

**U.S. Masters Swimming
Long Distance Committee Operating Guidelines
Updated August 2019**

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to put into writing the practices, policies, and procedures of the Long Distance Committee to provide background and insight into this committee. This document in no way supersedes USMS articles of incorporation, USMS code, or any procedures and protocols defined in the USMS LMSC Handbook or USMS Rule book.

Definition

In accordance with 507.1.8 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 committee shall maintain records and select the Long Distance All American and Long Distance All-Star Teams. The committee shall ensure that the competitive rules in Part 3 of the USMS rules and interpretations 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.

Organization:

As seen in 301.1 in the 2019 U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book, the conduct and organization of Open Water and Long Distance swimming for U.S. Masters Swimming shall be governed by USMS through the Long Distance Committee and LMSC's. The Chair and Committee members shall be appointed as provided in articles 507.1 and 507.1.7.

Responsibilities of Long Distance Committee

In the 2019 U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book Part 3 contains the Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules. These rules are submitted through the Long Distance Committee throughout a calendar year, updated, changed, and ratified by the Long Distance Committee prior to the U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting. At the U.S Masters Swimming Annual Meeting, these proposed rule changes are brought the floor of the House of Delegates to be voted on and ratified by the voting members to the U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting. As are revised and updated from year to year, the listing as follows contains the responsibilities and specific events that the long-distance committee is responsible to conduct.

- ❖ Solicits bids and awards contracts for the Open Water National Championship events.
- ❖ Solicits bids and awards contracts for the ePostal National Championship events.
- ❖ Ensures that the USMS Open Water National Championship events and ePostal

National Championship events are conducted per the guidelines as stated in Part 3 of the U.S. Masters Swimming Rule Book as contained in the Open Water and Long Distance Swimming Rules.

- ❖ In accordance with 307.1: select individual and relay All-Americans.
- ❖ In accordance with 307.12: select an All-Star Team.
- ❖ In accordance with 308.1: maintain records.