

**DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING**

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART 3**

**The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2022.**

The committee action is indicated as “recommended,” “recommended as amended,” or “not recommended.” Committee actions may be reconsidered at the annual meeting before presentation to the House of Delegates. Comments are invited from delegates at the annual meeting on all proposed amendments.

Amendments that are recommended by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Amendments that are not recommended by the committee require a two-thirds vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

Amendments that are presented as an “indivisible package” will be considered as a whole with a motion to adopt all of the changes in the entire package.

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Section</b>  | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Committee Action</b> |
|---------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| <b>LD-1</b>   | 301.2.1<br>303.4.2<br>(203.1.1C,<br>507.1.8,<br>507.1.11) | Delete the Open Water Committee as a standing committee of the House of Delegates and realign responsibilities with the Long Distance Committee.<br><br><b>Note: LD-1 is an indivisible package with L-7.</b> | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-2</b>   | 301.1   | Define Event Host and renumber appropriately  | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-3</b>   | 305.2-305.8   | Clean up Long Distance Pool Events definitions and renumber. Clarify that LDC administers only <i>long distance</i> postal events.  | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-4</b>   | 307.7.6   | Clarify that 102.12.1 determines swimwear requirements for long distance postal national championships.   | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-5</b>   | 307.7.8B  | Clarify timeline for protests   | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-6</b>   | 308.1.6   | Allow long distance pool records to be set outside of postal events   | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-7</b>   | 308.1.6C-D  | Clarify rules for long distance pool records  | Recommended             |
| <b>LD-8</b>   | 303.12.1  | Correct internal reference  | Recommended             |

**DELEGATE PACKET FOR 2021 USMS ANNUAL MEETING  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.1, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2022.

**Note: LD-1 is considered as an indivisible package with L-7 under the provisions in article 601.4.5.**

|                          |                                       |                    |          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| LD-1 301.2.1, 303.4.2C   | Long Distance & Open Water Committees | p. 63, 68-69       | Modify   |
| <b>Committee Action:</b> | Recommended                           |                    |          |
| <b>HOD Action:</b>       | Adopted                               | Adopted as Amended | Defeated |

### 301.2 Guide to Operations

**301.2.1 Open Water Guide to Operations**—The ~~Open Water~~ Long Distance Committee shall develop and maintain a guide for conducting open water events for the use of USMS open water officials and event hosts. The guide shall contain the governing policies, management of rules, and links to education applying to open water swims.

### 303.4.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events

C Exemptions to the restrictions in articles 303.4.2A–B may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the ~~Open Water~~ Long Distance Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

- (1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be published by the ~~Open Water~~ Long Distance Committee and posted on the USMS website.
- (2) No exemptions to these restrictions will be granted for swimwear that would give a swimmer a competitive advantage.
- (3) The decision of the ~~Open Water~~ Long Distance Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire ~~Open Water~~ Long Distance Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

**Rationale:** The promotion and development functions of the Open Water Committee are now being carried out by the National Office staff and the Open Water Safety Coordinator, making this standing committee of volunteers unnecessary if the other functions can be assumed by the Long Distance Committee.

**Note:** The following articles also need to be modified for consistency in Part Two and Part Five. Amendments to Part Two and Part Five are within the jurisdiction of the Legislation Committee.

**LD-1 and L-7 are submitted to the HOD as an indivisible package to be considered by the House of Delegates as a whole.**

### 203.1 Sanctions

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[The preamble, article 203.1.1A, and 203.1.1B are unchanged]

**203.1.1 Sanction Options**—USMS shall offer sanction options as defined below.

[Paragraphs A and B are unchanged]

**C Other Sanctions**—The Board of Directors shall consider and may approve other sanction options recommended by the Long Distance Committee, ~~with input from the Open Water Committee,~~ that allow sanctioning of events that include USMS and non-USMS members.

