failure of his/her craft or coach to heed the instruction of an assigned official;~~  
1204  
1205 F Receiving support from any fixed or floating object or touching or being touched by his/her  
1206 escort safety craft or the crew. (Standing on the bottom during the race shall not disqualify the  
1207 swimmer. Incidental physical contact while giving food or liquid to a swimmer shall not result in  
1208 disqualification.) Being touched by water safety personnel will not necessarily result in  
1209 disqualification;

- 1210  
 1211 G Unsporting conduct. Swimmers will be disqualified if they, or their support craft or support  
 1212 personnel commit an act that is deemed unsporting by the Referee. Examples of unsporting  
 1213 conduct include intentionally striking another swimmer, refusing to re-round a turn mark and  
 1214 intentional interference with another swimmer while approaching the finish;  
 1215  
 1216 H Violating the swimwear rules. No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device which  
 1217 may be an aid to his/her endurance, or buoyancy. Goggles, a maximum of two (2) caps, nose clip  
 1218 and earplugs may be used.

1219  
 1220 .2 **YELLOW FLAG** – A swimmer shall receive a Yellow Flag caution for:  
 1221

- 1222 A Gaining an unfair advantage at the start If in the opinion of the Referee an unfair advantage has  
 1223 been gained at the start the offending competitor will be given a Yellow Flag or a Red Flag as  
 1224 determined by the Referee;  
 1225  
 1226 B Receiving aid from a non-competing person in the form of pacing;  
 1227  
 1228 C Taking an unfair advantage by slipstreaming an escort safety craft. (Race judges shall instruct  
 1229 swimmers who are taking unfair advantage by pacing or slipstreaming with escort safety craft to  
 1230 move clear.);  
 1231  
 1232 D Actions of his/her escort craft that interfere with another swimmers progress or for failure of  
 1233 his/her craft or coach to heed the instruction of an assigned official;  
 1234  
 1235 E Intentional contact with another swimmer or contact which causes interference.  
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R-41 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
	<i>R-40 must pass to make this item applicable.</i>					

1238  
 1239 **Location:** **Page 143 Disqualification Procedure**  
 1240  
 1241 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations  
 1242  
 1243 **Purpose:** 701.6 should be re-structured in order to work with the re-structuring of 701.5  
 1244 Disqualifications.  
 1245  
 1246 **Effective Date:** **Immediately**  
 1247

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1248 **701.6 Disqualification Procedure:** ~~If in the opinion of the Referee or Assistant Referee, any swimmer~~  
 1249 ~~or escort safety craft commits any of the infractions in this section, the following procedure shall apply:~~  
 1250  
 1251 ~~.1 First Infringement: A yellow flag and a card bearing the number of the swimmer's number shall be~~  
 1252 ~~raised by the Referee to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is in violation of the rules.~~  
 1253 Yellow Flag – A swimmer who commits an infraction listed in 701.5B shall receive a Yellow Flag.  
 1254 The Referee will display a Yellow Flag and a card bearing the number of the swimmer being  
 1255 charged with the infraction. Whistles may be used by the Referee to get the swimmer's attention.

1256 The Referee may use a whistle to attempt to get the swimmer's attention in order to notify the  
1257 swimmer being charged with an infraction. There is no requirement for the swimmer to acknowledge  
1258 the infraction.

1259  
1260 .2 ~~Second Infraction - A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised by the~~  
1261 ~~Referee to inform the swimmer that he is, for the second time, in violation of the Rules. Red Flag -~~  
1262 ~~A swimmer who commits an infraction as listed in 701.5A shall receive a Red Flag~~  
1263 ~~(Disqualification). The Referee will display a Red Flag and a card bearing the number of the~~  
1264 ~~swimmer being charged with the infraction. The swimmer shall be disqualified. He must leave the~~  
1265 ~~water immediately and be placed in an escort craft and take no further part in the race. Whistles may~~  
1266 ~~be used by the Referee to get the swimmer's attention. The Referee may use a whistle to get the~~  
1267 ~~swimmer's attention in order to notify the swimmer of the disqualification. The disqualified~~  
1268 ~~swimmer must leave the water immediately.~~

1269  
1270 .3 ~~The Referee may disqualify a swimmer without prior warning if in his opinion the action of the~~  
1271 ~~swimmer or escort craft is deemed to be unsportsmanlike. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include~~  
1272 ~~intentionally striking another swimmer and refusal to re-round a turn mark after being advised the mark~~  
1273 ~~was missed.~~

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R-42 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1276

1277 **Location:** Page 146 Article 701.16 The Starter

1278

1279 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1280

1281 **Purpose:** This conforms to the change to FINA OWS 4.1 – Manchester

1282

1283 **Effective Date:** Immediately

1284

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1285 **701.16 The Starter**

1286

1287 .1-3 no change

1288

1289 .4 When swimmers are starting from a fixed platform, the Starter shall give the command, "Take Your  
1290 Mark," at which time the swimmers will assume a starting position with at least one foot at the front  
1291 of the starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary the starter shall give the starting signal.

