

**TABLE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES**

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted to by the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.2, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7.

Comments are invited from delegates at the annual meeting on all proposed amendments. The committee may entertain motions to reconsider at the annual meeting in order to accommodate comments from delegates and additional actions before presentation to the House of Delegates.

Amendments which are recommended by the committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to adopt. Amendments which are not recommended by the committee require a 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates to adopt.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<b>LD-1</b>	301.2.1	Redefines Open Water Guide to Operations	Recommended
<b>LD-2</b>	301.3	Adds applicable article to governance	Recommended
<b>LD-3</b>	302.1.3	Replaces “events’ with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-4</b>	302.4.4	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-5</b>	302.5.1	Replaces “events” with “swims” & wording change	Recommended
<b>LD-6</b>	302.5.3	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-7</b>	303.1	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-8</b>	303.3.1	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-9</b>	303.3.2	Redefines the tasks allowed escort craft	Recommended
<b>LD-10</b>	303.3.3B	Prohibits swimming directly behind craft, particularly motorized craft	Recommended
<b>LD-11</b>	303.4.3 & 303.6.2	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-12</b>	303.7.2C	Transfers swimwear exemption process from Long Distance Committee to Open Water Committee	Recommended
<b>LD-13</b>	303.7.2E & 303.7.3D	Allows the use of personal swim buoys (except for national championship swims) at the discretion of event hosts	Recommended
<b>LD-14</b>	303.11.2	Adds agreement of safety director when swims are restarted, and wording changes	Recommended
<b>LD-15</b>	303.11.3	Adds information on application of cut-off times	Recommended
<b>LD-16</b>	303.12.1	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-17</b>	305.8	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-18</b>	307.2.3C	Requires prior approval of LDC Chair for exceptions from this rule, and replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-19</b>	307.2.3E	Broadens possible relay participation in multi-swim championship events	Recommended

**FINAL VERSION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE USMS ANNUAL MEETING**

<b>LD-20</b>	307.7.1	Simplifies the language governing rules of conduct for national championship event hosts, and wording changes	Recommended
<b>LD-21</b>	307.7.4	Clarifies eligibility of OEVT swimmers at national championship swims	Recommended
<b>LD-22</b>	307.7.8	Replaces “events” with “swims”	Recommended
<b>LD-23</b>	307.8.1F & 307.8.2C	Requires swimmers who are disqualified to be included in national championship results	Recommended
<b>LD-24</b>	307.10.3	Clarifies awarding national championship patches	Recommended
<b>LD-25</b>	307.12.2	Redefines eligibility for consideration for USMS All-Star Team	Recommended
<b>LD-26</b>	307.12.4	Defines the scoring criteria for consideration for USMS All-Star Team	Recommended
<b>LDHK-1</b>	302.2.3B(3)	Replaces “race” with “swim”	Recommended
<b>LDHK-2</b>	302.4.1	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-3</b>	303	Reorganizes Article 3	Recommended
<b>LDHK-4</b>	303.1.1	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-5</b>	303.1.3	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-6</b>	303.3.3C	Replaces “race” with “swim”	Recommended
<b>LDHK-7</b>	303.9.4	Replaces “race” with “swim”	Recommended
<b>LDHK-8</b>	303.11.1	Replaces “race” with “swim” & reorganizes article	Recommended
<b>LDHK-9</b>	304.1.2	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-10</b>	305.3.3	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-11</b>	306.10	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-12</b>	307.1 & 307.2.2	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-13</b>	307.2.3	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-14</b>	307.3.4	Updates National Championship Bid Rotation	Recommended
<b>LDHK-15</b>	307.4	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-16</b>	307.7.3B(1)	Replaces “race” with “swim”	Recommended
<b>LDHK-17</b>	307.7.7	Replaces “race” with “swim”	Recommended
<b>LDHK-18</b>	307.7.8	Adds word inadvertently omitted from rules change in 2017	Recommended
<b>LDHK-19</b>	307.9	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-20</b>	307.9.1C	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-21</b>	307.9.3	Wording change	Recommended
<b>LDHK-22</b>	307.12	Reorganizes this article	Recommended

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART THREE RULES

The following proposed amendments to the USMS Rules of Competition were submitted by the Long Distance Committee in accordance with Articles 601.2, 601.4.2, 601.4.5, and 601.4.7. If adopted by the House of Delegates, these amendments will take effect on January 1, 2019.

