

# PART 6: AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

## ARTICLE 601: Amendments

### 601.1 Scope of Amendments and Changes

**601.1.1 Code**—Amendments to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* (Parts 1–6 and *Guiding Principles*), LMSC names and boundaries, and zone names and boundaries shall be considered only at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates.

**601.1.2 Housekeeping**—Changes to Parts 1–6 for housekeeping purposes may be approved by the committee(s) of jurisdiction at any time, with the concurrence of the jurisdictional vice president(s) and reported to the House of Delegates.

**601.1.3 Glossary**—Changes to the *Glossary* that accompanies the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* may be approved by any committee of jurisdiction at any time with the concurrence of the jurisdictional vice president(s) to clarify or explain provisions of the code. Each committee shall report such changes to the House of Delegates.

**601.1.4 Appendices**—Changes to the organization of appendices or other informational material that accompanies the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Changes to the content of appendices may be approved at any time by the Executive Committee or a standing committee to conform to amendments adopted by the House of Delegates, policies adopted by the Board of Directors, or to clarify and update information relevant to USMS members within the scope of committee jurisdictions. Such changes shall be reported to the House of Delegates.

Guidelines for the conduct of dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming may not be modified without the consent of the Executive Committee and the concurrence of USA Swimming. The chairs of the Rules and Legislation Committees are authorized to use the guidelines to interpret provisions of Parts 1 and 2 for USMS-sanctioned meets held in conjunction with USA Swimming-sanctioned meets.

### 601.2 Submission of Proposed Amendments

**601.2.1 Authorized Bodies**—Amendments to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition* (Parts 1–6 and *Guiding Principles*) may be proposed only by an LMSC, a standing committee of the House of Delegates, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.

**601.2.2 Format**—Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the committee(s) of jurisdiction in such form as to show the section as it will read if adopted, with any changes in language underlined if new and lined out if deleted.

**601.2.3 Amendments With Multiple Committees of Jurisdiction**—Proposed amendments that fall within more than one committee of jurisdiction may be submitted as an indivisible package. Committees of jurisdiction may also combine related proposed amendments and report the proposed amendment to the House of Delegates as an indivisible package. Each committee of jurisdiction must vote by a two-thirds majority to accept the proposed amendments as a package to be considered in the whole. Otherwise, the proposed amendments shall be considered separately by each committee of jurisdiction.

**601.2.4 Submission Deadline**—June 10 is the submission deadline for proposed amendments to the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*, proposed changes to LMSC names or boundaries, and proposed changes to zone names or boundaries to the committee(s) with jurisdiction. Proposed amendments submitted in the correct format by an authorized body before the submission deadline shall be considered timely amendments.

**601.2.5 Submissions After the Deadline**—The Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or standing committees may propose changes to Parts 1–6 after the submission deadline. Submissions after the deadline may be considered timely amendments by a two-thirds vote of the committee of jurisdiction, provided the proposed amendment is submitted to the committee of jurisdiction no later than August 1. Submissions after August 1 and submissions not considered timely by the committee of jurisdiction may still be considered as emergency amendments.

**601.2.6 Publication of Proposed Amendments**—Timely amendments shall be reported to each LMSC and to each member of the House of Delegates no later than 30 days before the start of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. Emergency amendments shall be reported to each member of the House of Delegates as soon as practical after being reviewed and considered by the committee of jurisdiction.

### **601.3 Modification of Proposed Amendments**

Proposed amendments may be modified by the committee with jurisdiction or by the House of Delegates. Such modification must be germane to the subject matter and intent of the proposed change and requires a majority vote of committee members present and voting. Such modification by the House of Delegates requires a two-thirds vote.

### **601.4 Adoption of Proposed Amendments**

**601.4.1 Timely Amendments**—Timely amendments shall be considered by the House of Delegates at the annual meeting and may be adopted as follows:

**A** All proposed amendments submitted to the committees of jurisdiction by an authorized body must be reported to the House of Delegates with a recommendation to adopt or reject the proposed amendments. Proposed amendments that are considered as an indivisible package must receive a recommendation to adopt from each committee of jurisdiction in order to be reported to the House of Delegates with a recommendation to adopt the indivisible package.

**B** Proposed amendments presented to the House of Delegates by the committee(s) of jurisdiction with a recommendation to adopt may be adopted by a majority of members of the House of Delegates who are present and voting.

C Proposed amendments presented to the House of Delegates by the committee(s) of jurisdiction with a recommendation to reject may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of members of the House of Delegates present and voting, notwithstanding the committee recommendation.

**601.4.2 Emergency Amendments**—Emergency amendments (amendments not considered timely) may be adopted by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if they are properly submitted to, deemed an emergency by, and recommended by the committee with jurisdiction.

**601.4.3 USA Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules**

A Amendments to USA Swimming articles 101, “Individual Strokes and Relays,” 102, “Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition,” and 105, “Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers With a Disability in USA Swimming Meets,” shall automatically be adopted by USMS unless the USMS Rules Committee determines that the amendment is not applicable to USMS, corresponds to a previously approved difference between USMS and USA Swimming rules, or is not in conformance with World Aquatics Masters Technical Rules. USA Swimming amendments may be altered by the Rules Committee for clarity, consistency of language, or stylistic conformity with USMS rules of competition.

B Amendments to USA Swimming article 103, “Facility Standards,” may be submitted by the Rules Committee with a recommendation for adoption by the House of Delegates in accordance with article 601.4. The Rules Committee may temporarily adopt such amendments until the next annual meeting with a two-thirds majority vote of Rules Committee members present and voting.

C Amendments to USMS Rules of Competition under this provision shall be reported to the entire membership of the House of Delegates within 30 days of the action.

**601.4.4 World Aquatics Masters Swimming Amendments That Affect USMS Rules**—When amendments to the World Aquatics Masters Technical Rules are adopted, the corresponding portions of Part 1 shall be automatically adopted by USMS except that such amendments may be altered by the Rules Committee for clarity, consistency of language, or stylistic conformity with USMS rules. Amendments to World Aquatics Masters Technical Rules may be rejected by a nine-tenths vote of the Rules Committee and a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Amendments to USMS rules under this provision shall be reported to the entire membership of the House of Delegates within 30 days of the action.

**601.5 Emergency Actions**

**601.5.1 Emergency Amendments at the Annual Meeting**—Emergency amendments (amendments not considered timely) may be adopted at the annual meeting by a nine-tenths vote of the House of Delegates members present and voting if they are submitted to the committee of jurisdiction, deemed an emergency by that committee, and recommended by the committee with jurisdiction.

**601.5.2 Emergency Amendments Between Annual Meetings**—Emergency actions to temporarily suspend, adopt, or amend any rule of competition (Part 1 or

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Part 3) or administrative regulation of competition (Part 2) may be enacted between annual meetings of the House of Delegates provided that the proposed suspensions or amendments are:

- A Initiated by a standing committee, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee, and
- B Submitted to the committee with jurisdiction, deemed an emergency that requires immediate action to serve the interests of USMS, and approved by a majority of members present and voting of the committee with jurisdiction, and
- C Submitted to the Board of Directors by the committee with jurisdiction and, with the advice and consent of the legal counsel, the Board of Directors deems the action an emergency that requires immediate action to serve the interests of USMS, and approves the action by a majority of members of the Board of Directors present and voting.

**601.5.3 Expiration of Emergency Action**—Emergency actions taken between annual meetings expire at the commencement of the next annual meeting. The president shall make a report to the House of Delegates within 30 days of any emergency action.

### **601.6 Effective Date**

Unless otherwise specified, all changes approved as prescribed shall become effective on January 1 of the year following their adoption.