### 507.1 Standing Committees

[Articles 507.1.1 through 507.1.7 are unchanged]

**507.1.8 Long Distance Committee**—The Long Distance Committee shall oversee the rules and administration of open water and long distance events. The committee shall solicit and review bid proposals and select the sites for the long distance championship events. The committee shall work in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and make recommendations to enhance the quality of long distance championship events. The long distance committee shall promote the development of and participation in open water swimming. The committee shall develop educational resources for open water participants and event directors. The committee shall increase awareness about open water swimming and identify opportunities to promote USMS. The committee shall maintain records and select the Long Distance All-American and Long Distance All-Star Teams. The committee shall assure that the competitive rules in Part 3 of the USMS rules and regulations provide for fair and equitable competition in the best interests of all USMS members and that these members are informed of current rules, interpretations, and changes. The committee may initiate and shall accept, consider, and report proposed amendments, with the committee's recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. When necessary, the committee shall interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee's jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and no more than 16 additional members. ~~The Open Water Committee chair shall be an ex officio member of the committee.~~

[Articles 507.1.9 and 507.1.10 are unchanged]

~~**507.1.11 Open Water Committee**—The Open Water Committee shall promote the development of and participation in open water swimming. The committee shall develop educational resources for open water participants and event directors. The committee, with input from the Long Distance Committee, shall prepare guidelines pertaining to the management of USMS open water swimming for approval by the Board of Directors. The committee shall increase awareness about open water swimming and identify opportunities to promote USMS. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function. The Long Distance Committee chair shall be an ex officio member of the committee.~~

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[Renumber the remaining paragraphs in article 507.1]

**LD-2 301.1** Long Distance Committee p. 63 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended

**HOD Action:** Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

**301.1 Organization**

**301.1.1** The conduct and organization of open water and long distance swimming for Masters shall be governed by USMS through its Long Distance Committee and LMSCs. The chair and committee members shall be appointed as provided in articles 507.1 and 507.1.8.

**301.1.2 Event Host** – In open water or pool events, the organization that is granted a sanction and is responsible for the administration of the event.

**Rationale:** Define Event Host because it is referred to several times in part 3. Renumber appropriately.

**LD-3 305.2-305.8** Long Distance Committee p. 73-74 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended

**HOD Action:** Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

**305.2 Definitions**

**305.2.1 Long Distance Pool Event** - A long distance pool event is any swimming event that contains a one or more distance-based swims(s) of more than 1650 yards (1508.8 meters) in length or a time-based swims(s) equal to or longer than 60 minutes in time. Freestyle rules shall apply. Long distance pool events may be conducted in a designated pool or as a postal event. Except for national championship swims, the event host shall designate the time/distance of the swims and the sizes of the pools in which they may be swum.

**305.3 Pool**

~~A long distance pool swim may be based on the time to swim a fixed distance or the distance swum over a fixed time. These swims may be conducted in a designated pool or as a postal event.~~

~~**305.3.1 Event Host**—Except for national championship swims, the event host shall have the discretion to decide the time/distance of the swim(s) and, in the case of postal swim(s), the size(s) of the pools in which the event is to be swum.~~

~~**305.3.2 305.2.2 Distance-Based Swims**—The object of a distance-based swim is to determine who can swim a specific distance in the shortest amount of time.~~

~~**305.3.3 305.2.3 Time-Based Swims**—The object of a time-based swim is to determine who can swim the greatest distance in a specific amount of time.~~

~~**305.3.4 305.2.4 Postal**—A postal event is a competition in which swimmers participate at a place of their choosing and submit the time or distance achieved to a central location for tabulation. The Long Distance Committee shall have jurisdiction only over postal events that meet the requirements given in 305.2.1.~~

**305.4 305.3 Cumulative Relays**

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Cumulative relays are composed of groups of swimmers from the same USMS-registered club entered in the individual swim. Cumulative relay swims may be contested on a total time/distance or point system basis.

**305.5 305.4 Sequential Relays**

Sequential relays shall consist of two or more swimmers from the same USMS-registered club as specified in the entry information. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified in the entry information. The composition of mixed-gender sequential relays is governed by article 302.5.2. Relay exchanges are governed by articles 101.7.3C and 101.7.3F.

**305.6 305.5 Age Groups**

Age groups in individual and relay events for men and women shall be the same as the standard USMS age group scoring divisions (listed in article 303.2.3).

**305.7 305.6 Awards**

If awards are given, they shall be of equal value for men and women and for all age groups.

