

DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2026 USMS ANNUAL MEETING (RULES COMMITTEE)

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
USMS GLOSSARY AND PART 1 RULES OF COMPETITION**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, and 601.4.3.

The committee action prior to the annual meeting is indicated as a recommendation to “adopt” or “reject”. Committee actions may be reconsidered at the annual meeting before presentation to the House of Delegates.

Amendments which are recommended for adoption by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt. Amendments which are recommended for rejection by the committee require a 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
<u>R-1</u>	102.3.2	Modify relay age groups for SCY meets.	Recommend for Adoption (effective date Jun 1, 2027)
<u>R-2</u>	102.14.4	Update time frame for Rules chair response to a protest	Recommend for Adoption
<u>R-3</u>		Withdrawn by the Championship Committee	
<u>R-4</u>	105.1.2	Move entire section to Records and Tabulation policy	Recommend for Adoption
<u>R-5</u>	105.1.7 108.1.1	Modify bulkhead measurement requirements for Top 10 and USMS records	Recommend for Adoption as Amended
<u>R-6</u>	105.3.9	Update acceptable forms of primary documentation required for record applications	Recommend for Adoption as Amended
<u>R-7</u>	105.4	Move entire section to Records and Tabulation policy	Recommend for Adoption as Amended

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USA Swimming Amendments that affect USMS Rules

Note: these amendments are modifications to conform to current World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Feb 2026) and have been adopted by and are currently effective for USA Swimming.

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
<u>U-1</u>	101.3.5	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 8.6) – Butterfly	Adopted by USMS on July 05, 2026
<u>U-2</u>	101.4.4	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 6.5) – Backstroke	
<u>U-3</u>	101.5.4	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 5.4) - Freestyle	
<u>U-4</u>	101.6.3	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 9.3) - Medley	Adopted by USMS on July 21, 2026
<u>U-5</u>	102.10.6	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 2.8.6) - Counters	
<u>U-6</u>	102.12.1	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 14.4) – Use of tape	
<u>U-7</u>	103.8.7	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 2.8.7) – Warning signals	

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO WORLD AQUATICS RULES

Note: the USA Swimming Amendments that Affect USMS Rules (U-1 to U-7 above) are amendments to conform to current World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Feb 2026).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS GLOSSARY AND PART ONE

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Rules Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, and 601.4.3. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2027, except as noted.

R-1	102.3.2	Potomac Valley LMSC, Ohio LMSC, & Arizona LMSC	Page 6	Modify
Committee Recommendation:		Adopt (effective date June 1, 2027)		
HOD Action:		Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

102.3 Age Groups

(Article 102.3.1 is unchanged)

102.3.2 Relay Events (Effective June 1, 2027)

- A** Short course (25) yards, short course (25) meters, and long course (50) meters — 72–99, 100–119, 120–159, 160–199, 200–239, 240–279, 280–319, 320–359, 360–399 ... (40-year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group. 18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+... (10-year increments as high as is necessary). The age of the youngest relay team member shall determine the age group. ~~Relay teams must swim in the oldest age group for which they are eligible.~~
- B** ~~Short course (25) meters and long course (50) meters — 72–99, 100–119, 120–159, 160–199, 200–239, 240–279, 280–319, 320–359, 360–399 ... (40-year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group.~~

(Article 102.3.3 is unchanged)

Rationale: Women's, men's, and mixed relays frequently have average ages significantly older than the nominal cutoff. Using the current SCY age groups, older athletes are regularly pulled into much younger categories by a single younger teammate. Using the SCM/LCM aggregate-age groups (72–99, 100–119, 120–159, etc.) for SCY would align all courses, describe teams more accurately, provide competitive equity to all age swimmers across age groups, create opportunities for intergenerational relay teams and smaller clubs, and simplify records and rankings under one consistent, age-appropriate standard.

Additional Details Regarding Records:

USMS would immortalize the current SCY records and make them available on the existing portal for relay records. On the current national records page ([USMS National Records](#)), add a prominent link to the historical archive, so swimmers can retain access to, view, and celebrate the legacy records while understanding that all post-change performances are tracked under the

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unified aggregate-age standard. Zones, LMSCs, and teams/clubs would retain the ability to determine regional and local level age groups for records, if desired.

