

USA SWIMMING
RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS
With January 1, 2017 Effective Date

R-1 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 14 – (new) **Official Glossary**
 Page 62 – (new) **202.5 Conditions of Sanction**

OFFICIAL GLOSSARY

DECK PASS – the official mobile application of USA Swimming.

202.5 CONDITIONS OF SANCTION — Any event for which a sanction is required according to 202.1 is subject to the following conditions:

.1-.6 [no changes]

.7 Deck Pass is acceptable proof of USA Swimming membership.

[re-number remaining]

R-4 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 54 – **105.1 General**
 Page 167 – (new) **701.24 Swimmers with Disabilities**

105.1 GENERAL

.1 **Authority** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications. Reference article 701.24 for Open Water competitions.

701.24 SWIMMERS WITH DISABILITIES

.1 **Authority** – The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee authority to modify any rule or race management procedure for a swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Any such modification shall affect only the current event and does not set precedent.

.2 Responsibilities

A **Swimmer**—The swimmer (or the swimmer’s coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment if required.

B **Referee**—The Referee’s responsibilities include:

(1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and conform to safety requirements. No modifications shall be granted which gives a swimmer a competitive advantage.

(2) Instructing the Starter and all Judges as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

C **Coaches** — Coaches and teams entering swimmers with disabilities that require any accommodations shall provide advance notice in writing to the meet director by the entry deadline. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host’s ability to accommodate all requests.

R-5 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 47 – (new) **103.13 Drones**
Page 60 – (new) **202.4 Requirements for Sanction**

103.13 /M/ DRONES — Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present.

Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Vice President of Program Operations.

[re-number remaining]

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

.1-.8 [no changes]

.9 Application for sanction must be accompanied by a copy of the complete meet announcement which must include the following:

A-I [no changes]

J The following statement: "Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present."

Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Vice President of Program Operations.

[re-letter remaining]

R-6 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 67 – **Article 203 Representation**

**ARTICLE 203
REPRESENTATION**

203.1-.3 [no changes]

203.4 A swimmer registered with a USA Swimming non-school club who wishes to compete for a secondary school, college or university shall be automatically released without notice by his/her club upon commencement of his/her season to compete for that school in school competition, and upon termination of such school swimming season he/she shall be immediately eligible to represent the same USA Swimming non-school club, ~~of his/her choice~~ Should the swimmer choose to represent a different USA Swimming non-school club, the swimmer is subject to (subject to the 120-day rule in 203.3.) It is the swimmer's responsibility to ascertain his/her compliance with scholastic governing bodies' rules and regulations.

R-7 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 100 – **302.2 Membership**
Page 128 – **502.4 Individual Membership**

302.2 MEMBERSHIP — Athlete membership will consist of an annual membership, an outreach membership, a seasonal membership, or a single-meet open water membership.

.1 **Annual Membership** — Membership is for a calendar year. Non-members applying for membership on or after September 1 will be issued a membership card valid through December 31 of the following year.

502.4 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

.1-.4 [no changes]

- .5 Each class of membership (except life membership, seasonal membership and single-meet open water membership) is for a calendar year period. Individuals applying for calendar year membership on or after September 1 will receive membership ~~credentials~~ valid through December 31 of the following year.
- .6 An LSC shall not impose requirements for Individual Membership in addition to those set forth in Article 502. An LSC may require proof of birth date prior to competition in age classified events.

R-10 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 100 – **Article 302.4 False Registration**

302.4 FALSE REGISTRATION — If a swimmer who is not properly registered with USA Swimming competes in a sanctioned competition, ~~A~~ the host LSC may impose a fine of up to \$100.00 per event against ~~a~~ the individual, member coach or ~~a~~ member club submitting ~~a meet the entry, which indicates a swimmer is registered with USA Swimming when that swimmer or the listed club is not properly registered. The host LSC will be entitled to any fines imposed.~~

R-11 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 101 – **Article 303 Eligibility**

ARTICLE 303 ELIGIBILITY

303.1-.4 [no changes]

303.5 No Individual Member or Group Member of USA Swimming shall coach, train or provide swimming-related advice or service to any swimmer who is serving a period of ineligibility or provisional suspension for an anti-doping rule violation.

In accordance with policies and procedures in the USA Swimming Policy Manual, Coaches and Group Members are required to report any non-member of USA Swimming ranked in the top 100 in the world who participates in team activities.

