



**2011 Aquatic Sports Convention Report
9/13/2011-9/18/2011
Jacksonville Florida**

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New Adopted Legislation:

1. Effective Immediately

a. 102.7 Postponements and Changes in Program

.2 At the Meet Referee's discretion, events may be combined by age, gender, distance, and/or stroke provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events. The Referee may waive the empty lane requirement with the concurrence of the coaches of the affected swimmers.

b. 202.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR SANCTION — Sanctions are issued, withheld or withdrawn in accordance with the following regulations:

.6 Applicants for sanction of an open water competition shall complete the application approved by USA Swimming. Before an open water competition is sanctioned by the LSC, the LSC sanction officer shall submit the completed sanction packet to USA Swimming for review and approval.

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 REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:

.2 Applicants for approval of an open water competition shall complete the application approved by USA Swimming. Before an open water competition is approved by the LSC, the LSC sanction officer shall submit the completed sanction/approval packet to USA Swimming for review and approval.

c. 701.2 RULES

.1 All open water competitions shall be freestyle events.

.2 The Host Committee shall include in the meet information announcement:

A the policy for abandonment and

B whether the race will be an "escorted" or "unescorted" swim.

.3 The Host Committee shall develop a safety plan for the competition in compliance with all requirements included in the published application for sanction of an open water event.

d. 701.7 THE MEET DIRECTOR shall:

.1 Shall determine the course for an open water event.

.2 have the authority to withdraw the sanction on race day if adequate safety precautions are not in place and shall notify all race participants prior to the beginning of the race of the revocation should the race organizer proceed with the competition;

.3 have the authority to stop a race at any time should conditions change and safety become a concern.

e. 701.8 THE INDEPENDENT SAFETY MONITOR shall

.1 be approved by an LSC sanction officer and shall be independent of the race organizing committee;

.2 be present at the race to assure the approved safety plan is implemented;

.3 assure that adequate safety precautions are in place to deal with race-day conditions;

.4 have the authority to withdraw the sanction on race day if adequate safety precautions are not in place and shall notify all race participants of therevocation prior to the beginning of the race should the race organizer proceed with the competition;

.5 have the authority to stop a race at any time should conditions change and safety become a concern.

f. **702.2 WATER/AIR TEMPERATURE** - The race shall not begin if the following conditions are not satisfied:

.1 The water temperature should shall not be less than be a minimum of 16°C (60.8° F).

.2 For races of 5K and above, the water temperature shall not exceed 29.45° C (85° F).

.3 The air temperature and water temperature when added together shall not be less than 30° C (118° F) nor greater than 63° C (177.4° F).

2. Effective May 1, 2012

a. 102.12 STARTER

.1 Preparation — The Starter shall stand on the side of the pool within ten feet approximately five meters of the starting end of the pool and upon signal from the Referee, shall assume control of the swimmers until a fair start has been achieved.

b. 102.24 Timing Rules

.4 Determining Official Time

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

(1) The difference between the time obtained by the primary system and the back-up system(s) is approximately more than .30 second or greater; or

(2) The place judge(s) reports a different order of finish; or

(3) It is reported the swimmer missed the touchpad or had a soft touch.

c. 102.24 Timing Rules

.4 Determining Official Time

D Adjustment for the Timing System Difference — When the Referee determines that there is a malfunction of the primary timing system, the back-up time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference prior to integrating them with accurate primary times in establishing the official times and determining the results. The adjustment for timing system difference ~~may be incorporated into the automatic or semiautomatic system by design or may be is~~ determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the valid primary and backup systems used at that meet.

d. 103.15 /M/ BACKSTROKE FLAGS AND LINES

.3 /LSC/ For long course backstroke, individual medley, and medley relay events a firmly stretched ¼ inch line without flags or pennants shall be suspended at midpoint of the course.

e. 104.2 USA Swimming Records

.2 American and United States Open Records

C Special Requirements and Conditions

(4) Pool Measurement

(a) The length of the course shall be measured and certified (signed and sealed) by a surveyor or other qualified person in accordance with the standards established by USA Swimming, professional licensed in the state or jurisdiction where the facility is located. Such measurements shall be stated in feet and inches and fractions of an inch, or feet and hundredths of a foot for short course yards pools, or in meters and centimeters for long or short course meters pools.