<b>LD-1 301.2.1</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p. 65</b>	<b>Modify</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

301.2.1 **Open Water Guide to Operations**—The Open Water Committee shall develop and maintain the *Open Water Guide to Operations* for the use of USMS open water officials and event hosts. ~~The guide shall contain the manner of implementation, governing policies, and management of the rules applying to open water swims.~~ The guide shall contain the governing policies, management of rules, and links to education applying to open water swims.  
*Rationale 1: The addition of “develop and” provides parallel structure with 301.2.2.*  
*Rationale 2: This definition describes the recent update of the OWGTO better than the previous description.*

<b>LD-2 301.3</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p. 65</b>	<b>Modify</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

301.3 **Membership, Representation, and Sanctions**  
 Membership, representation, and sanctions for open water and long distance events shall be governed by all applicable rules under articles 201, 202 and 203.  
*Rationale: Article 201 was inadvertently omitted from this list and should be added.*

<b>LD-3 302.1.3</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p. 66</b>	<b>Modify</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.1.3 At the discretion of the event host, open water ~~events~~ swims may be competitive (article 303) and/or noncompetitive (article 304).  
*Rationale: Replaces “event” with more specific term “swim”.*

<b>LD-4 302.4.4</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p. 67</b>	<b>Modify</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.4.4 With the exception of national championship ~~events~~ swims, the event host may allow special ~~events~~ swims in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

*Rationale: Replaces “event” with more specific term “swim”. Within a given event, event hosts for relay swims other than national championship relays would have the flexibility to organize relays containing members of different clubs.*

**LD-5 302.5.1 Long Distance Committee p. 68 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.5.1 Sequential ~~R~~elays shall consist of two or more swimmers from the same USMS-registered club as specified in the entry information. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the ~~event~~ swim. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified in the entry information. The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made within one minute after the completion of the previous swimmer’s leg. In the exchange in open water relays, physical contact must be made between the two swimmers.

*Rationale #1: Housekeeping (parallel construction with proposed 302.4.1).  
Rationale #2: Replaces “event” with more specific term “swim”.*

**LD-6 302.5.3 Long Distance Committee p. 68 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.5.3 With the exception of National Championship ~~events~~ swims, the event host may allow special ~~events~~ swims in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

*Rationale: Within a given event, event hosts for relay swims other than national championship relays would have the flexibility to organize relays containing members of different clubs. (see also proposed 302.4.4).*

**LD-7 303.1 Long Distance Committee p. 68 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**303.1 Scoring Divisions**

With the exception of national championship ~~events~~ swims, scoring divisions are at the discretion of the event host and may be separated by gender, age group, swimwear, specialty categories, or any other method suitable to the swimmers served.

*Rationale: Within a given event, swims other than a national championship swim would have the flexibility to use other scoring divisions.*

**LD-8 303.3.1 Long Distance Committee p. 69 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.3.1 In any ~~event~~ swim for which it has been arranged that an escort craft will accompany

each swimmer throughout the event swim, all swimmers shall be accompanied by such an escort craft. If the escort craft becomes disabled or cannot continue to accompany the swimmer, the swimmer may:...

*Rationale: "Swim" is more appropriate than "event" in this context.*

<b>LD-9 303.3.2</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p.69</b>	<b>Modify &amp; New</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.3.2 Swimmers may receive the following assistance from any escort craft:

- A The escort craft may pass food, drink, and/or legal swim equipment and from the swimmer.
- B The escort craft may ~~also~~ assist the swimmer with navigation, including verbal and written communication.
- C The escort craft may verify the swimmer's compliance with the rules.
- D At the discretion of the event host, the escort craft may support the swimmer without forward progress being made.
- E The escort craft may perform emergency rescue.

*Rationale: This proposal defines the tasks allowed the escort craft more clearly and comprehensively than the previous rule. Changes include:*

*A Added "swim equipment" and changed sentence to active voice;*

*B Eliminated unnecessary word;*

*C New content;*

*D New content with "discretion" clause;*

*E New content.*

<b>LD-10 303.3.3B</b>	<b>Long Distance Committee</b>	<b>p. 69</b>	<b>Modify</b>
<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.3.3 Swimmers shall not receive the following assistance from any escort craft:

- A Swimmers shall not receive forward progress from any escort craft.
- B ~~Drafting~~ Swimming directly behind ~~the~~ non-motorized escort craft shall not be permitted when other open water is readily available. Swimming directly behind motorized escort craft shall not be permitted at any time.