R-2 102.14.4 Rules Committee Page 17 Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt		
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

102.14.4 Protests concerning interpretation of the rules in *Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary* shall be submitted in writing (on paper or in an electronic file) within 10 days to the USMS Rules Committee chair, who shall issue a decision in writing (on paper or in an electronic file) within ~~five-10~~ days of the date of receipt of such protest, unless the USMS Rules Committee chair notifies the parties that the issue must come before the entire committee. The ruling shall be final and binding on all parties.

Rationale: The protester has 10 days to submit a written protest to the Rules chair, the Long Distance chair has 10 days to reply to a protest, and the Rules chair should also have 10 days instead of five days to issue a decision.

R-3 was withdrawn by the Championship Committee prior to the August 19 deadline to publish proposed amendments to the House of Delegates.

R-4 105.1.2 Records and Tabulation Committee Page 40 Remove to policy

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt		
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

105.1 Requirements for Records, Top 10 Times, and All-American

105.1.1 Sanction/Recognition—All times to be considered for records, Top 10, and All-American recognition must be achieved in USMS-sanctioned meets or USMS-recognized events.

~~**105.1.2 Deadlines**—Times to be considered for records and Top 10 times shall be achieved and submitted as follows:~~

Course	Times Shall Be Achieved On or Before:	Times Shall Be Forwarded to Records and Tabulation Chair Or Designee By:	Season
Short Course Yards	May 31*	June 30**	June 1—May 31

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Long Course Meters	September 30*	October 20**	October 1–September 30
Short Course Meters	December 31	January 20	January 1–December 31

~~*If USMS requests that a meet host conduct a USMS national championship meet after the season-ending date, times achieved at all USMS/World Aquatics meets up to and including Nationals after the season-ending date (May 31 or September 30) shall be considered for USMS Top 10 for the season that just ended, not the next year's season.~~

~~**Should a USMS national championship meet occur after the submission deadline for that course, times from meets through Nationals shall be forwarded to the Records and Tabulation chair or designee by the last day of the month in which that meet was completed or by the 15th of the following month, if the meet was held in the last two weeks of the month.~~

Renumber articles 105.1.3 through 105.1.7 as follows:

105.1.2 LMSC Responsibility

105.1.3 Required Information

105.1.4 Acceptable Times

105.1.5 Pool Certification

105.1.6 Pool Measurement

Rationale: Based on a review of the updated [USMS Guidelines for Rules, Policies, and Guidelines](#), the Records and Tabulation Committee recommends that this information is best suited to be part of Records and Tabulation Committee Policy. This deadline information relates to various USMS recognition programs (i.e., Top 10, Records, All-American, All-Stars) managed by the USMS Top 10 Coordinator, USMS National Recorder and USMS Records & Tabulation Committee.

Note: See policy definitions below and current USMS Records & Tabulation Committee policy [here](#).

Policy definitions from [USMS Guidelines for Rules, Policies, and Guidelines](#):

General Definition: Mandatory (unless committee approves waiving the requirement) - General written document that establishes a standard by which the institution manages its affairs. Changes in policy have a lower threshold and less stringent process than rules or bylaws.

USMS Definition: **Mandatory** processes and procedures that require oversight from a specialized committee or staff but do not require HOD approval. Policy can be established or changed by vote of the oversight committee with approval of the board.

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R-5	105.1.7	Records and Tabulation Committee	page 41	Modify
	108.1.1		page 54	Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt as Amended		
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