3. Retroactive to September 1, 2011

- a. **202.3. CONDITIONS OF SANCTION** — Any event for which a sanction is required according to 202.1 is subject to the following conditions:
- .1-.3 *no change*
 - .4 All ~~meet directors~~, referees, starters, chief judges, and stroke and turn judges, serving in an official capacity in a sanctioned event, must be non-athlete members of USA Swimming or members of other FINA-member organizations. All meet directors for meets sanctioned by USA Swimming must be members of USA Swimming. Except for coaches accompanying athletes participating under the provisions of 202.6 or USA Swimming's "open border" policy, all persons acting in any coaching capacity in a sanctioned event must be coach members of USA Swimming.

502.6 PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- .1 All non-athlete members of USA Swimming must have satisfactorily completed criminal background checks and athlete protection education as required by USA Swimming.
- .2 All clubs, including seasonal clubs, shall ensure that all athletes and coaches participating in practices and USA Swimming sanctioned competition are members of USA Swimming.
- .3 All referees, starters, chief judges, and stroke and turn judges must be non-athlete members of USA Swimming.

4. Effective January 1, 2011

- a. **202.3. CONDITIONS OF SANCTION** — Any event for which a sanction is required according to 202.1 is subject to the following conditions:
- .1-.7 *no change*
 - .8 The meet announcement shall include the following statement: Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.
Re-number remaining items.
- 202.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL** — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or withdrawn by an LSC in accordance with the following regulations:
- .14 The meet announcement shall include the following statement: Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.
- b. **304.3** The following shall be considered violations of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:
- 7 Any inappropriate sexual conduct, or advance, or other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior or action oral, written, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed towards an athlete by (i) a coach member or other non-athlete member, or (ii) any other adult participating in any capacity whatsoever in the ~~affairs or~~ activities of USA Swimming (whether such adult is a member or not). Any act of sexual harassment, including without limitation unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature ~~nonconsensual physical sexual conduct, or pattern of unwelcome advances or other sexual harassment~~ in connection with or incidental to a USA Swimming-related activity by any person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming (whether such person is a member or not) directed toward any member or other person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming.

304.6 Bullying is prohibited. For these purposes, the term "bullying" shall mean, regardless of when or where it may occur, the severe or repeated use by one or more USA Swimming members ("Members") of an oral, written, electronic or other technological expression, image, sound, data or intelligence of any nature (regardless of the method of transmission), or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at any other Member that to a reasonably objective person has the effect of: (i) causing physical or emotional harm to the other Member or damage to the other Member's property; (ii) placing the other Member in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creating a hostile environment for the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; (iv) infringing on the rights of the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; or (v) materially and substantially disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any USA Swimming activity (which for the purposes of this section shall include, without limitation, practices, workouts and other events of a member club or LSC).

Re-number remaining items

- c. **306.1** It is every member's responsibility to promptly report any incident regarding sexual misconduct by a member as described in Article 304.3.5 to USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Officer. Reporting must occur when an individual has firsthand knowledge of misconduct or where specific and credible information has been received from a victim or knowledgeable third party. Various state laws may also require reporting to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency.
- 306.2** No member shall retaliate against any individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1.
- 306.3** Filing a knowingly false allegation False reporting of sexual misconduct made in bad faith is prohibited and may violate state criminal law and civil defamation laws. Any person making a knowingly false allegation of sexual misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action by USA Swimming.
- 306.4** Neither civil nor criminal statutes of limitation apply to reports of cases of sexual abuse.

There are a number of addition legislative changes, particularly with Required LSC Bylaws, which are effective January 1, 2012. Please review the legislative packet located at <http://www.usaswimming.org/Rainbow/Documents/662e8a4d-d45d-4dea-8947-723f09b49ffa/Rules%20Changes%20Adopted%20at%202011%20HOD.pdf>.

OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Next FINA Rules Committee meeting at the 2013 Barcelona World Games. There is grumbling about the fly kick at the start and turn of breaststroke.
2. NCAA: No recall False Start, and No declared false start in consolation and championship finals.
3. Athlete Protection
 - a. Online Athlete Protection education module needs to be completed for 2012 membership.
 - b. Must be completed every 2 years.
 - c. No fee.
4. Safety and Education Committee
 - a. Bottom strikes
 - i. Before teaching starts program, about 2 bottom strikes per month reported
 - ii. After initiating the racing starts program, about 0.4 bottom strikes per month.
 - iii. Last 4-5 months, back to 2 per month.
 - iv. Remind coaches, particularly new coaches, about the teaching starts program.
 - b. Meet Referee or Meet Director to instruct Meet Marshals on duties
 - c. Looking at pool temperature conditions
5. Recruiting Officials
 - a. Pay their registration
 - b. Offer shadows on deck prior to becoming an official
 - c. 6 sessions as a S/T: do not become members before completing the apprenticeship
 - d. This is OK with Athlete Protection Office
 - e. Personal contact is the **best way** to recruit
 - f. Hold clinics at age group meets

6. Getting Other Officials to work your meet
 - a. Go into the stands and invite them to work
 - b. Two way issue, help at their meets
 - c. Email invitation to officials prior to the meet

7. Angry coach heading your way
 - a. Shake their hand right away
 - b. "How can I help you?"
 - c. Go off deck if you can

8. Situations
 - a. Can you re-submerge in the free, fly and back? Answer: once you have surfaced, you cannot re-submerge even if you are within the 15 mm marks.
 - b. Hands moving prior to the fly kick in breaststroke: Does movement of the fingers or thumb count? Answer: Lateral or downward movement of the hand is required, not just the fingers or thumb.
 - c. Relay: Swimmer accidentally falls off the block into the water, goes back to the wall, and does an in-water start: This is a disqualification.
 - d. Last second opening in the B final: move lane 4 from C final to open B final lane, and first alternate into open C final lane.

9. Alternates should be ready to swim at the side of the Referee.

10. Starter must be on side of the pool within approximately 5 meters of start end.

11. Distance event sessions are not separate sessions for evaluation (nor should we count them for an apprentice session).

12. If hand signals are requested by a disability swimmer, Referee observes the starter, and stands the swimmers if starter is not giving proper hand signals.

13. New Open Water Referee Guide coming soon!

14. Open Water Safety
 - a. Onus is on the Meet Director for safety
 - b. New application for sanction includes a safety plan
 - c. Need an Independent Safety Monitor who has ability to cancel the meet
 - d. Still also need a Safety Officer for the meet
 - e. Water quality testing: done at time of site selection, one week out from Meet, and day of Meet.
 - f. Advice for swimmers
 - i. If something swims up to you, it is not afraid, do not touch.
 - ii. Brightly colored critters, they are not afraid, avoid
 - iii. Do not touch pretty shells, living things live in them
 - iv. Coral can inject multiple stingers, do not touch

- v. Boats are the most feared, consider cage around propellers
- vi. “Something is looking at me”
- vii. “Is it worse if the fin moves up and down, or side to side?”
- g. Swimmers should use SPF of 40, zinc oxide on nose
- h. If the athletes performance changes, they are confused, or other CNS changes, get them out of the water.
- i. **On water Officials: be prepared to jump in for a swimmer.**

15. Ohio Open Water Safety Features

- a. LG every 50 meters on shore and in water
- b. React in 10 seconds, get there in 20 secs
- c. One responder in water craft for every 20 swimmers
- d. All guards and officials have radios
- e. Evacuation: announced through radios and whistles
- f. MD, EMT and ambulance on site
- g. No deck registration
- h. Check in with pre-assigned numbers
- i. No check in, check with coach or parent
- j. Reconcile OOF with start lists
- k. Designated warm up/down area
- l. Post Temperature of air and water on white boards. If water less than 60 degrees, no meet.

16. Open Water Relays

- a. 3 swimmers, at least one from each gender
- b. waves start in 1 minute intervals
- c. Time is the finish of the last swimmer of the team
- d. All swimmers may also start at once.

17. WIO Committee

- a. Goal is excellence in officiating
- b. People want to feel included
- c. National Evaluation: it is not about evaluating, it is about feedback/mentoring
- d. Reduce cost to work National Meets
- e. Personally encourage officials and thank them
- f. People do not understand the certification process
- g. Important that we all find our own replacement
- h. Most LSCs have no program to attract and promote officials
 - i. Coaches play a role in selecting parents
 - ii. Officials’ Coordinator for each club
- i. Prepare officials for the next level, need local QM meets
- j. What are you doing to change the culture?