

USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 1:00 pm ET (Virtual)

Present: Taylor Rogers (Chair), Topher Bishop, Nicole Caruso, Dana Covington, Brad Craig, Maria Davila, Joe Finke, Christina Fox, Eddie Hughes, Ellen Johnston, Rachel Klinker, Greg Lockard, Ellery Parish (staff), Derek Paul (staff), Bob Pearson, Dale Porter, Kathleen Scandary, Herb Schwab, Sandy Searcy, Bob Staab, Michelle Steinfeld (staff), Carlene Takaki, Jay Thomas, Ashley Twichell, Josie Uerling

Absent: Coby Carrozza, Simon Lamar, Brendan McHugh, Shannon Vreeland

Guests: Michael Lawrence, Trish Martin, Larry Schwarz

Call to order: 1:01 pm ET

Agenda:

- Ms. Rogers and Mr. Paul reviewed USA Swimming's mission, vision, and ends.
- Mr. Paul invited a motion to allow for Ms. Rogers as the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee ("the Committee") to interpret the USA Swimming Rulebook on behalf of the Committee in between meetings. *Mr. Staab moves, Ms. Scandary seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*
- Ms. Parish reviewed the number and type of members of the Committee who have votes in the USA Swimming House of Delegates. Committee members interested in receiving votes will email the staff and Committee Chair.
- Ms. Rogers reviewed the purpose, scope, and process of the Committee.
- Mr. Paul initiated a discussion on the Virtual Legislative Review Session, which has been hosted annually by the Committee for three years. The Committee discussed the purpose and history of the session, which was to provide a forum for members to discuss legislation well in advance of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. The Committee also discussed shortcomings, such as lack of reach and structure that reduces the session's efficacy.
- The Committee reviewed the legislative packet
 - **R-1: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - **R-2: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee made minor language changes to ensure clarity.
 - **R-3: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously**
 - The Committee clarified the effective date and noted how this will impact our national records. The Committee will discuss at a later meeting

whether to propose an amendment to Article 104.2.2B as a complement to this amendment.

- **HK-2: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- **R-4: Motion to table until we can gain clarity from the proposer. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee added minor clarifying language.
 - There was significant discussion around the impact on the swimmer and whether this is penalizing the swimmer unnecessarily.
 - The Committee decided to discuss parts A and B separately. The Committee is comfortable with Part B, but would like further clarification on Part A.
- **R-5: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee discussed whether there is a need to confirm whether this conforms to World Aquatics technical rules.
- **R-6: Motion to delete. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- **R-7: Motion to recommend rejection. Seconded. Passed with 12 yes votes and one abstention.**
 - Mr. Paul clarified that this amendment was not approved by Minnesota Swimming prior to the May 15th deadline, so it is being submitted by Jack Swanson, who is a member of the House of Delegates via his role on the Zone Directors' Council. It was represented that Minnesota Swimming did vote to support this submission after the May 15th deadline.
 - The Committee discussed whether the amendment had been properly submitted.
 - The Committee noted that the amendment directly conflicts with existing language in Article 202.8.1-2.
 - The Committee made minor grammatical changes.
 - The Committee asked for clarification on next steps. Ms. Rogers said that she or staff will contact the proposer with the option to adjust the amendment germanely.
- **R-8: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee discussed why the Senior Development Committee isn't the proposer of the legislation. Mr. Paul clarified that it is because the issue was brought to the attention of the Committee after the amendment deadline.
 - The Committees adjusted purpose statement to add "align with current practices".
- **R-9: Motion to table. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**

- The Committee had significant discussion and questions about the impact and potential abuse of this rule. The Committee also engaged in a larger discussion around the 4-Hour Rule.
 - The Committee recommended including the Age Group Development Committee in discussions about this amendment.
- **R-10: Motion to table. No second. Motion to recommend approval. Seconded Passed unanimously.**
 - Mr. Paul provided clarity on the phrase “Actively Engaged Athlete”.
 - The Committee discussed whether the amendment had been properly submitted.
 - The Committee discussed the need to review the requirements for submitting an amendment.
- **R-11: Motion to make no recommendation. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee discussed the implications of this legislation and how the proposer has exhausted other avenues to achieve their stated goals.
 - Mr. Paul clarified that there is a precedent for creating adjusted sanctioning rules.
- After this vote, the Committee lost a quorum, so the remaining motions were tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Paul asked that Committee members review the remaining items and send any housekeeping edits to the group ahead of the next meeting.
- Ms. Parish introduced a pilot project that would provide additional information on the material impacts of legislation to voters in the House of Delegates. In the pilot, the information will be shared only with the Committee, and the Committee will determine whether to implement it more broadly in 2026.
- Mr. Paul introduced two appeals under Article 607, both originating from the South Texas LSC. Per the processes outlined in Article 607, the Committee will hold a hearing at the USA Swimming Summit. Mr. Paul gave background on the current arrangement and suggested that we establish a subcommittee to conduct a thorough investigation ahead of the hearing.
- Mr. Paul discussed an amendment requested by the suit manufacturer TYR. The Committee will evaluate further at a future meeting.
- Ms. Parish will send out a survey to schedule the next meeting of the Committee.

Adjournment: Ms. Rogers adjourned the May 28, 2025 meeting of the Committee at 3:41 pm ET.