105.1.7 Pool Measurement

- A** The length of the course must be measured for all lanes using a steel tape or other acceptable measuring device. The measurement must be attested to by the person performing the measurements. The measurement must be recorded:
 - (1) In feet and inches and fractions of an inch or
 - (2) In meters and centimeters.
- B** A statement of the conditions under which the course was measured must be included as stipulated on the USMS pool length certification form (Appendix A).
- C** ~~If a movable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the length of the course must be confirmed by measuring the two outside competition lanes and a middle lane prior to the start of the meet and at the conclusion of each session. The meet director shall ensure compliance with the required course dimensions (article 106.2).~~
- D** If a movable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the facilities management shall, prior to each session of competition, examine the bulkhead and shall confirm to the meet referee and the meet director that the bulkhead is stable, straight, and properly anchored.
- DE** If a movable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of World Aquatics shall be the standard for events sanctioned by a World Aquatics Masters Member Federation other than USMS.
- EF** If a movable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, the measurement rules and policies of USA Swimming shall be the standard for Top 10 eligibility for events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. A bulkhead placement confirmation ~~measurement~~ is required for a USMS record set at events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. The measurement rules and policies of USMS shall apply for dual-sanctioned events.

108.1.1 Sanction Requirements—Sanctions shall be issued, withheld, or withdrawn in accordance with article 202.1 and the following requirements:

- A** Sanction applications shall be accompanied by the meet announcement.
(Article 108.1.1A[1] is unchanged)
- (2) The meet announcement shall include ONE of the following statements for each course used for competition during the meet:

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- (a) The length of the competition course without a bulkhead is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1.
- (b) The length of the competition course has been measured and is NOT in compliance with USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1: Times achieved in the meet will NOT be eligible for USMS Top10 and records.
- (c) The length of the competition course is not on file with USMS. Eligibility of times achieved in this meet will be contingent upon pool length measurement and approval with USMS; if bulkheads are present, their placement must also be confirmed by measurements at the meet (USMS articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1).
- (d) The length of the competition course is in compliance and on file with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1, but as a bulkhead course, is subject to [length-bulkhead placement](#) confirmation ([article 105.1.7C and D](#)). Eligibility of times for USMS Top 10 and records will be contingent on verification of bulkhead placement.

(Article 108.1.1A[3] is unchanged)

(Articles 108.1.1C and 108.1.1D are unchanged)

Rationale: The current bulkhead measurement process and methods are cumbersome and difficult for a lay person to complete effectively, resulting in improper documentation of measurements and undue harm to swimmers. Often this task is an afterthought and delegated to someone unfamiliar with the task, the procedure and/or the measurement equipment. Neither USA-S nor World Aquatics Masters (AQUA) require completion of bulkhead placement confirmation measurements for Top 10. Compliance of pool dimensions and bulkhead placement is the responsibility of the meet director, with support from the meet referee and facility management.

References:

USA Swimming Rules

- Article 103.3.1E - “When the racing course is fixed by the use of movable bulkheads, such bulkheads shall be designed to resist lateral deflection due to tension exerted by the attachment of the lane dividers to ensure the required course distance in all lanes.”
- Article 206.2.2. - “Event hosts shall ensure the required course dimensions. For pools with a movable bulkhead, the facilities host shall, prior to each session of competition, examine the bulkhead and shall confirm to the Meet Referee that the bulkhead is stable, straight and properly positioned and anchored.”

World Aquatics MASTERS WORLD RECORDS & TOP 10 USER MANUAL

- “a copy of the pool certificate must be uploaded. The certificate must confirm the pool length, including the total measured length of the pool and the different lanes, and must be signed by the surveyor, constructor, or another authorised referee.”

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- “Please note that it is not necessary to remeasure every lane for each new Masters record or to re-upload a pool certificate each time the bulkhead is moved, provided that an approved pool certificate is already stored in the system.”

Other articles/sections that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

Appendix A

Pages 127-128: USMS POOL LENGTH REPORTING FORMS

Non-Permanent Course Walls (under **Racing Courses**) – *update 2nd bullet*

Frequency of measurement for **non-permanent courses** (under **Pool Length Measurement Information** – *update 2nd bullet*

Page 129: Pool Length Certification Form - (note [online document](#) includes pgs 127-128, which will need updates) - No changes expected for Rule Book page 129.

Page 130: Bulkhead Placement Confirmation Form - Remove form from page 130 and [online document](#) - if the amendment is adopted, the form is not necessary.

Page 131: Application for USMS and/or World Record - (note [online document](#) exists also) - Remove “If a movable bulkhead, attach a copy of the Bulkhead Placement Confirmation form showing the measurements from the session of the record swim.”