**305.8 305.7 Protests**

Any protest arising from a long distance pool swim (other than national championship swims—refer to article 307.7.8) shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

**Rationale:** Clean up Definitions section. Move old Pool (305.3) and Event Host (305.3.1) pieces into the Long Distance Pool Event definition, and clarify that freestyle rules apply. Move definitions for distance-based swims (305.3.2), time-based swims (305.3.3), and postal (305.3.5) from 305.3 into Definitions. Clarify that the Long Distance Committee administers only long distance postal events and does not have jurisdiction over other postal events. Renumber 305.4-305.7 to reflect the deletion of 305.3.

**LD-4 307.7.6** Long Distance Committee p. 79 Modify

|                          |             |                    |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Committee Action:</b> | Recommended |                    |          |
| <b>HOD Action:</b>       | Adopted     | Adopted as Amended | Defeated |

**307.7.6 Swimwear**

**A Open Water**

**A (1)** Only swimmers wearing category I swimwear as defined in articles 303.4.1 and 303.4.2 may compete in national championship swims.

**B (2)** At the discretion of the event host, swimmers wearing category II swimwear as defined in articles 303.4.1 and 303.4.3 may participate in events containing

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national championship swims but shall be excluded for the purposes of articles 307.8–308.1. In addition, category II competitors shall have a separate start time, unless drafting is prohibited under article 303.9.6.

**B Postal: Only swimmers wearing swimwear as defined in article 102.12.1 may compete in national championship postal swims.**

**Rationale:** Eliminate the conflict between this article (307.7.6) and article 306.1 and clarify the intent of the rule. Article 306.1 states that “Long distance events conducted in pools must comply with all applicable pool event rules in Part 1 of this rule book and in article 305, except as noted in article 306.” Because swimwear is not mentioned elsewhere in article 306, the rule that defines swimwear for postal swims, by default, is article 102.12.1. This conflicts with current article 307.7.6 which would permit category I open water swimwear to be worn for postal national championship swims.

**LD-5 307.7.8B** Long Distance Committee p. 79-80 Modify

|                          |             |                    |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Committee Action:</b> | Recommended |                    |          |
| <b>HOD Action:</b>       | Adopted     | Adopted as Amended | Defeated |

**307.7.8 Protests**

**A** Any protest arising from an open water championship swim shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair.

**B** Any protest arising from a postal championship swim shall be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of preliminary results or amendments to the preliminary results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair.

**Rationale:** Clarify that protests must be lodged within three days of notification of preliminary results being posted or amended.

**LD-6 308.1.6 A** Long Distance Committee p. 82 Modify

|                          |             |                    |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Committee Action:</b> | Recommended |                    |          |
| <b>HOD Action:</b>       | Adopted     | Adopted as Amended | Defeated |

**308.1.6 ~~Postal Swims~~ Long Distance Pool Swims**

**A** ~~Postal~~ Long distance pool records can be made only in fresh water. No ~~postal-swim~~ records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.

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**Rationale:** Allow records for the 3000, 6000, 5K, and 10K to be set in any long distance pool event as defined in article 305, not only in postal events.

**LD-7 308.1.6C-D** Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended

**HOD Action:** Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

**C** Swimmers applying for a USMS ~~postal~~ long distance pool record in an individual or relay even must submit a copy of their split sheets in addition to their event entries.

**D** An individual may use the split time in one long distance pool event to establish a USMS record in a different long distance pool event if:

- (1) The split is swum as an initial distance within an event.
- (2) The swimmer completes the full distance or time of the sanctioned event.
- (3) The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
- (4) A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.6.

**E** A relay team may use their split times in one long distance pool event to establish a USMS record in a different long distance pool event if:

- (1) Each split is swum as an initial distance with an event.
- (2) Each swimmer completes the full distance or time of the sanctioned event.
- (3) The intent to record a split time for each swimmer is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event director at the time of entry in the longer event, and
- (4) A stopwatch or electronic timing system is used to record the record split in accordance with article 306.6.

**Rationale:** Specify that records in pool events covered in article 102.5.2 cannot be set using splits from a long distance pool event. Clarify that when attempting to set a record using a time-based split in a distance-based swim, or vice versa (see articles 305.3.2 and 305.3.3 for definitions), the entire sanctioned event must be completed.

**LD-8 303.12.1** Long Distance Committee p. 73 Modify

**Committee Action:** Recommended

**HOD Action:** Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

Any protest arising from an open water swim (other than national championship swims—refer to article ~~307.8~~ 307.7.8) shall be made to the event referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results.

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If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

**Rationale:** Housekeeping; correct internal rules reference.