*Rationale: This proposal substitutes "swimming" for the more ambiguous term "drafting" behind non-motorized craft and prohibits any swimming behind motorized escort craft for safety.*

**LD-11 303.4.3 & 303.6.2 Long Distance Committee p. 70-71 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.4.3 **Straightaway Events Swims**—A stationary water start shall be used in straightaway events-swims.

303.6.2 **Straightaway Events Swims**—An in-water finish shall be used in straightaway Events-swims.

*Rationale: Replaces “event” with more specific term “swim”.*

**LD-12 303.7.2C Long Distance Committee p. 71 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

C Exemptions to the restrictions in articles 303.7.2A–B may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the chair of the Long Distance Open Water Committee or designee. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer’s verified religious beliefs or verified medical conditions.

- (1) Procedures for applying for an exemption will be published by the Long Distance Open Water Committee and posted on the USMS website.
- (2) No exemptions to these restrictions will be granted for swimwear that would give a swimmer a competitive advantage.
- (3) The decision of the Long Distance Open Water Committee chair may be appealed only to the entire Long Distance Open Water Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

*Rationale: In 2010, the same year that the Open Water Committee was created, the rule and process governing exemption from the swimwear rule was proposed and given to the Long Distance Committee. Because the scope of this rule is broader than just national championship swims, both committees believe and agree that this process should be run by the Open Water Committee.*

**LD-13 303.7.2C & 303.7.3D Long Distance Committee p.72 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.7.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events

- ...
- E. At the discretion of the event host, except for national championship swims, swimmers may be required to wear a personal buoy for identification and safety. Requirements for buoys as well as rules for the use of these devices will be included in the event information.

303.7.3 Rules for Category II Swimwear for Open Water Events

...

D. At the discretion of the event host, except for national championship swims, swimmers may be permitted or required to wear a personal buoy for identification and safety. Requirements for buoys as well as rules for the use of these devices will be included in the event information. Permitted personal buoys, if not required under 303.7.2.E, will be considered Category II Swimwear for purposes of placement and scoring.

*Rationale:*

- *By requiring all swimmers to wear a personal buoy in Category I swims (specifically non-championship swims) provides a safe and flexible local option while ensuring equitable conditions of competition. When these buoys are not required, swimmers who choose to use them would be placed in Category II.*
- *By permitting or requiring swimmers to wear a personal buoy in Category II swims, this also provides a safe and flexible local option. Since devices helping buoyancy are not excluded in the Category II swimwear rule, they would also be equitable de facto.*
- *This proposal allows the Event Host to govern the type of buoy to be used (e.g. disallowing inflatable rafts, etc.) and any restrictions on their use (e.g. using buoys for flotation while making forward progress will result in disqualification, etc.).*

**LD-14 303.11.2 Long Distance Committee p. 74 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**303.11.1** If a ~~race~~ swim is stopped and swimmers are removed from the water for their safety, the referee with the agreement of the safety director shall determine if the swim is to be restarted or considered official. If the referee determines the swim to be official, article 303.9.2 may be waived and the referee shall determine the order of finish of the swimmers on the course who had not finished when the swim was stopped.

*Rationale:*

- *The safety director is responsible for reorganizing and redeploying the safety crew after a stoppage. If this is impossible or very challenging, the safety director needs a say in whether or not the swim should be restarted.*
- *Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*
- *Housekeeping (technical clarification: when swimmers have been removed from the course, they cannot be considered “on the course”).*

**LD-15 303.11.3 Long Distance Committee p. 74 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**303.11.2** In swims with cutoff times, the entry information shall state whether swimmers who have not finished or reached a specified point on the course by the cutoff time will be advanced to the finish line, considered to be officially finished, or disqualified.

