

As a condition of membership in USA Swimming, it is the duty of each individual member, including athletes, athlete support personnel, and other persons, to comply with all anti-doping rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), World Aquatics, USOPC, and USADA, including the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policy, the USADA Protocol for Doping Policy, and all other policies and rules adopted by WADA, World Aquatics, the USOPC, and USADA. Athlete members agree to submit, without reservation or condition, to in-competition and out-of-competition doping controls conducted by either World Aquatics or USADA or their designees at any time and understand that the use of methods or substances prohibited by the applicable anti-doping rules make them subject to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification and suspensions. If it is determined that an individual member may have committed a doping violation, the member agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of USADA, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or to the results management authority of World Aquatics, if applicable or referred by USADA.

**303.4** A swimmer shall cease to be eligible to compete in events conducted by USA Swimming or its LSCs, or by any World Aquatics Federation, while under suspension or if expelled by USA Swimming for violations of this Part Three.

**303.5** No Individual Member or Group Member of USA Swimming shall coach, train or provide swimming-related advice or service to any swimmer who is serving a period of ineligibility or provisional suspension for an anti-doping rule violation. In accordance with policies and procedures in the USA Swimming Operating Policy Manual, Coaches and Group Members are required to report any non-member of USA Swimming ranked in the top 100 in the world who participates in team activities.

**303.6** If a swimmer is required to forfeit any medals, points or prizes earned at an event on account of an anti-doping rule violation, then any compensation paid by USA Swimming to the swimmer's coach(es) on account of that swimmer's result shall also be forfeited and shall be returned to USA Swimming.

**303.7** A swimmer may be registered for USA Swimming and Masters Swimming at the same time. Membership in U.S. Masters Swimming does not imply or presume membership in USA Swimming.

**303.8** A swimmer declared ineligible for any reason may be reinstated pursuant to the provisions of Policy 26.0 of the USA Swimming Operating Policy Manual, specifically the section entitled "Authority of the NBOR".

## ARTICLE 304 CODE OF CONDUCT

**304.1** The mission of USA Swimming is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of swimming. USA Swimming grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn or denied by USA Swimming at any time where USA Swimming determines that a member or prospective member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in swimming, USA Swimming has adopted this Code of Conduct.

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**304.2** Any member, former member, or prospective member of USA Swimming is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Review. Any member, former member, or prospective member of USA Swimming may be denied membership, censured, placed on probation, suspended for a definite or indefinite period of time with or without terms of probation, fined or expelled from USA Swimming for life if such person violates the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, set forth in 304.3, or aids, abets or encourages another person to violate any of the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct. USA Swimming shall initiate an investigation of any former member of USA Swimming when a report required under 306.1 is received.

**304.3** The following shall be considered violations of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:

***Measures to be adjudicated by the USA Swimming National Board of Review as set forth in the National Board of Review procedures, pursuant to the USA Swimming Operating Policy Manual.***

- 1 Violation of the right to compete provisions set forth in Article 301.
- 2 Discrimination in violation of the Amateur Sports Act which requires that USA Swimming must provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in the sport of swimming. Athletes must be allowed to participate and compete to the fullest extent allowed by the Rules and Regulations. Discrimination against any member or participant on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, genetics, mental or physical disability, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law, where applicable, is prohibited.
- 3 Repeated violation of any of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies [see page 91].
- 4 Any violation of the World Aquatics Rules on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competition as found in the current World Aquatics Manual, including (i) betting; (ii) manipulating competitions; (iii) corrupt conduct; (iv) misuse of inside information; (v) failure to report; and (vi) failure to cooperate.
- 5 The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance listed on World Aquatics' recognized list of banned substances.
- 6 The use of illegal drugs in the presence of an athlete, by a coach, official, trainer, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that athlete.
- 7 The providing of alcohol to an athlete by a coach, official, trainer, manager or any other person where the athlete is under the legal age allowed to consume or purchase alcohol in the state where the alcohol is provided.
- 8 The abuse of alcohol in the presence of an athlete under the age of eighteen (18), by a coach, official, trainer, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that athlete.
- 9 Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USA Swimming-related activity.
- 10 Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or conduct directed towards any meet official and which is related to any decision made by such official in connection with a USA Swimming sanctioned competition.
- 11 Action, other than through general advertising, by a coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative, or employee of a swim club, or a USA Swimming or LSC employee, either

through direct contact with an athlete or the encouragement of others, to recruit or otherwise encourage an athlete who is already a member of a USA Swimming member swim club to leave that club, unless the acting party receives prior written approval to recruit or encourage the athlete to change affiliation from the designated club representative of the athlete's existing USA Swimming-member swim club or contact is initiated by the athlete, the athlete's parent or authorized representative. General advertising includes any information that is:

- A Distributed to an identifiable general population where there is a reasonable expectation that the majority of that population are not current members of USA Swimming; or
- B Placed in or on any item that is sold.

