

USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – 2:00 pm ET (Virtual)

Call to order: 2:02 ET

Present: Taylor Rogers (Chair), Nicole Caruso, Dana Covington, Maria Davila, Christina Fox, Eddie Hughes, Ellen Johnston, Greg Lockard, Ellery Parish (staff), Derek Paul (staff), Dale Porter, Kathleen Scandary, Herb Schwab, Sandy Searcy, Bob Staab, Carlene Takaki, Jay Thomas, Josie Uerling, Shannon Vreeland

Absent: Topher Bishop, Coby Carrozza, Sid Cassidy, Brad Craig, Joe Finke, Clark Hammond, Rachel Klinker, Brendan McHugh, Michelle Steinfeld

Agenda:

- Ms. Parish presented the draft meeting minutes from the May 28, 2025 meeting. Mr. Paul proposed an amendment to the minutes clarifying the proposers of R-7. **Motion to approve the amendment. Seconded. Passed unanimously. Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- Ms. Parish reviewed the members of the committee who volunteered to serve as the Rules & Regulations Committee delegates to the 2025 USA Swimming House of Delegates: Herb Schwab (nonathlete), Kathleen Scandary (nonathlete), Jay Thomas (nonathlete), Maria Davila (nonathlete), Dana Covington (nonathlete), Josie Uerling (2-Year Athlete). **Motion to approve the proposed delegates. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- The Committee continued its review of the legislative packet:
 - **Revised R-6: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Motion fails. Motion to table. Seconded. Passes unanimously.**
 - The Committee voted to delete the original R-6 from the packet at the previous meeting. This addition was based on conversations at the previous meeting regarding potential redundancy and/or conflict with changes to Article 102.1. The Committee agrees with the spirit of the amendment, but desired further context from USA Swimming staff on the records process to ensure we aren't mistakenly striking any events.
 - **R-12: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - The Committee had some minor housekeeping discussions to ensure clarity.
 - **HK-1: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - **HK-3: Motion to recommend approval. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**

- The Committee discussed broadly removing references to specific policy numbers in the Operating Policy Manual to avoid conflict if policy numbers change.
 - **M-1, 2**
 - There are no recommendations required, as these are automatically adopted in order to conform with World Aquatics policies. There was some discussion around the language to ensure clarity.
 - **I-1**
 - There are no recommendations required, as this is simply adopting language to match the actions taken by the Lake Erie and Ohio LSCs.
- At this time, the Committee reviewed legislation that had been tabled at the previous meeting.
 - **R-4: Motion to recommend rejection due to redundancy. Seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - Staff had not been able to get ahold of the proposer prior to the meeting but will continue to make attempts.
 - **R-7**
 - The proposer brought forth substitute legislation after the Committee voted to reject the original proposal at the previous meeting. The substitute legislation did not address concerns regarding conflicts with Article 202.8, and as such, the Committee decided not to entertain the substitute legislation.
 - **R-9**
 - The Age Group Development Committee has not been contacted, so the Committee will continue to table this item. The Committee engaged in discussion about whether we need to clarify open vs 12-under sessions in this rule more broadly.
- Mr. Paul brought forth a discussion regarding Article 102.8.1 and related discussions USA Swimming has had with suit manufacturers. Suit manufacturers have expressed confusion about the language and what products meet the criteria. The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the language to create more clarity. The Committee requested additional context from the task force that originally proposed the rule.
- The Committee confirmed volunteers for a subcommittee to conduct investigations regarding the appeals to Article 607 to include Maria Davila and Nicole Caruso.
- The Committee discussed updating the submission requirements and method of submission for amendments to the Rulebook to ensure all requirements are met and are relevant to today's technology.

- The Committee discussed adopting the “knockout” race currently in use by World Aquatics for Open Water events.
- Ms. Rogers gave an update on the due diligence pilot, providing the committee with expected deliverables and timeline. The Committee discussed the importance of only receiving this information after the conclusion of the USA Swimming House of Delegates.
- Ms. Davila brought up concerns regarding the Enhanced Games and whether World Aquatics has issued any declarations or rule changes on the matter that the Committee needs to consider. The Committee discussed that Article 303.1 covers any such need.
- Mr. Paul discussed future scheduled meetings of the Committee, including the hearing on the appeal to Article 607 and the legislative review, which are currently both scheduled for Thursday, September 25th at the USA Swimming Summit. Additionally, the Committee will meet the morning of Saturday, September 27th at the USA Swimming Summit.

Adjournment: Ms. Rogers adjourned the June 18, 2025 meeting of the Committee at 4:16 pm ET.