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R-43 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1294

1295 **Location:** Page 147 Article 702.3 The Start

1296

1297 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1298

1299 **Purpose:** Adds guidance for starts from a platform stressing safe pre-race practices.

1300

1301 **Effective Date: Immediately**

1302

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1303 **702.3 The Start**

1304

1305 .1 The start line shall be clearly defined by overhead apparatus or removable equipment at water level.

1306

1307 .2 If the race is started from a fixed platform, the water depth requirements of 103.2.3 must be met.  
1308 Additionally, the Course Officer and Referee shall have the start area inspected for hidden underwater  
1309 obstacles or obstructions. If there is any doubt as to the condition of the start area, an in-water or  
1310 beach start shall be used.

1311

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R-44 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1314 **Location: Page 147 Article 702.5 The Finish**

1315

1316 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1317

1318 **Purpose:** Complies with change to FINA OWS 7.2.1 – Manchester and current best practices.

1319

1320 **Effective Date: Immediately**

1321

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1322 **702.5 The Finish**

1323

1324 *.1-.2 no change*

1325

1326 .3 When Automatic Officiating Equipment (microchip technology) is used for timing of the race, the  
1327 official time for the finish of the race shall be recorded in tenths of seconds. Actual finish placement  
1328 shall be determined by manual finish judging and/or video replay of the finish.

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1330

R-45 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1332 **Location: Page 148 Article 704.2 Abandonment**

1333

1334 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations

1335

1336 **Purpose:** Wording now conforms to FINA 6.17 – Manchester.

1337

1338 **Effective Date: Immediately**

1339

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1340 **704.2 Abandonment** – Where emergency conditions require a race to be halted before it is completed,  
1341 the following shall apply:

- 1342  
1343 .1 ~~5K & 10K events~~ Races of 10K or shorter: In the event of abandonment, the race ~~should~~ shall be re-  
1344 started from the beginning at the earliest possible time and the full distance completed.  
1345  
1346 .2 ~~25K events~~ Races longer than 10K: If the race is abandoned prior to the lead swimmer ~~reaching the~~  
1347 ~~12.5K point~~ completing three-fourths of the distance of the event, the race ~~should~~ shall be re-started  
1348 from the beginning and the full distance completed at the most appropriate time as decided by the  
1349 meet committee and the full distance completed. If the race is abandoned ~~after the 12.5K point~~ when  
1350 the lead swimmer has completed at least three-fourths of the race, the race ~~will~~ shall be considered  
1351 complete. The final placings of the swimmers shall be determined by the Meet Referee.

R-46 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1352  
1353 **Location:** **Page 148 Article 704.4 Entry Blanks and Meet Information Book**  
1354  
1355 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations  
1356  
1357 **Purpose:** National Championship meets no longer use entry blanks. On-Line Meet  
1358 Information is the normal entry procedure. This rules change points to the meet  
1359 information booklet to establish the procedure.  
1360

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1361 **704.4 Entry Blanks- Process and Meet Information Book** – The entry ~~blank~~ procedure shall be stated  
1362 in the and meet information booklet. The meet information shall be prepared under joint direction of and  
1363 approved by the Steering Committee, the Meet Director, Program Operations, and the USA Swimming  
1364 Executive Director or his/her representative.  
1365

R-47 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1366  
1367 **Location:** **Page 149 Article 704.10 Proof of Time**  
1368  
1369 **Proposed by:** Jay Thomas, FINA OWS Representative to Rules and Regulations  
1370  
1371 **Purpose:** This proposed change allows those responsible for creating the Meet Information to  
1372 adjust the even qualification times or requirements.  
1373

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1374 **704.10 Proof of Time** - ~~Any~~ A swimmer entered in any USA Swimming National Championship ~~40~~  
1375 ~~kilometers or longer may~~ shall be required to show proof of having ~~achieved a time of 18 minutes or~~  
1376 ~~better in the 1500-meter freestyle for men or 19 minutes or better in the 1500-meter freestyle for women.~~  
1377 met the entry qualification standards as set forth in the meet information.  
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## HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

HK-1 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 22 Article 102.1 Events  
Page 141 Article 701.1 Events/Meets

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** Open Water events are recommended in the existing rule. There is no need to point to the Open Water Meet Managers Guide.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1393  
1394  
1395

**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, rest breaks and properly supervised sheltered rest areas. Refer to 205.3.1 F for additional provisions.

