

**USA SWIMMING**  
**RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**

**ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**with January 1, 2020 Effective Date**

R-1	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 14 – **Official Glossary**

~~**BONUS (C) FINAL** — the third fastest heat of swimmers competing in Finals.~~

~~**CONSOLATION (B) FINAL** — the second fastest heat of swimmers competing in Finals.~~

**FINALS** — a session of a meet in which the concluding heats of an event are contested which may include championship, consolation, or bonus finals.

- Championship (A) Final – the fastest heat of swimmers competing in Finals
- Consolation Final(s) – the second fastest and subsequent heats of swimmers competing in Finals for which team selection, scoring points and/or prize money are awarded
- Bonus Final(s) – any finals heat in which no points or placement prizes are awarded

R-2	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 14 – **Official Glossary**  
Page 67 – **203.3 Representation**

**CLOSED COMPETITION**

- Competition exclusively among members of a single club
- Competition or series of competitions within an independent organization open only to members of that organization, such as:
  - YMCA competition
  - Summer league competition
  - Conference competition
- Closed competition does not include representing a group within USA Swimming such as LSC, Zone, Region, or Section, nor does it include dual meets, invitationals or other meets where only certain clubs are invited to participate

**OPEN COMPETITION** — competition that is not otherwise defined as a closed competition in which any qualified club, organization or individual may enter.

**OPEN EVENT** – an event in which any qualified individual may compete, regardless of age.

**203.3** For a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days must have elapsed before the swimmer is permitted to represent any other USA Swimming club in USA Swimming open or closed competition. The 120-day count shall begin on the day following the last date the athlete represented a USA Swimming club in open competition.

R-8	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 30 – **102.8 Swimwear**

**102.8 SWIMWEAR**

.1-.2 [no changes]

**.3 Advertising**

- A Advertising means the normal display of the name, designation, trademark, logo, or any other distinctive sign of the manufacturer of the item or any other advertiser permitted in accordance with this rule. FINA labeling and the USA Swimming logo or club logo shall not be considered as advertisements. Logos of the swimwear manufacturer shall be

considered as advertising and are included in the limits described in (1) through (3) below. In the competition venue or complex of all events conducted by and under the control of USA Swimming or any LSC or division thereof, advertising appearing on swimwear is allowed as follows:

- (1) **Swimsuits** — A total of ~~two~~ three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 30 square centimeters (4.65 sq. in.) each, measured as worn, shall be permitted.
  - (2) **Caps** — A total of ~~two~~ three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 20 square centimeters (3.1 sq. in.) each, as measured as applied, shall be permitted. A club logo is not considered as advertising and is not subject to the size limitations.
  - (3) **Goggles** — A total of ~~two~~ three separate advertising logos of a maximum size of 6 square centimeters (.9 sq. in.) each, as measured as applied, shall be permitted, but only on the spectacle frame or band.
- B Body advertising in the form of temporary tattoos or other embellishments is not allowed.
- C Advertising for the following shall not be allowed:
- (1) Products involving tobacco, nicotine, psychoactive cannabinoids, alcohol or pharmaceuticals containing substances banned under IOC or FINA rules;
  - (2) Political statements; and
  - (3) Any products or services that would be counter to the values of the sport or bring disrepute to USA Swimming.
- D Swimmers in violation of the above provisions may be barred from the competition venue until they comply. However, any swimmer who competes in an event wearing swimwear in violation of these advertising provisions shall not be subject to disqualification.

R-9	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 65 – **202.8 Requirements for Observed Swims**

**202.8 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS** — Swims may be observed by assigned USA Swimming or YMCA 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 into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

.1-3 [no changes]

- .4 Where the technical rules of the stroke differ from USA Swimming as defined in Article 101, at least two observers from USA Swimming and/or the YMCA, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or approved by the LSC, must be ~~present, one at each end of the course, on deck and in position to observe the strokes where the rules differ, in order to verify compliance of the swim or swims with that part of the USA Swimming rule that differs from the organization's rule.~~ Where the technical rules as listed in Article 101 are identical to those of the organization under whose rules the meet is being conducted, the judgment of the organization officials shall be sufficient. The times should be entered, upon request, into SWIMS, the National Times Database.

R-10	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 70 – **204.10 USA Swimming Futures Championships**  
Page 74 – **207.2 USA Swimming U.S. Open Championships**  
Page 75 – **207.3 USA Swimming National Championships and Open Water Championships**  
Page 75 – **207.4 USA Swimming Junior National Championships**

**204.10 USA SWIMMING FUTURES CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The USA Swimming Futures Championships shall be governed and conducted by USA Swimming and ~~conducted by the Program & Events Committee.~~

.1-3 [no changes]

**207.2 USA SWIMMING U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The USA Swimming U.S. Open Championships shall be governed and conducted by the ~~Senior Development Committee~~ USA Swimming and ~~conducted by the Program & Events Committee.~~ All USA Swimming member athletes who have achieved the qualifying time standards for one or more specific events are eligible to participate. The meet shall be conducted in years designated by the National Team Managing Director.

**207.3 USA SWIMMING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The USA Swimming National Championship meets and Open Water Championship meets shall be governed and conducted by USA Swimming ~~and conducted by the Program & Events Committee~~. All USA Swimming member-athletes who have achieved the qualifying time standards for one or more specific events are eligible to participate.

If the following USA Swimming team selection trials are held in conjunction with the USA Swimming National Championships, only United States citizens eligible to represent the United States in international competition will be allowed to compete in the A (championship) finals from which team selections are chosen: Pan American Games Trials and Pan Pacific Championship Trials. Foreign swimmers may compete in all relays, but in individual preliminary events and ~~B and C (consolation and bonus) finals~~ only. When the selection of more than one of the above teams necessitates picking swimmers from beyond eighth (8th) place in a specific event, this rule also applies to the ~~B and C (consolation and bonus) final(s)~~ in that event. Finals will be seeded accordingly.