In the event of a violation of this section, a sanction may be imposed against any coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative or employee of a swim club, or against any such club, or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

- .12 Any other material and intentional act, conduct or omission not provided for above, which is detrimental to USA Swimming, an LSC or the sport of swimming.

***Measure to be adjudicated by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency***

- .13 Violation of the anti-doping provisions set forth in 303.3.

***Measure to be adjudicated by the U.S. Center for SafeSport***

- .14 Violation of the SafeSport Code. [See [www.usaswimming.org/code](http://www.usaswimming.org/code)]

## ARTICLE 305

### MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

**305.1** Clubs shall establish their own action plans for implementing the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies.

**305.2** Clubs shall establish their own anti-bullying policy. USA Swimming shall provide a model policy as an example, which shall serve as the default for any club that fails to establish its own policy. Club anti-bullying policies should be reviewed and agreed to annually by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of the club.

**305.3** Clubs shall establish their own photography policy. USA Swimming shall provide a model policy as a template, which shall serve as the minimum policy for all clubs. Club photography policies shall be reviewed and agreed to annually by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of the club.

## ARTICLE 306

### CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**306.1** Pursuant to federal law, it is every member's responsibility to immediately (i.e., within 24 hours) report any incident of child abuse, including physical or sexual abuse, to law enforcement and the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Reporting must occur when an individual has firsthand knowledge of

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misconduct or where specific and credible information has been received from a victim or knowledgeable third party. A report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport may be made via telephone at 720-531-0340 or online at [www.uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern](http://www.uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern). Various state laws may also require reporting to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency.

**306.2** Filing a knowingly false allegation of child abuse and sexual misconduct is prohibited and may violate state criminal law and civil defamation laws. Any person making a knowingly false allegation of sexual misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action by USA Swimming.

**306.3** Neither civil nor criminal statutes of limitation apply to reports of cases of sexual abuse.

## **ARTICLE 307 PROHIBITIONS AGAINST RETALIATION FOR GOOD FAITH REPORTING OF ABUSE**

**307.1** No Member shall retaliate against any individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1 or 304.3.14.

**307.2** For the purposes of 307.1, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that any adverse action regarding the employment, membership, or other material rights of an individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1 or 304.3.14 within 90 days of a report is retaliatory. An adverse action includes, without limitation: discharge or termination; demotion or reduction in compensation for services; or the removal of or from, or restrictions on, access to facilities, team activities or team membership privileges.

# PART FOUR

## HEARINGS AND APPEALS

### ARTICLE 401 FULL FAITH AND CREDIT

**401.1 DECISION FINAL** — Except as otherwise provided in Article Nine of the Constitution of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and in its Bylaws with respect to binding arbitration in disputes involving the rights of certain individuals to participate in competition, the final decision of the National Board of Review shall be final in all cases, subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Directors as provided in the USA Swimming Operating Policy Manual.

**401.2 ENFORCEMENT** — Final decisions rendered by the National Board of Review and the U.S. Center for SafeSport shall, when applicable, be recognized and fully enforced in all Zones and LSCs of USA Swimming.



# PART FIVE

## MATTERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

### ARTICLE 501 OPERATING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

**501.1 OPERATING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS** — The following committees and councils shall report to the President/CEO (or their designee):