.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. ~~See Open Water Meet Manager’s Guide for additional options.~~

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1401

### 701.1 EVENTS/MEETS

.1 Recommended individual events are listed in 102.1.3. ~~Additional event options are listed in the Open Water Meet Managers Guide.~~

HK-2 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 27 Article 102.8 Change of Program and Postponement

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** Grammar & consistency

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

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### 102.8 CHANGE OF PROGRAM AND POSTPONEMENT

.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event ..... ~~each~~ all affected swimmers or their coaches must voluntarily agree in writing that they ~~has~~ have been notified and ~~is~~ are in accord with such change. Any affected swimmer or ~~their~~ his or her coach may ~~and should~~ file a written protest with the Referee prior to running of event or meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

HK-3 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 28 Article 102.9 Swimwear  
Page 29 Article 102.10 Disqualifications

**Proposed by:** Rules & Regulations Committee

**Purpose:** The passage currently listed under disqualifications would be better placed under Swimwear.

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1426 **102.9 SWIMWEAR**

1427 .1 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help his/her speed, pace or  
1428 buoyancy during a race. Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive  
1429 by the Referee.

1430 *Renumber remaining*

1431  
1432 **102.10 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

1433 ~~.10 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help his/her speed, pace or~~  
1434 ~~buoyancy during a race. Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive~~  
1435 ~~by the Referee.~~

1436 *Renumber remaining*

1437

HK-4 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 46, 89, 109, 121, 124 (global change)

**Proposed by:** Matt Hooper

**Purpose:** Housekeeping

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1445 Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA)

1446

HK-5 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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**Location:** Page 51 Article 105.2 BLIND AND VISION LOSS

**Proposed by:** Gail Dummer, on behalf of the Disability Committee

**Purpose:** Housekeeping

**Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1454 **105.2 BLIND AND VISION LOSS**

1455 .1 **Start** – *no change*

1456 .2 **Turns and Finishes** - A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have a personal  
1457 assistants (“tappers”, ~~which is who use a poles with a soft-tipped ends~~ to tap the swimmer ~~is tapped~~  
1458 ~~with the “tapper”~~ as notification of turns and the finish). Sound devices shall not be used. It is the  
1459 swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper(s) ~~and operator(s)~~, who shall be positioned within the  
1460 confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.  
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HK-6 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1464 **Location:** Page 123 Article 509.1 LSC Model Bylaws

1465  
1466 **Proposed by:** Michael Lawrence

1467  
1468 **Purpose:** Housekeeping

1469 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1470  
1471 **509.1 REQUIRED LSC Model Bylaws:** Each LSC ... based on the ‘Required LSC Model Bylaws’,  
1472 adopted .....contained within the “Required LSC Model Bylaws,” .....  
1473  
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HK-7 ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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1475  
1476 **Location:** Required LSC Bylaws

1477  
1478 **Proposed by:** Rules and Regulations Committee

1479  
1480 **Purpose:** Update references and terminology

1481 **Recommendation:** *The Rules & Regulations Committee recommends approval.*

1482  
1483 602.1 MEMBERS - The membership of XXSI shall consist of the following:  
1484

1485 .3 MEMBERSHIP A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT - Membership in XXSI and USA Swimming is a  
1486 privilege and shall not be interpreted as a right. Membership (*including a Life Membership*) may be  
1487 terminated by the Board of Review or the National Board of Review for any violation of a  
1488 member's responsibilities under Section ~~0~~ 602.2, for any of the reasons set forth in Article 404.1.3  
1489 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, ~~Section 0~~ or for any other reason determined by the  
1490 Board of Review or National Board of Review to be in the best interests of the sport of swimming,  
1491 USA Swimming or XXSI.  
1492

1493 604.4 DUTIES AND POWERS - The House of Delegates shall oversee the management of the affairs of  
1494 XXSI and the establishment of policies, procedures and programs. In addition to the duties and  
1495 powers prescribed in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations or elsewhere in these Bylaws, the