*Rationale: This adds flexibility for event hosts to administer swims with cutoff times*

*and allows current practice for some existing swims.*

**LD-16 303.12.1 Long Distance Committee p. 74 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.12.1 Any protest arising from an open water ~~event~~ swim (other than national championships swims—refer to article 307.7) shall be made to the event referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

*Rationale: “Swim” is more appropriate than “event” in this context.*

**LD-17 305.8 Long Distance Committee p. 76 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Any protest arising from a long distance pool ~~event~~ swim (other than National Championships swims—refer to article 307.7.9) shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within 3 days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the LMSC. If the LMSC does not satisfactorily resolve the protest, the protestor may appeal in writing promptly to the USMS Long Distance Committee chair.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (better clarity and consistency).*

**LD-18 307.2.3C Long Distance Committee p. 79 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

C All relay members shall also be entered in the individual ~~event~~ swim. Exceptions for open water events only are at the discretion of the event host ~~and~~ with ~~the~~ prior approval of the Long Distance Committee chair.

*Rationale #1: Replaces “event” with more specific term “swim”.*

*Rationale #2: Decisions that affect national championship honors and All-American status should be made by the Long Distance Committee well before the event and appear in the event information; this is reflected in current practice but not in the rules.*



**LD-19 307.2.3E Long Distance Committee p. 79 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

E Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same-gender and one mixed-gender relay ~~event per event~~ per championship swim.

*Rationale: Swimmers who participate in multi-swim championship festivals should have the opportunity to swim in all relays provided rather than be limited to relays in just one swim, as the current rule dictates.*

**LD-20 307.7.1 Long Distance Committee p. 80 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

307.7.1 **Event Host**—The event host shall follow the applicable ~~swimming and open water and long distance rules of USMS~~ open water and long distance swimming rules and administrative regulations. ~~and the policies and procedures established by the Long Distance Committee with regard to the planning and execution of the requirements for a national championship.~~

*Rationale 1: Reflects the wording and intention of sanction regulations in Articles 203.4.1, 203.4.2, 203.4.3. There are “administrative regulations” both in the OWGTO and documentation prepared by the Long Distance Committee.*

*Rationale 2: Housekeeping (last sentence is redundant).*

**LD-21 307.7.4 Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Swimmers with one-event registrations shall not be eligible to compete in open water and postal national championships, nor shall they be eligible for records, All-American status, or any other USMS special awards. Such swimmers may be allowed to participate in a separate non-championship category in these swims.

*Rationale: This clarifies the intent of the exclusion: Swimmers may be allowed to participate in a separate category but are not eligible for championship placement or honors.*

**LD-22 307.7.8 Long Distance Committee p. 81 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

A Any protest arising from an open water championship ~~event~~ swim shall be made to the referee within 30 minutes after the release of results at the venue. If results are not released in a timely manner, a protest may be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair.

- B** Any protest arising from a postal championship event swim shall be made to the event director in writing three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair.

*Rationale: Rationale: “Swim” is more appropriate than “event” in this context. Note that there is a separate proposal covering this article in the following proposal.*

**LD-23 307.8.1F & 2C Long Distance Committee pp. 81-2 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

- 307.8.1** Individual results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women’s results shall be shown first, followed by men’s results. For each swimmer, the following information must be reported in this order:
  - A** Age group place.
  - B** Swimmer’s name (as it appears on the USMS membership card).
  - C** Age.
  - D** Club (official USMS club abbreviation).
  - E** USMS number.
  - F** Official time/distance or disqualified.
  - G** Special information (USMS records, overall place, place among gender, etc.).
- 307.8.2** Relay results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women’s results shall be shown first, followed by men’s results, then mixed-gender relays last. For each relay, the following information must be reported in the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:
  - A** Age group place
  - B** Team’s full name (USMS club followed by blank, A, B, etc.)
  - c** Official time/distance or disqualified for the team.
  - D** ...

*Rationale: All swimmers and relays who participate in a swim should be accounted for in official results, including swimmers and relays who are disqualified under article 303.9.*

**LD-24 307.10.3 Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

- 307.10.3** A USMS championship patch shall be awarded to each individual champion and each member of a championship relay. ~~An individual champion swimmer~~ shall receive only one patch per event championship.

*Rationale: The intent of this rule (and the current practice) is to limit the number of championship patches awarded to any swimmer to one per event. Under the current rule, a swimmer who is not an individual champion could*

*receive two for relay performance. This amendment clarifies the intent of the rule.*

**LD-25 307.12.2 Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

307.12.2 To be eligible for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall ~~compete in~~ legally complete at least three events, of which one shall be an open water event and one shall be a postal event.