#### .1 ATHLETES' ADVISORY COUNCIL

- A The USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) shall consist of nine (9) voting members who meet the requirements of 10-Year Athlete representatives directly elected by athletes who meet the same standards as 10-Year Athletes. The voting members may include the Team USA Athletes' Commission representative and the Team USA Athletes' Commission alternate.
- B The Chair shall be elected from among the voting members of the AAC by its voting members.
- C The Athletes' Executive Committee (AEC) Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member with voice but no vote. Up to two (2) additional Actively Engaged Athlete Representatives may be appointed by the AAC Chair, in consultation with the AEC Chair, with voice but no vote.
- D Each AAC voting member shall serve a two (2) year term, staggered so that one-half (1/2) of such members are elected each year. There shall be no term limits, but voting members must be eligible to serve pursuant to the USOPC Bylaws at the time of election.
- E The AAC shall be responsible for: (i) reviewing the programs and services offered by the USA Swimming National Team division; (ii) evaluating and proposing rules and regulations that directly affect the National Team Athletes; (iii) addressing the specific needs of the National Team Athletes in preparation for major international events; (iv) evaluating and developing projects and conducting long term plans in all areas concerning National Team Athletes; (v) reporting to the members of the National Team Steering Committee and Open Water Steering Subcommittee any issues that warrant attention from those groups; and (vi) fulfilling its duties set forth in the USOPC Bylaws, including: selecting athlete representatives to serve on committees and defining sanctioned competition for purposes of athlete representative eligibility.

#### .2 COACH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- A The Coach Advisory Council (CAC) shall consist of eighteen (18) voting members comprised of the following:
  - (1) Twelve (12) coaches, with no less than three (3) from each gender, who are USA Swimming non-athlete coach members in good standing directly elected by USA Swimming non-athlete coach members in good standing. A minimum of one (1) individual from each zone's geographic area shall be maintained among the members who are elected under this provision; and

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- (2) Six (6) Actively Engaged Athlete representatives appointed by the AAC.
- B The CAC non-athlete coach members shall be elected in accordance with the CAC Policy Manual.
- C The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary shall be elected from among the voting members of the CAC by its voting members.
- D Each CAC non-athlete coach member shall serve a three (3) year term, staggered so that one-third (33.3%) of such members are elected each year.
- E The CAC shall lead, direct, and represent the voice, opinions, and viewpoints of all non-athlete coach members within USA Swimming by:
  - (1) Selecting Coach Representatives to serve on committees and defining qualifications for purposes of coach representative eligibility;
  - (2) Evaluating, developing, and supporting committee projects and legislation; and
  - (3) Conducting long-term planning in all areas concerning non-athlete coach members to ensure long-term coach viability and success.

### **.3 RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**

- A The Rules & Regulations Committee shall consist of the following:
  - (1) The National Officials Committee Chair (or their designee) and the Program & Events Coordinator;
  - (2) Three (3) Actively Engaged Athlete Representatives appointed by the AEC;
  - (3) Seven (7) 10-Year Athlete representatives appointed by the AAC;
  - (4) Five (5) non-athlete members appointed by the President/CEO (or their designee);
  - (5) Three (3) coach members appointed by the CAC;
  - (6) The immediate past Rules & Regulations Committee Chair, the USA Swimming representative to the World Aquatics Technical Open Water Swimming Committee, the USA Swimming representative to the World Aquatics Technical Swimming Committee, and one (1) representative (or designee) from each of the following: the USMS, the NCAA, the YMCA, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), as ex-officio members with voice but no vote; and
  - (7) The President/CEO and the Secretary & General Counsel, or their respective designees, and others appointed by the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair, as ex-officio members with voice but no vote.
- B Each non-athlete member shall serve a four (4) year term, staggered so that one-fourth (1/4) of such members are appointed each year.
- C The Board Chair shall appoint a Chair, with approval of the House of Delegates, to serve two (2) years. The Chair shall appoint one (1) or more secretaries from among committee members.

- D The Rules & Regulations Committee shall hold at least one (1) meeting of its members each year, at a time and place approved by the Committee, for consideration of amendments and interpretations of the Rules and Regulations.
- E The Rules & Regulations Committee or its designee shall have the sole authority to officially interpret Parts One and Seven, the authority to interpret the remainder of these Rules and Regulations, and shall be responsible for all redistricting procedures for USA Swimming.

#### .4 NATIONAL TEAM STEERING COMMITTEE

A **Membership:** The National Team Steering Committee shall consist of:

- (1) Nine (9) coaches selected as follows;

Preceding Head Men's Olympic Coach

Preceding Head Women's Olympic Coach

Preceding Head Open Water Olympic Coach

The Head Women's Coach for the two (2) Long Course World Championships preceding the Olympic Games

The Head Men's Coach for the two (2) Long Course World Championships preceding the Olympic Games

Two coaches appointed by the CAC in consultation with the National Team Managing Director

Any vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment by the President/CEO (or their designee) in consultation with the National Team Managing Director.

