

MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2015

Starts: At the referee's long whistle, a swimmer may take a position with one foot at the front of the block or deck but on the command "Take your mark" is required to place at least one foot at the front of the block or deck. (Article 101.1.1)

Warm-up: Backstroke starts are permitted only in designated lanes during warm-up at meets. (Article 102.4.2)

Entries: A swimmer shall enter a meet with the full name as it appears on the USMS registration card. (Article 102.7)

Qualification of Officials: The list of USMS-approved certifying bodies for officials has been moved from 103.3.1, 103.3.2, and 104.5.10B to Appendix B.

Meet Committee: The list of responsibilities has been expanded to include verifying proper certification of pool length and completing record applications. (Article 103.5)

USMS National Championship Meets: With the approval of the Championship Committee, dates other than August 1 – September 15 may be considered for a long course national championship meet. (Article 104.1.2)

Meet schedules for USMS national championship meets have been removed from the rule book. The Championship Committee will publish the meet schedule for each national championship meet at least six months before each meet. A schedule used at one national championship meet will not be repeated for at least two years. (104.5.2A)

The Championship Committee may choose one or more of the following entry limitations for the 800/1000 and/or the 1500/1650 freestyle: a) each swimmer may enter only one of those events, b) only swimmers who meet the qualifying times in both events may enter both events, and/or c) one of those events may be restricted to only those who meet the qualifying times.

The Championship Committee may establish an entry receipt deadline. The postmark deadline for entries has been deleted. (Article 104.5.4C[3]).

The meet host of a national championship meet shall appoint a meet referee, an administrative referee (definition added to glossary), a head starter, and a chief judge subject to standards established by the USMS Officials Committee. Minimum stroke and turn judges include: two turn judges at each end of each course (jurisdiction not to exceed 5 lanes per judge), one stroke judge on each side of a 50-meter course, and one official at the 15-meter mark of each course for all starts and turns except breaststroke.

Pool Measurement: A bulkhead placement confirmation measurement is required for a USMS record set at events sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming. (Article 105.1.7E)