R-6 **105.3.9** Records and Tabulation Committee Page 43 Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt as Amended
HOD Action:	Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

105.3.9 *(Articles 105.3.9A through 105.3.9C are unchanged)*

D A record application shall not be accepted unless a copy of a birth certificate, ~~or~~ passport, ~~or~~ government-issued REAL ID ~~Driver's License~~ accompanies it or is on file with USMS or has been sent to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee by the individual or relay applicants.

(Articles 105.3.9E and 105.3.9F are unchanged)

Rationale: A government-issued REAL ID is an acceptable, primary document to prove your date of birth. All states, the District of Columbia, and the 5 territories are REAL ID-compliant and issuing government-issued REAL IDs.

R-7 105.4 Records and Tabulation Committee Page 44 Remove to policy

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt as Amended		
HOD Action:	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

105.4 All-American and All-Star

Definitions and procedures for individual All-American, relay All-American, and All-Star tabulations can be found in Records & Tabulations Committee policies.

~~105.4.1 Individual All-American The USMS member with the fastest listed time for an individual event for that season shall be declared the All American in that event for the year.~~

~~105.4.2 Relay All-American The USMS members from each relay team with the fastest listed time for that season shall be declared the relay All-Americans in that event for the year.~~

~~105.4.3 All-Star The USMS member with the most individual All-American finishes for all three seasons in each age group and gender shall be declared the All Star in that age group and gender for the year. If two or more swimmers have the same number of All-American finishes, then points will be assigned to all the Top 10 rankings of the tied swimmers for the year, and the swimmer with the highest sum will be declared the All-Star.~~

Rationale: Based on a review of the updated [USMS Guidelines for Rules, Policies, and Guidelines](#), the Records and Tabulation Committee recommends that this information is best suited to be part of Records and Tabulation Committee Policy. This deadline information relates to various USMS recognition programs (i.e., Top 10, Records, All-American, All-Stars) managed by the USMS Top 10 Coordinator, USMS National Recorder, and USMS Records & Tabulation Committee.

Note: See policy definitions below and current USMS Records & Tabulation Committee policy [here](#).

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USA SWIMMING AMENDMENTS THAT AFFECT USMS RULES

Pursuant to article 601.4.3, Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, 102, and 105 shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS Rules Committee determines that the amendment is not applicable to USMS, corresponds to a previously approved difference, or is not in conformance with World Aquatics Masters technical rules.

Amendments to USA Swimming article 103 (USMS article 106, facilities standards) may be submitted by the Rules Committee with a recommendation for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

The following amendments were automatically adopted by the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee and have been adopted by the USMS Rules Committee as noted in the table below per articles 601.4.3 and 601.4.4.

Note: these amendments are modifications to conform to current World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Feb 2026) and have been adopted by and are currently effective for USA Swimming.

Number	Section	Description	Committee Action
<u>U-1</u>	101.3.5	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 8.6) – Butterfly	Adopted by USMS on July 05, 2026
<u>U-2</u>	101.4.4	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 6.5) – Backstroke	
<u>U-3</u>	101.5.4	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 5.4) - Freestyle	
<u>U-4</u>	101.6.3	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 9.3) - Medley	Adopted by USMS on July 21, 2026
<u>U-5</u>	102.10.6	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 2.8.6) - Counters	
<u>U-6</u>	102.12.1	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 14.4) – Use of tape	
<u>U-7</u>	103.8.7	Modify to conform to World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Part 2, article 2.8.7) – Warning signals	

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U-1	101.3.5	page 3	Modify
Committee Recommendation:		Adopt	Adopt as Amended
			Reject

101.3 Butterfly

(Articles 101.3.1 through 101.3.4 are unchanged)

- 101.3.5 Finish**—At the finish, the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. Once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the final 5-meter mark (long course and short course meters) or 5-yard mark (short course yards), immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged.