- (2) The Chair of the committee shall be elected by its voting members.

- (3) Once the new Head Olympic Coaches are named, they shall become ex-officio members of the National Team Steering Committee, if not already on the Committee.

- (4) A sufficient number of 10-Year Athlete representatives appointed by the AAC so as to satisfy the requirement that such athletes constitute one-third (33.3%) of the voting membership of the Committee; and

- (5) The Chair of the Senior Development Committee (or their designee selected from the voting members of the Senior Development Committee), and the Chair of the Sports Medicine Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Committee with voice but no vote. The Committee may name additional ex-officio members

B **Term:** Members of the National Team Steering Committee shall serve a term commencing with appointment and extending until the end of the annual House of Delegates meeting following the next Olympic Games.

C **Responsibility:** The National Team Steering Committee shall operate under the direction of the National Team Managing Director to create a National Team program; expedite decisions regarding that program; and plan for specific needs of the National Team in preparation for international competition.

D **Operation:** The National Team Steering Committee shall operate according to policies adopted and published in the Steering Committee Manual.

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### .5 SENIOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A The Senior Development Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members. The President/CEO (or their designee) shall appoint three (3) members, the CAC shall appoint five (5) coach members, and the AAC shall appoint four (4) athlete members (in consultation with the AEC). The Age Group Development Committee Chair (or their designee) shall be an ex-officio member with voice but no vote.
- B Each non-athlete member shall serve a four (4) year term, staggered so that one-fourth (1/4) of such members are appointed each year.
- C The Senior Development Committee shall provide technical input for the structure of championship meets, for developing athletes at the post-age group level, and for the transitioning of athletes from Senior to National Team.

### .6 AGE GROUP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- A The Age Group Development Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members. The President/CEO (or their designee) shall appoint three (3) members. The CAC shall appoint five (5) coach members, with at least one (1) coach from each Zone. The AAC shall appoint four (4) athlete members (in consultation with the AEC). The Senior Development Committee Chair (or their designee) shall be an ex-officio member with voice but no vote.
- B Each non-athlete member shall serve a four (4) year term, staggered so that one-fourth (1/4) of such members are appointed each year.
- C The Age Group Development Committee shall identify and promote ideas to assist USA Swimming in developing Age Group swimmers and shall provide assistance in transitioning swimmers from Age Group to Senior.

### .7 SELECTION PROCEDURE APPROVAL COMMITTEE

- A The Selection Procedure Approval Committee shall consist of the following: (i) the President/CEO; (ii) the National Team Managing Director; and (iii) the AAC Chair, who must meet the requirements of a 10-Year Athlete representative, or their respective designee(s). The AAC Chair's designee must also meet the requirements of a 10-Year Athlete representative.
- B The Selection Procedure Approval Committee shall develop, approve, and implement selection criteria for the selection of athletes, coaches and/or staff for Delegation Event teams and Protected Competition (as defined in the USOPC Bylaws).

## ARTICLE 502 AMENDMENTS

**502.1 AMENDMENTS** — The USA Swimming House of Delegates may amend the Rules and Regulations and certain provisions of the Corporate Bylaws at its annual meeting in accordance with Article 10 of the Corporate Bylaws and this Section 502.1 of the Rules and Regulations.

- .1 The USA Swimming House of Delegates may amend the Rules and Regulations at its annual meeting as follows:
  - A Parts One, Two, Three, Four, Six and Seven: by a majority vote.

B Part Five: by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

- .2 By a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the House of Delegates may amend the following provisions within the Corporate Bylaws: the number of Board members, their terms, or the number of which are elected by the House of Delegates, the composition of the House of Delegates, and membership fees for membership classes in existence as of the 2017 registration year (See 2.7.1A and B of the Corporate Bylaws).
- .3 Additionally, the Rules & Regulations Committee may alter, amend, or repeal any portion of Part One or Part Seven of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations at any time to conform to the rules of World Aquatics.