*Rational: This closes a loophole in which a swimmer who is disqualified from an open water or postal swim cannot claim credit for that category for All-Star scoring. Note that there is a separate proposal covering this article in the previous proposal.*

**LD-26 307.12.4 Long Distance Committee p. 83 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

307.12.1 The swimmer with the highest point total in each age group shall be named to the All-Star Team. Ties shall be allowed.

*Rationale: Surprisingly, this criterion has not been stated previously. This proposal corrects the omission.*

**LDHK-1 302.2.3B(3) Long Distance Committee p. 67 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

(3) The referee shall inform all swimmers before the start of each ~~race~~ swim/wave of the water depth at the start. Water depth markings on the starting platform or dock are recommended. Before the swim, the referee shall have this start area inspected for underwater hazards and ensure that the starting protocol is safe. The swim shall use an alternative method of starting if hazards cannot be eliminated or the start cannot be safe.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

**LDHK-2 302.4.1 Long Distance Committee p. 67 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

302.4.1 Cumulative relays shall consist ~~are composed~~ of groups of swimmers from the same USMS-registered club entered in the individual swim. Cumulative relay swims may be contested on a total time/distance or point system basis.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel construction with proposed 302.5.1).*

**LD-HK-3      303                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 68                      Reorganize**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Reorganization of Article 303

New      Old      Content

- 303.1      303.2      Safety...
- 303.2      303.1      Scoring Divisions...
- 303.3      303.8      Officials and Staff...
- 303.4      303.7      Swimwear...
- 303.5      303.5      Seeding...
- 303.6      303.4      Starts...
- 303.7      303.6      Finishes...
- 303.8      303.9      Disqualifications...
- 303.9      303.3      Escorted Swims...
- 303.10      303.10      Swimmers with Disabilities...
- 303.11      303.11      Incomplete Swims...
- 303.12      303.12      Protests...

*Rationale: Housekeeping (without changing substantive content, this reorganization puts these articles into a more logical order, making them easier to find on the fly)*

**LDHK-4      303.1.1                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 68                      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

D With the exception of national championships swims, requirements defined in articles 307.7.5 and 307.7.6 may be waived by the Long Distance Committee chair to facilitate the development of new or revised awards systems.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (better clarity and consistency).*

**LDHK-5      303.1.3                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 69                      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.1.1 Standard USMS swimwear scoring divisions consist of eCategory I and eCategory II swimwear as defined in article 303.7.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (parallel construction with 303.7.2 & 303.7.3).*

**LDHK-6      303.3.3C                      Long Distance Committee                      p. 69                      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

C Escort craft shall not obstruct other swimmers in the ~~race~~ swim.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

**LDHK-7      303.9.4      Long Distance Committee      p. 73      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

303.9.4 Fail to follow ~~raee~~ rules of the swim.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

**LDHK-8      303.11.1      Long Distance Committee      p. 74      Modify & Reorganize**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**303.11.3      Authorities**

**A** The event director, safety director, or referee shall have the authority to determine if the start of a ~~raee~~ swim is to be postponed.

**B** The referee and/or safety director shall have the authority to stop a ~~raee~~ swim in progress.

**C** Only the event director shall have the authority to cancel a swim or event.

*Rationale 1: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

*Rationale 2: Housekeeping (reorganization in outline form makes the article easier to read and understand).*

**LDHK-9      304.1.2      Long Distance Committee      p. 75      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

304.1.1 At the discretion of the event director, noncompetitive swims may provide timing as a courtesy to swimmers ~~who desire to know their finish time~~.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (redundant).*

**LDHK-10      305.3.3      Long Distance Committee      p. 75      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

305.1.1 **Time-Based Swims**—The object of a time-based swim is to determine who can swim the greatest distance in ~~a given~~ the specified time period.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (more specific rules language).*

**LDHK-11      306.10      Long Distance Committee      p. 77      Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**306.10 Integrity of Results ~~in Postal Events~~**

*Rationale: Housekeeping (redundant—all of article 306 concerns postal events).*

**LDHK-12 307.1 & 307.2.2 Long Distance Committee p. 78 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b> Recommended	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b> Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.1 Rules**

Open water and long distance championships events shall be governed by articles 301, 302, 303, 305, and 306....

