

Official Interpretations Regarding Dual-Sanctioned Meets

Appendix B of the USMS Rule Book provides guidelines for conducting USMS meets as dual-sanctioned meets with USA Swimming. A dual-sanctioned meet is a USMS sanctioned meet conducted simultaneously with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

Basic Principles

- USA Swimming athletes are competing under USA Swimming sanction in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, while USMS athletes are competing under USMS sanction in accordance with USMS Rules and Regulations. No swimmer is competing under both sanctions at the same time.
- The USA Swimming and USMS portions of the competition must be clearly defined, even when swimmers are competing together in the same heats (see appendix B).
- The process for obtaining a USMS sanction is always the same. The regulations apply to stand-alone meets and to dual-sanctioned meets held in conjunction with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet. All of the regulations regarding sanctioning, entries, and meet information must be followed for either type of meet.

FINA World Records

- FINA rules (MSW 5.3) require that world masters records be established in a masters meet formally sanctioned by a FINA Masters Federation. The meet must be conducted under the rules of FINA and specifically those relevant to masters swimming.
- Times achieved by USMS members competing in a USA Swimming sanctioned meet as USA Swimming athletes may not be submitted for FINA world record consideration. Only swimmers who compete in USMS sanctioned events as USMS members are eligible to submit times for FINA world record consideration.
- The dual-sanctioned guidelines may be used to conduct a USMS sanctioned meet in conjunction with a USA Swimming sanctioned meet. The USMS portion of the competition must be clearly defined in order to satisfy the conditions of the sanction and to ensure compliance with MSW 5.3. A USMS sanction cannot be used to cover USMS members who are competing in USA Swimming sanctioned meets.

Meet Announcement, Entry Information, and Events

- The part one rules of competition and part two regulations require specific information to be included in the meet announcement for the benefit of swimmers.
- In the case of dual-sanctioned meets, the USMS portion of the competition must include each of these provisions in the meet announcement and made available to masters swimmers.
- If agreeable between the sanctioning LMSC and LSC, the information for USA Swimming athletes

and the information for USMS athletes may be combined into a single meet announcement, but the provisions for USMS athletes must be clearly stated, even if the statement(s) say that the information is the same for both USA Swimming and USMS athletes.

✓	Requirement	USMS Rule Book
	order of events (<i>at least one week prior to entry deadline</i>)	102.5.7
	check-in and scratch procedures for individual and relay events	102.8
	entry procedures for relay-only swimmers	102.9.4
	seeding method for all events	102.10.1D
	<i>if used</i> , criteria under which freestyle events over 200 meters will be swum <i>two-to-a-lane</i>	102.10.4A(1)(a)
	entry provisions, starting time, and entry deadline	102.11.3
	<i>if any</i> , additional LMSC restrictions on the use of cameras, video equipment, and drones	102.16
	<i>if it is not possible to satisfy the timing requirements of 103.18.5–103.18.7</i> , a statement informing swimmers that the official times cannot be submitted for world records, USMS records, and/or Top 10	103.18.9 202.1.1.A(4)
	<i>if mandatory facilities standards [M7] not met</i> , statement that times will not count for USMS records and Top 10	106.1.3
	The entry forms...shall contain the language of the liability release as stated in USMS policy (<i>see USMS Guide to Operations, Sanctions section</i>). All swimmers shall have signed the liability release before participating.	202.1.1.A(1)
	Event entry forms and programs shall include the statement “ <i>Sanctioned by (LMSC name) for USMS Inc.</i> ” Event entry forms and programs may include the statement “Sanction number ____.”	202.1.1.A(2)
	one of provided “length of the competition course” statements (<i>course length compliance and eligibility of swims for world records, USMS records, and/or Top 10</i>)	202.1.1.A(3)
	<i>if conducted in facility not meeting required pool length tolerance</i> , statement that event results shall not count for USMS records and Top 10	202.1.1G(4)
	additional requirements for special circumstances	
	<i>if a dual-sanctioned meet</i> , availability of warm-up in pools of five lanes or more if not continuous	102.4.2
	<i>for short course yards events not conducted on timed-finals basis</i> , process for seeding, contesting events, and determining final places	102.5.5 102.10.1A
	<i>if time trials offered</i> , events and format	102.5.6
	<i>if the LMSC/meet host establishes scoring point values to suit the format of a nonstandard meet</i> , these point values shall be stated	103.19.3B

Sanctions and Entry Deadline

The following provisions apply to all USMS sanctioned meets, including dual sanctioned meets.