R-16 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 130 **Article 503**
Page 131 **Article 504**

ARTICLE 503 OFFICERS

503.1 OFFICERS — ~~All USA Swimming officers, except the Secretary and the Athletes Vice President, shall be elected by the House of Delegates at annual meetings held in even numbered years. The elected officers shall be President, Treasurer, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Program Development, Vice President of Program Operations, Technical Vice President and Athletes Vice President.~~

~~.1 The Athletes Vice President shall be elected by the Athletes Committee members of the House of Delegates.~~

.1 The President & CEO is the chief executive officer of USA Swimming. The President & CEO shall have all the duties incident to that office; those specifically assigned by the Board of Directors; and those specified in the USA Swimming Policy Manual. The President & CEO shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. For international purposes, the President & CEO shall be recognized as the Secretary General of USA Swimming.

.2 The Vice President & COO is the chief operating officer of USA Swimming. The Vice President & COO shall have all the duties incident to that office; those specifically assigned by the President & CEO; and shall perform the duties of and have the authority and exercise the power of the President & CEO when the President & CEO is absent or

incapacitated. The Vice President & COO shall serve at the pleasure of the President & CEO.

- .3 The Treasurer & CFO is the chief financial officer of USA Swimming. The Treasurer & CFO shall have all the duties incident to that office; those specifically assigned by the President & CEO; those specified in the USA Swimming Policy Manual or specifically set forth in 508.2 of these Bylaws. The Treasurer & CFO shall serve at the pleasure of the President & CEO.
- .4 The Secretary & General Counsel is the chief legal officer of USA Swimming. The Secretary & General Counsel shall have all the duties incident to that office; those specifically assigned by the President & CEO; and, in addition, shall be responsible for the legal affairs of USA Swimming under the direction of the Board of Directors and the President & CEO. The Secretary & General Counsel shall have voice but no vote in any of the affairs of USA Swimming. The Secretary & General Counsel shall serve at the pleasure of the President & CEO.

503.2 VICE PRESIDENTS

- ~~.1 The vice presidents of USA Swimming shall chair their respective divisions, and shall be responsible for their respective committees, as set forth in Article 506 and the USA Swimming Policy Manual.~~
- ~~.2 Whenever the President is unable to perform his/her duties, the Vice President of Administration shall perform the duties~~
- ~~.3 The Technical Vice President must be a coach member of USA Swimming and shall have been credentialed and served as a coach at a Junior, Sectional, or National Championships~~

~~**503.3 TREASURER** — The Treasurer shall have all the duties incident to that office; those specifically assigned by the Board of Directors; those specified in the USA Swimming Policy Manual or specifically set forth in 508.2 of these Bylaws.~~

~~**503.4 SECRETARY** — The Secretary of USA Swimming shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Secretary shall perform such duties as is customary for such office, and, in addition, shall be responsible for the legal affairs of USA Swimming under the direction of the Board. The Secretary shall have voice but no vote in any of the affairs of USA Swimming.~~

~~**503.5 DUTIES OF OFFICERS** — The officers shall perform such duties as set forth in these Bylaws, or as may be assigned to them by the House of Delegates or the Board of Directors.~~

~~**503.6 TERM OF OFFICE** — The elected officers shall hold office for two years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Their term of office shall commence at the close of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates at which they are elected. Each officer is eligible for election to the same office for two consecutive terms. An individual may hold only one elective office at any one time. No person so elected for successive terms is eligible for re-election to the same office until after the lapse of two years following the terms of office to which that person was last elected (portions of those terms served to fill a vacancy in the office shall not be considered in the computation of time for this purpose).~~

~~**503.7 VACANCIES** — Any vacancy that may occur in an office of USA Swimming caused by death, resignation, incapacity or other reason, may be filled permanently or temporarily by the President with the consent of the Executive Committee to fill out the unexpired term of a permanent vacancy or until the individual is able to resume the duties of the office in the event of a temporary vacancy. An appointment to fill a permanent or temporary vacancy shall be with the full rights of the office.~~

ARTICLE 504

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~~**504.1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP** — Eight (8) Directors shall be the seven (7) elected officers of USA Swimming (i) the elected Board Chair; (ii) the six (6) elected Vice Chairs; and (iii) the Secretary & General Counsel (appointed by the Board). In addition, Two (2) Directors shall be elected from each zone by members of the House of Delegates, representing LSCs within each of the four zones, pursuant to Article 504.3. The Chair of the National Team Steering Committee shall also be a member.~~

~~**504.2 BOARD CHAIR & VICE CHAIRS** – The USA Swimming Board Chair and all Vice Chairs, except the Athletes Vice Chair, shall be elected by the House of Delegates at annual meetings held in even-numbered years. The elected Chairs shall be the Board Chair, Finance Vice Chair, Administration Vice Chair, Program Development Vice Chair, Program Operations Vice Chair, Technical Vice Chair and Athletes Vice Chair. The Athletes Vice Chair shall be elected by the~~

Athletes Committee.