#### .4 AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

- A **By Whom Proposed** — An amendment to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations may be proposed only by an LSC, a duly constituted committee, a member of the USA Swimming House of Delegates as identified in Article 6 of the Corporate Bylaws, the Board of Directors or any Allied or Affiliate Group Member.
  - B **Form Required** — Every proposed amendment to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations shall be in such form as to show the entire section as it will read if adopted, with any changes in existing language single underlined if new and lined out (struck through) if deleted. Each amendment shall be accompanied by a concise, but informative rationale for adoption and for the proposed effective date. In addition, the name, address and telephone number of the proposer must be included (if the proposer is an entity, the name, address and telephone number of an authorized spokesperson with authority to agree to changes in the proposed amendment).
  - C **Last Date for Proposal** — Every proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair no later than the May 15 preceding an annual meeting of the USA Swimming House of Delegates.
  - D **Consideration, Recommendation and Report** — The Rules & Regulations Committee shall consider all proposed amendments and shall present them to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates with the Committee's recommendations.
  - E **Procedures for Recommendations** — As a part of its consideration, the Rules & Regulations Committee is encouraged to consult with the proposer and any other interested parties and suggest changes (which may be substantive or drafting) to the amendment that would enable the Committee to support adoption. Recommendations under this Article may be for or against adoption, a statement of no recommendation, or a recommendation to commit the proposal to another USA Swimming Committee or the proposer for further consideration. Each recommendation for rejection shall include a concise, but informative rationale for the recommendation.
- .5 **PUBLICATION OF AMENDMENTS** — All proposed amendments to all parts of these Rules & Regulations shall be published and made available on the USA Swimming website not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. Members of the House of Delegates may request a printed copy after the amendments are posted on the website.
  - .6 **CHANGES TO AMENDMENTS** — A proposed amendment may be modified in any manner by the House of Delegates while under consideration, but such modification must be ger-

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mane to the subject matter of the proposed amendment [which does not require the nine-tenths (9/10) vote as provided in 502.1.7]. If more than one (1) amendment has been proposed on the same subject matter, and there are substantive differences between such amendments, the House of Delegates may adopt a compromise of substance as well as form, and if the adoption of an amendment as proposed or amended or comprised is inconsistent or in conflict with other parts of the Rules & Regulations, the House of Delegates may adopt conforming amendments appropriate to the case.

- .7 **LATE SUBMISSION AND MAJORITY REQUIRED** — After the deadline has expired for submission of legislation to the Rules & Regulations Committee, new and/or additional amendments may be proposed, but they may be adopted only by an affirmative vote of nine-tenths (9/10) of the members of the House of Delegates present and voting. For purposes of this Article, legislation originating within the Rules & Regulations Committee will be considered as being submitted before the deadline as long as it is published in accordance with 502.1.5.
- .8 **EFFECTIVE DATE** — Housekeeping items approved as prescribed shall become effective immediately. All other amendments to Part One of these Rules & Regulations approved as prescribed shall become effective on May 1 of the year following their adoption, unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption. All other amendments to these Rules & Regulations approved as prescribed shall become effective on January 1 of the year following their adoption unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

## ARTICLE 503 RULEBOOK

**503.1** USA Swimming shall annually publish updated Rules & Regulations (Rulebook). It shall be posted on the USA Swimming website by January 1 of each year.

**503.2** Each non-athlete member of USA Swimming may annually request a printed copy of the Rulebook as a benefit of membership. Such Rulebooks shall be mailed out as close to January 1 as possible or immediately upon a non-athlete's membership registration received prior to September 1.

# PART SIX

## LOCAL SWIMMING COMMITTEES, ZONES AND REGIONS

### ARTICLE 601 GENERAL

**601.1** The Local Swimming Committee (LSC) is a separate and independent corporation to whom USA Swimming has delegated certain governing and supervisory responsibilities within the geographic boundaries designated by USA Swimming. Each LSC shall have jurisdiction over the sport of swimming as delegated to it in the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations to conduct swimming programs consistent with the policies and procedures of USA Swimming and to sanction, approve, observe, oversee and conduct on behalf of USA Swimming competitive swimming events within the LSC boundaries.

**601.2** Each LSC qualifies under USA Swimming's group exemption as a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and as an organization described in Sections 170(c)(2) and 2522(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code that may accept contributions, bequests, and gifts deductible for federal income and estate and gift tax purposes, respectively.