**307.2.2** At the discretion of the Long Distance Committee, national championships events may be awarded in the following categories:

*Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary word).*

**LDHK-13 307.2.3 Long Distance Committee p. 78 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b> Recommended	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b> Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.2.3 Rules Pertaining to Cumulative Relays**

*Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary words).*

**LDHK-14 307.3.4 Long Distance Committee p. 79 Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b> Recommended	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b> Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

National Championship Bid Rotation (see 307.2.2 for distance definitions)			
Year	Area 1 West	Area 2 Central	Area 3 East
2016	<del>Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance</del>	<del>2-mile cable Marathon Distance</del>	<del>Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival</del>
2017	<del>Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival</del>	<del>Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance</del>	<del>2-mile cable Marathon Distance</del>
2018	<del>2-mile cable Marathon Distance</del>	<del>Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival</del>	<del>Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance</del>
2019	Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance	2-mile cable Marathon Distance	Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival
2020	<u>Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival</u>	<u>Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance</u>	<u>2-mile cable Marathon Distance</u>

2021	<a href="#">2-mile cable Marathon Distance</a>	<a href="#">Sprint Distance Long Distance Festival</a>	<a href="#">Middle Distance Ultra-Marathon Distance</a>
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**LDHK-15      307.4              Long Distance Committee              p. 80              Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Representatives of the host organization that is the successful bidder ~~of~~for an open water and long distance championship event shall sign a written contract with USMS, which specifies the responsibilities of the event host and of USMS.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (better rules language).*

**LDHK-16      307.7.3B(1)      Long Distance Committee              p. 80              Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

(1) Be positioned in clear view of the turn to ensure that all swimmers complete the turn as indicated in the event information and as directed at the pre-~~race~~swim briefing.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

**LDHK-17      307.7.7              Long Distance Committee              p. 81              Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.7.7 Assistance During the ~~Race~~Swim**

*Rationale: Housekeeping (replacing “race” with the more appropriate term “swim” throughout Part 3 of the rulebook).*

**LDHK-18      307.7.8B              Long Distance Committee              p. 81              Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.6.1 Protests**

**B** Any protest arising from a postal championship event shall be made to the event director in writing within three days after all swimmers are notified of the release of results. If the protest is not resolved, the protester may appeal in writing promptly to the Long Distance Committee chair.

*Rationale: Housekeeping: The word “within” was inadvertently omitted from the 2017 rules changes passed by the HOD and should be added. Note that there is a separate proposal covering this article in the previous proposal.*

**LDHK-19      307.9                  Long Distance Committee                  p. 82                  Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

Club scores shall be officially tallied for postal national championships ~~postal events~~. At the discretion of the event host, club scoring may be officially tallied for open water national championships ~~open water events~~.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (creates clearer meaning & eliminates unnecessary words).*

**LDHK-20      307.9.1C                  Long Distance Committee                  p. 82                  Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

A Club scoring for ~~the~~ other national championships shall be calculated based on point value for placing in individual swims. Points shall be scored to 10 places (11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1).

*Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary word).*

**LDHK-21      307.9.3                  Long Distance Committee                  p. 82                  Modify**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.9.1 Divisions**—Up to four divisions may be recognized for ~~purposes of~~ club scoring based on the number of swimmers entered from each club in the event. The number of entrants from a club that shall constitute division I (very large), division II (large), division III (medium), and division IV (small) shall be determined by the Long Distance Committee chair and the event host after the event entry deadline.

*Rationale: Housekeeping (unnecessary words).*

**LDHK-22      307.12.1-3                  Long Distance Committee                  p. 83                  Reorganization**

<b>Committee Action:</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	Recommended as Amended	Not Recommended
<b>HOD Action:</b>	Adopted	Adopted as Amended	Defeated

**307.12.2** To be eligible for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three events, of which at least one shall be an open water event and at least one shall be a postal event.

**307.12.3** A swimmer shall earn points for a top 10 finish in each open water and long distance national championship event in the following manner: 1st: 11 points, 2nd: 9 points, 3rd: 8 points, 4th: 7 points, 5th: 6 points, 6th: 5 points, 7th: 4 points, 8th: 3 points, 9th: 2 points, 10th: 1 points.

~~**307.12.4** To be eligible for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three events, of which at least one shall be an open water event and at least one shall be a postal event.~~

*Rationale: Housekeeping (reorganizing by switching current 307.12.1 and*



*307.12.2 is a more logical order). Note that there is a separate proposal covering this article in the following proposal.*