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 8.6); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

U-2	101.4.4	page 4	Modify
Committee Recommendation:		Adopt	Adopt as Amended
			Reject

101.4 Backstroke

(Article 101.4.1 is unchanged)

- 101.4.2 Stroke**—Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter immediately after the start is not permitted. The swimmer shall push off on the back and continue swimming on the back throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water. ~~Once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the final 5-meter mark (long course and short course meters) or 5-yard mark (short course yards) immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged prior to the touch.~~

(Article 101.4.3 is unchanged)

- 101.4.4 Finish**—Upon the finish of the race, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the final 5-meter mark (long course and short course meters) or 5-yard mark (short course yards) immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged prior to the touch.

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 6.5); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

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U-3 101.5.4 page 4 Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt	Adopt as Amended	Reject
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101.5 Freestyle

(Articles 101.5.1 through 101.5.3 are unchanged)

101.5.4 Finish— The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of the swimmer touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance. Additionally, once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the final 5-meter mark (long course and short course meters) or 5-yard mark (short course yards), immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged.

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 5.4); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

U-4 101.6.3 page 4 Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt	Adopt as Amended	Reject
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101.6 Medley

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

(Articles 101.6.1 and 101.6.2 are unchanged)

101.6.3 Turns

- A** Intermediate turns within each stroke shall conform to the turn rules for that stroke, except that in the freestyle turn, the swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke after leaving the wall.

(Article 101.6.4 is unchanged)

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 9.3); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

U-5 102.10.6 page 13 Modify

Committee Recommendation:	Adopt	Adopt as Amended	Reject
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102.10.6 Counters

- A** A swimmer in any individual event of 400 meters/500 yards or longer~~16-lengths~~

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~~or more~~, except the individual medley, may appoint one counter to call lengths or indicate lengths by visual sign.

(Articles 102.10.6A through 102.10.6E are unchanged)

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 2.8.6); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

U-6	102.12.1	page 16	Modify
Committee Recommendation:		Adopt	Adopt as Amended
			Reject

102.12 Swimwear for Pool Competition

102.12.1 Design

(Articles 102.12.1A through 102.12.1D are unchanged)

No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neoprene caps, etc.). The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be used to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed. Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. ~~Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited.~~ As a consequence of injury, it is permissible to tape together not more than two fingers or toes. ~~Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.~~

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 14.4); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

Other article that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

102.13.10 No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or substance to enhance speed, pace, buoyancy, or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, snorkels, neoprene caps, etc.). The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be used to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed. Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee. Medical identification items may be worn. ~~Therapeutic elastic tape is prohibited.~~ As a consequence of injury, it is permissible to tape together not more than two fingers or toes. ~~Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.~~

U-7

103.8.7

page 22

Modify

Committee Recommendation:

Adopt

Adopt as Amended

Reject

103.8.7 Warning signal— With the exception of relays, in freestyle events 400 meters/500 yards or longer the starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus 5 yards or 5 meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each lane by a lane judge or timer in that lane.

Rationale: To conform to World Aquatics language (Part 2, article 2.8.7); USA-S rationale: mandated by World Aquatics.

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA SWIMMING FACILITIES STANDARDS

Pursuant to USMS article 601.4.3, changes to USA Swimming article 103 (Facilities Standards) may be submitted by the Rules Committee with a recommendation for adoption by the USMS House of Delegates.

There are no amendments to the USA Swimming facilities standards proposed for the 2026 annual meeting.

CHANGES TO CONFORM TO WORLD AQUATICS RULES

Pursuant to USMS article 601.4.4, if amendments to the World Aquatics Masters Technical Rules are adopted between annual meetings of the House of Delegates, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS, except that such amendments may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Note: the USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules (U-1 to U-7 above) are amendments to conform to current World Aquatics Competition Regulations (Feb 2026). Per USMS Article 601.4.4, these amendments have been adopted by and are currently effective for USMS.

HOUSEKEEPING REPORT

Pursuant to article 601.1.2, housekeeping changes to the USMS Rules of Competition submitted and approved by the Rules Committee, with the concurrence of the vice president of administration, are reported to the House of Delegates in the annual report from the Rules Committee or in a subsequent report (if approved after the annual meeting). These changes will take effect on January 1, 2027.

There are no housekeeping changes to be reported prior to the 2026 annual meeting.