- .1 USA Swimming shall have a Board Chair who shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Board Chair shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The Board Chair shall perform such other duties and have such other authority and powers as the Board may from time to time prescribe.
- .2 The Vice Chairs of USA Swimming shall chair their respective divisions, and shall be responsible for their respective committees, as set forth in Article 506 and the USA Swimming Policy Manual.
- .3 Whenever the Board Chair is unable to perform his/her duties, the Administration Vice Chair shall perform the duties.
- .4 The Technical Vice Chair must be a coach member of USA Swimming and shall have been credentialed and served as a coach at a Junior, Sectional, or National Championships.
- .5 The Board Chair and Vice Chairs shall perform such duties as set forth in these Bylaws, or as may be assigned to them by the House of Delegates or the Board of Directors.

Note: Various housekeeping changes throughout the Rule Book to correct titles and references are considered to be part of this legislation.

R-17 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017
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Location: Page 130 **503.1 Officers**
 Page 135 **506.2 Athletes Committee**
 Page 141 **507.1 Organization**

503.1 OFFICERS — All USA Swimming officers, except the Secretary and the Athletes Vice President, shall be elected by the House of Delegates at annual meetings held in even-numbered years. The elected officers shall be President, Treasurer, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Program Development, Vice President of Program Operations, Technical Vice President and Athletes Vice President.

- .1 The Athletes Vice President shall be elected by the Athletes Committee ~~members of the House of Delegates.~~

506.2 ATHLETES COMMITTEE

- .1 The Athletes Committee shall be composed of the athlete members of the House of Delegates ~~selected pursuant to 506.2.3 and 507.4.~~ The Athletes Vice President shall chair this committee.

507.1 ORGANIZATION

- .1 [no changes]
- .2 The members of the Athletes Executive Committee and ten (10) National Representatives, five (5) being appointed each year by the Athletes Vice-President and each serving a two (2)-year term, shall be members of the House of Delegates. The National Representatives and their alternates must at the time of their appointment be engaged in senior swimming, or have competed in USA Swimming Championships within five (5) years preceding their appointment. The President may appoint, from a slate of nominees submitted by the Athletes Committee, such further at-large athlete members so as to bring the total athlete representation in the House of Delegates to at least twenty percent (20%).

R-18 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017
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Location: Page 131 **504.1 General Membership**

504.1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP — Eight (8) Directors shall be the seven (7) elected officers of USA Swimming and the Secretary (appointed by the Board). Two (2) Directors shall be elected from each zone by members of the ~~House of Delegates~~ respective zones, representing LSCs within each of the four zones. The Chair of the National Team Steering Committee shall also be a member.

504.2 ZONE DIRECTORS — Each zone shall have one coach and one non-coach director from the zone as its Zone Representatives, elected at the annual meeting in the following years:

	Coach	Non-Coach
Eastern Zone	Even Years	Odd Years
Southern Zone	Odd Years	Even Years
Central Zone	Odd Years	Even Years
Western Zone	Even Years	Odd Years

- 1 Both coach and non-coach Zone Directors will be elected by the members present at their Zone meeting in the appropriate year.
- 2 Each LSC is entitled to five votes, of which at least one vote must be designated to the LSC Athlete Representative(s). If no Athlete Representative is present, the LSC shall cast only four votes.
- 3 No director elected to two successive terms is eligible for re-election to that office until after a lapse of two years.
- 4 For the purposes of casting its votes, each LSC may send one or more delegates to the Zone meeting.
- 5 The election of zone members to the Board of Directors shall be based upon the zones in which the proposed Directors maintain their residency.

R-19 ADOPTED/AMENDED Effective January 1, 2017
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Location: Page 134 **506.1 Committees and Coordinators**