**207.4 USA SWIMMING JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND JUNIOR NATIONAL OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The USA Swimming Junior National Championship and Junior National Open Water Championships meets shall be governed and conducted by USA Swimming ~~and conducted by the Program & Events Committee~~.

.1-.3 [no changes]

R-11	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 70 – 204.10 USA Swimming Futures Championships

**204.10 USA SWIMMING FUTURES CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The USA Swimming Futures Championships shall be governed and conducted by USA Swimming ~~the Program & Events Committee~~.

- .1 The Futures Championships will be swum long course during the summer season. The dates, place of competition and number of competitions to be held will be determined by the Senior Development Committee based on the recommendations of USA Swimming’s National Events staff.
- ~~.2 The meets should be scheduled to be held during the same week as the USA Swimming Junior National Championships.~~
- ~~.3 LSCs will be assigned to a specific Futures meet based upon the recommendation from the Senior Development Committee.~~

R-12	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 78 – 205.9 National Age Group Recognition Program

**205.9 NATIONAL AGE GROUP RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

.1-.7 [no changes]

- .8 Each swimmer achieving the fastest reported time in each individual event and each member of the relay team achieving the fastest time in a relay event shall be awarded an appropriate certificate and an emblem, pin or similar memento by USA Swimming. ~~Other awards will be determined and announced to the LSCs by the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee.~~

R-13	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 76 – 207.8 Entry Forms and Meet Announcement

**207.8 ENTRY FORMS AND MEET ANNOUNCEMENT**

- .1 The ~~entry forms and~~ meet announcement shall be prepared under joint direction of the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee, ~~the Rules Chair~~, the Meet Director, and the President/Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee(s).
- .2 The meet announcement shall state qualifying times and procedures necessary for proof of entry times. (See 207.6 and 207.7) For a USA Swimming Championship meet, the President/CEO or his/her designee may permit bonus events. For each qualifying time achieved in an individual event, additional bonus events may be allowed. Requirements for bonus events will be specified in the meet announcement.

R-14	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 77 – 207.10 Programs

### 207.10 PROGRAMS

- .1 [no changes]
- .2 **International Program** — ~~Upon the recommendation of the~~ At the discretion of the National Team Managing Director ~~with the approval of the Program & Events Committee Chair,~~ the USA Swimming National Championships may be conducted in a format with the order of events simulating the World Championship or Olympic program. ~~The men's 800 and women's 1500-freestyle may be included in this format.~~ All relays shall be conducted on a timed finals basis with all heats swum in the finals session.

R-15	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 78 – 207.11 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships

**207.11 ADMINISTRATIVE CONDUCT OF USA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The administrative rules for the conduct of the National Championships and Open Water Championships are specified herein. Additional rules for Open Water Championships are listed in Article 704.

- .1 **General Meeting**
  - A A general meeting, chaired by the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee, shall be held at all USA Swimming championship meets prior to the first day's competition. The Meet Referee, all participating coaches, and representatives of each participating club are ~~obligated to attend or be represented at this meeting~~ responsible for all information disseminated at the meeting.
  - B Only business pertinent to the administrative conduct of that championship meet and its events may be considered and finalized at this meeting by a vote of those in attendance and no changes shall be made thereafter.
  - C It is the obligation of every swimmer entered in the meet to attend or be represented at this meeting and to become acquainted with the changes, if any, and the decisions made at this meeting.

R-16	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 78 – 207.11 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships

**207.11 ADMINISTRATIVE CONDUCT OF USA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The administrative rules for the conduct of the National Championships and Open Water Championships are specified herein. Additional rules for Open Water Championships are listed in Article 704.

- .1 - .5 [no changes]
- .6 **Scratch Procedures**
  - A – D [no changes]
  - E Exceptions for Failure to compete — No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:
    - (1) The Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
    - (2) A swimmer qualifying for a C, B, or A (bonus or consolation final or) final race based upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Referee within thirty (30) minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that they may not intend to compete and further declares their final intentions within thirty (30) minutes following their last individual preliminary event.
    - (3) It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

- (4) The swimmer pays a re-entry fee for each preliminary event in which he or she failed to compete. The re-entry fee shall be established by the National Team Steering Committee and the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee and published in the meet announcement.

F Notwithstanding the provisions of 207.11.6, the scratch procedures for a selection meet for the United States teams for the Olympic Games, the FINA World Championships, the Pan Pacific Championships, the Pan American Games or the World University Games shall be established by the National Team Steering Committee and the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee.

R-17	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 78 – **207.11 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships**

**207.11 ADMINISTRATIVE CONDUCT OF USA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS** — The administrative rules for the conduct of the National Championships and Open Water Championships are specified herein. Additional rules for Open Water Championships are listed in Article 704.

.1-7 [no changes]

.8 **Finals** — ~~Except for the relay events, the 1000 and 1650-yard and 800 and 1500-meter freestyle events, there shall be C, B, and A (bonus, consolation and championship) final heats, with the consolation heats preceding the championship heat, in both short course and long course National Championships.~~ The order of final heats for each meet shall be approved by the Program & Events Committee Chair or designee.

R-27	ADOPTED	Effective January 1, 2020
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**Location:** Page 135 – (new) **701.2 Eligibility**

**701.2 ELIGIBILITY** – Age for Open Water Zone Championships shall be determined by the swimmer's age as of December 31 of that year.

[re-number remaining]