- 1496 House of Delegates shall:  
 1497  
 1498 .10 Remove from office any Board Members, members of the Board of Review, *or* committee  
 1499 chairmen or members *or coordinators* who have failed to attend to their official duties or member  
 1500 responsibilities or have done so improperly, or who would be subject to penalty by the Board of  
 1501 Review for any of the reasons set forth in ~~Section 0~~ Article 404.1.3 of USA Swimming Rules and  
 1502 Regulations. However, no Board Member, Board of Review member or elected committee  
 1503 chairman *or coordinator* may be removed except upon not less than thirty (30) days written notice  
 1504 by the Secretary or other officer designated by the House of Delegates specifying the alleged  
 1505 deficiency in the performance of member responsibilities or specific official duties or other reason.  
 1506 All notices and proceedings under this section shall be prepared, served and processed utilizing the  
 1507 procedures for a formal hearing pursuant to ~~Section 0~~ Article 406 of the USA Swimming Rules and  
 1508 Regulations to the extent applicable. Should the Board Member, Board of Review member or  
 1509 elected committee chairman *or coordinator* contest the alleged deficiency or other reason alleged in  
 1510 the notice, the House of Delegates shall hold a hearing at which the defendant shall have the same  
 1511 rights as if the hearing were to be conducted by the Board of Review pursuant to ~~Article 0-Part Four~~  
 1512 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.  
 1513  
 1514 605.6 DUTIES AND POWERS - The Board of Directors shall act for XXSI and the House of Delegates  
 1515 during the intervals between meetings of the House of Delegates, subject to the exercise by the  
 1516 House of Delegates of its powers of ratification or prospective modification or rescission, except  
 1517 that it shall not remove a Board Member, a Board of Review member or other person elected by the  
 1518 House of Delegates or amend these Bylaws. In addition to the powers and duties prescribed in the  
 1519 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations or elsewhere in these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall  
 1520 have the power and it shall be its duty to:  
 1521  
 1522 .12 Remove from office any officers, *At-Large Board Members*, committee chairmen, *or* committee  
 1523 members *or coordinators* of XXSI who were not elected by the House of Delegates and who have  
 1524 failed to attend to their official duties or member responsibilities or have done so improperly, or  
 1525 who would be subject to penalty by the Board of Review for any of the reasons set forth in Article  
 1526 404.1.3 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations ~~Section 0~~. No officer, *At-Large Board*  
 1527 *Member*, *or* committee chairman *or coordinator* may be removed without receiving the thirty (30)  
 1528 days written notice specifying the alleged deficiency in the performance of the member's  
 1529 responsibilities under these Bylaws, the member's official duties or other reasons. All notices and  
 1530 proceedings under this section shall be prepared, served and processed utilizing the procedures for a  
 1531 formal hearing pursuant to ~~Section 0~~ Article 406 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations to  
 1532 the extent applicable. Should the officer, *At-Large Board Member*, committee chairman, *or*  
 1533 committee member *or coordinator* contest the alleged deficiency or other reason set forth in the  
 1534 notice, the Board of Directors shall hold a hearing at which the member shall have the same  
 1535 procedural rights as if the hearing were to be conducted by the Board of Review pursuant to ~~Article~~  
 1536 ~~0-Part Four~~ of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.  
 1537  
 1538 610.2 BOARD OF REVIEW ORGANIZATION -  
 1539  
 1540 .11 ADVICE; ATTORNEY AS PRESIDING OFFICER -  
 1541  
 1542 A *no change*  
 1543  
 1544 B Attorney as Presiding Officer - The Board of Review or the Chair may retain an attorney (who  
 1545 need not be a member of XXSI, USA Swimming or the Board of Review) to act as Presiding  
 1546 Officer at any hearing where it is appropriate or helpful. A Presiding Officer who is not a

1547 Board of Review member may not participate in the deliberations of the Board of Review or  
1548 the designated panel or have a vote.

1549  
1550 610.3 GENERAL -

1551  
1552 .4 TIMELINESS OF PETITION - The Board of Review need not exercise its jurisdiction with respect to a  
1553 Petition the subject matter of which occurred, or concerns or is founded on events which occurred,  
1554 more than ninety (90) days prior to the date the Petition is received (as determined under ~~Section 0~~  
1555 Article 406.1 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations),. A determination not to exercise its  
1556 jurisdiction as a result of the untimeliness of a Petition may be made by the Chair alone and may be  
1557 the subject of a request for rehearing and, thereafter, appeal to the National Board of Review  
1558 pursuant to ~~Section 0~~ Article 408 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

1559  
1560  
1561 612.2 EXCLUSION - The indemnification provided by this Article 0, shall not apply to any Indemnified  
1562 Party whose otherwise indemnified conduct is finally determined to have been in bad faith, self-  
1563 dealing, gross negligence, wanton and willful disregard of applicable laws, rules and regulations, of  
1564 the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, of the USA Swimming Code of ~~Ethics~~ Conduct or  
1565 these Bylaws or who is convicted of a crime (including felony, misdemeanor and lesser crimes)  
1566 involving sexual misconduct, child abuse, violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors  
1567 or similar offenses, or who is found by the Board of Review or the National Board of Review to  
1568 have committed actions which would be the basis for a conviction and, in each case, the otherwise  
1569 indemnifiable conduct (or failure to act) was, or was directly related to, the predicate acts of the  
1570 conviction or finding.

1571