506.1 COMMITTEES AND COORDINATORS

- 1 Standing committees of USA Swimming shall be as listed in this Article.
- 2 Except for those individuals who qualify for their positions under some other provision of Article 506:
 - A Non-athlete committee members shall serve four-year terms except as noted herein.
 - (1) A non-athlete member who accumulates two or more unexcused absences within one calendar year may be removed by the Committee Chair with the consent of the President.
 - (2) After a warning from the Committee Chair, a non-athlete member who continues to fail to contribute or fulfill assigned duties in a timely manner may be removed from his/her committee position by the Committee Chair with the consent of the President.
 - (3) A member who has been removed shall be notified in writing by the Chair of the committee. The member shall have two weeks to appeal the decision to the USA Swimming Board of Directors.
 - B Non-athlete committee members' terms shall be staggered so that one-fourth of all non-athlete members are appointed each year by the President following the annual meeting of the Corporation.
 - C Committees other than athletes committees shall consist of volunteer members of USA Swimming who are not voting members of the Board of Directors. The President may appoint voting members of the Board of Directors as Ex-Officio, non-voting members of committees that are normally appointed by the President. Athlete members and non-voting members of the Board of Directors shall be exempt from this rule. [effective August 22, 2016]
 - D In the event of a vacancy on a committee caused by any reason, the person/organization responsible for the appointment shall select the person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If the vacancy occurs in an elected committee position, the President, in consultation with the Committee Chair, shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term. [effective August 22, 2016]
 - ~~E Committee members shall be subject to removal prior to the expiration of a term only by the Board of Directors.~~

[re-letter remaining]

R-22 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 157 – **604.2 Change in LSC Territory**

604.2 CHANGE IN LSC TERRITORY — If two-thirds (2/3) of the number of clubs in a contiguous area within an LSC wish to affiliate with a neighboring and contiguous LSC, and should the House of Delegates of each LSC by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present approve the change, the change in territorial jurisdiction shall include all Club Members in the contiguous area and shall become effective ~~at the commencement of the fiscal year of USA Swimming~~ no sooner than sixty (60) days following that in which the receipt by the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee receives of satisfactory evidence of the various votes required. Club Member approval of change in affiliation shall be in accord with the rules of the Club Member and shall be duly certified by the Club Member's president and secretary.

R-23 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 158 – **Article 605 Zones**

ARTICLE 605 ZONES

605.1 For administrative purposes, USA Swimming has grouped the LSCs ~~shall be combined into contiguous zones as follows into the following zones:~~

Eastern Zone — Adirondack, Allegheny Mountain, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic, New England, New Jersey, Niagara, Potomac Valley, Virginia.

Southern Zone — Border, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Texas, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, West Texas, West Virginia.

Central Zone — Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Lake Erie, Michigan, Midwestern, Minnesota, Missouri Valley, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ozark, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Western Zone — Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Colorado, Hawaii, Inland Empire, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, San Diego-Imperial, Sierra Nevada, Snake River, Southern California, Utah, Wyoming.

605.2 ZONE BYLAWS, ELECTIONS OF DIRECTORS AND VOTING — ~~Each Zone shall adopt its own Bylaws.~~

.1 Each Zone shall adopt Bylaws which shall govern its affairs and shall be approved by the USA Swimming Secretary/General Counsel or his/her designee.

~~.12 See Zone Directors shall be elected in accordance with Article 504.2 for election of the Zone Directors.~~

~~.23~~ On all voting matters, each LSC is entitled to five votes, of which at least one vote must be designated to the LSC Athlete Representative(s). If no Athlete Representative is present, the LSC shall cast only four votes.

~~**605.3 ZONE DIRECTORS** — See 504.2 for election of the Zone Directors.~~

605.43 ZONE MEET ADMINISTRATION — ~~The Zone Age Group Championships, Meet-meets delegated to the Zone in the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations, and any other meets scheduled by the Zone shall be conducted and administered by the Zone.~~

605.54 CHANGE IN ZONE ALIGNMENT — If an LSC by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a meeting of the LSC House of Delegates approves a change moving the LSC from one Zone to another, and if both Zones approve of the change by majority vote of the LSCs in each Zone, that change shall become effective at the close of the next USA Swimming annual meeting at which the USA Swimming House of Delegates shall approve the change. Prior to the vote of the House of Delegates, the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee shall make a recommendation as to approval or disapproval of the proposed change.

R-24 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017
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Location: Page 164 – **701.9 Officials**

701.9 OFFICIALS — There should be no fewer than the following officiating positions filled. The positions of Referee, Safety Officer, Finish Judge and Timer shall not be combined with the duties of any other official.

The Referee, Assistant Referee, Administrative Referee, and Starter must have passed the USA Swimming Open Water Referee online test prior to officiating a sanctioned Open Water competition.

Referee	Assistant Referee
Administrative Referee	Announcer
Safety Officer	Medical Officer
Course Officer	Clerk of Course
Starter	Chief Timer and 3 timers
Chief Finish Judge and 2 finish judges	Recorder
Race Judge (one per competitor in escorted races)	
Turn Judge (one at each change in the direction of the course)	