- Article 202.1.1(B) says that entries shall not be accepted before the sanction is issued. Paper forms shall not be distributed, online entry systems shall not be activated, and the event shall not be listed as sanctioned on the USMS Calendar of Events until the sanction has been issued.
- Article 102.5.7 says that the order of events must be published in the meet announcement at least one week prior to the entry deadline. The USMS entry deadline must be specified and may be the same, or different, than the USA Swimming entry deadline.

Representation

- Swimmers may represent only one organization for the entire competition.
- If a swimmer is entered as a USA Swimming athlete, then that swimmer is ineligible to compete as a USMS member.
- If a swimmer enters the USA Swimming portion of the competition as a USA Swimming athlete and later decides to change affiliation, the swimmer must withdraw the USA Swimming entry and then submit a valid USMS entry prior to the USMS entry deadline.

Application of Rules

When dual-sanctioned meets are conducted in a “combined meet” format, meaning swimmers from both organizations are competing together in the same heats without specific lanes assigned to either organizations, the guidelines indicate that all swimmers are “competing according to USA Swimming rules”.

The phrase “competing” is interpreted to mean that the applicable USA Swimming rules will be substituted for the following USMS rules when USMS and USA Swimming athletes are seeded together in heats.

- Article 101 in its entirety (Strokes, Starts, Turns, and Relays) and 107 (Guidelines for Officiating Swimmers with a Disability)
- Article 102.10.2 (Heat and Lane Assignments)
- Article 102.10.6 (Counters)
- Articles 103.2, 103.3, and 103.4. (Duties and Qualifications of Officials)
- Article 103.8.5 (Start Commands)

All other USMS rules and regulations apply to the competition, regardless of the format used to conduct the dual-sanctioned meet.

When dual-sanctioned meets are conducted using other formats (see appendix B) that do not combine swimmers from both organizations in the same heats, then all USMS rules apply to the USMS portion of the meet and to all USMS athletes participating in the meet. USA Swimming rules and regulations only apply to the USA Swimming athletes swimming the USA Swimming portion of the competition.

Conduct of Event Formats other than Timed Finals

- Article 102.5.5 requires that all short course meters and long course meters events be conducted as timed finals, which are defined as a competition in which only heats are swum and final placings

are determined by the times achieved in the heats. Article 102.5.5 complies with FINA MSW 3.3 which says that all masters events must be conducted as timed finals.

- If a USMS meet is held in conjunction with a USA Swimming meet in which preliminaries and finals are held in a 25-meter or 50-meter pool, the USMS portion of the competition must only include timed finals events only and may not include preliminaries and finals. USMS athletes are ineligible to enter events conducted as preliminaries and finals.
- As a local option, USMS athletes could be permitted to enter only the preliminary heats and swim in combined heats with USA Swimming athletes, but must not be eligible to compete for a slot in the finals. The meet announcement should clearly state this eligibility and event format.
- Alternately, USMS athletes could be permitted to enter a separate timed finals event conducted in any session, but entry into such events must be in accordance with the published USMS entry deadline and may not be contingent on a qualifying swim in a preliminary heat.

In cases where the entire competition is conducted in a 25-yard course, the masters portion of the competition may include preliminaries and finals. USMS athletes could be permitted to enter the USA Swimming events and swim in combined heats with USA Swimming athletes with eligibility to make the finals session.

Results

A separate set of results must be published for the USMS portion of the competition, including only the USMS athletes who competed under USMS sanction.