### ARTICLE 602 LSC BYLAWS

**602.1** USA Swimming House of Delegates has approved and amended Required LSC Bylaws, which each LSC, within the flexibility granted in the Required LSC Bylaws, is required to adopt. USA Swimming House of Delegates shall retain the authority over these Required LSC Bylaws, including the right to amend in accordance with Article 502 of USA Swimming Rules & Regulations. Amendments to the Required LSC Bylaws by the USA Swimming House of Delegates are given automatic effect as of the effective date of legislation with respect to an LSC's Bylaws. LSCs are required to update their bylaws and send a copy to [bylaws@usaswimming.org](mailto:bylaws@usaswimming.org) within sixty (60) days of the effective date of any changes to the Required LSC Bylaws adopted by the USA Swimming House of Delegates or the LSC House of Delegates.

**602.2** The Required LSC Bylaws are available from the USA Swimming National Office and on the USA Swimming website. Bylaws of the individual LSCs are available directly from the LSC or the USA Swimming National Office.

**602.3** The LSC Bylaws shall be construed and all powers and activities of the LSC shall be limited to be consistent with the LSC legal status stated in Article 601.

**602.4** The LSC Bylaws shall conform to and include the requirements and shall comply with the laws of the jurisdiction within which the LSC is incorporated.

**602.5** See Article 8 of the Corporate Bylaws for LSC financial reporting requirements.

**602.6** Current Bylaws of each LSC shall be on file with the USA Swimming National Office.

**602.7 USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE JURISDICTION OVER LSC BYLAWS** — This Article grants jurisdiction to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee relating to the Required LSC Bylaws.

- .1 **Jurisdiction of the Rules & Regulations Committee** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee is authorized and directed to assume jurisdiction over (a) changes to the mandatory portions of the Required LSC Bylaws, (b) approval of the use of certain alternative provisions set forth in Required LSC Bylaws, (c) review and approval of all Bylaws adopted by the LSCs and (d) review and approval of all subsequent amendments to the Bylaws by an LSC and related matters. The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee may adopt rules and procedures to govern the invocation and exercise of this jurisdiction which may be appropriate and helpful and in the best interests of the sport of swimming.
- .2 **Request for Approval** — An LSC may request permission to change mandatory provisions of the Required LSC Bylaws or request an approval as required in Required LSC Bylaws in a written application conforming to the rules and procedures adopted by the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee. The request shall be addressed to the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair. The approval power of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee over requested changes to mandatory parts of the Bylaws shall be applied generously where an LSC demonstrates a need for the changes.
- .3 **Action by Committee** — The changes may be approved or disapproved in their entirety, or the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee may modify the requested change as appears to be in the best interests of swimming. The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee may adopt reasonable rules and procedures regarding the form and content of the application for permission, its deliberations and decisions.
- .4 **Deadline for Decision** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee shall make its determination within forty-five (45) days of receipt by its Chair of the request; failing which, the request shall be deemed to have been approved unless the Chair shall certify that more than ten (10) approvals are pending at the end of that period.
- .5 **Appeal of Decisions** — An LSC may appeal a decision of any USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Subcommittee to the full Rules & Regulations Committee. An LSC may appeal a decision of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee to the USA Swimming Board of Directors.

**602.8** Amendments to the LSC Bylaws must be submitted to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee in accordance with this Article 602. Once the amendments have been approved, the LSC shall forward the amended Bylaws to the USA Swimming National Office.

## **ARTICLE 603 NAMES AND JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES**

**603.1** Each LSC shall include in its name the designation which appears below in boldfaced type followed by the word "Swimming" and the appropriate indicator of corporate status as set forth in the respective Articles/Certificate of Incorporation.

**603.2** The geographical areas or boundaries for the Local Swimming Committees shall be as indicated below. The two-letter Registration Codes are shown in parenthesis:

**ADIRONDACK (AD)** — That portion of New York State east of the counties of Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland and Broome; and north of the counties of Sullivan, Orange and Dutchess.

**ALASKA (AK)** — State of Alaska.

**ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN (AM)** — That portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania west of the counties of Potter, Clinton, Centre, Huntingdon and Bedford; and the counties of Hancock, Brook, Ohio and Marshall in the State of West Virginia.

**ARKANSAS (AR)** — State of Arkansas, and Bowie County in the State of Texas.

**ARIZONA (AZ)** — State of Arizona.

**BORDER (BD)** — In the State of Texas, the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell and Crockett.

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA (CC)** — In the State of California, the counties of Merced, Mariposa, Mono, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern and Inyo; excluding the City of Bishop and the community of Mammoth Lakes.

**COLORADO (CO)** — State of Colorado.

**CONNECTICUT (CT)** — State of Connecticut.

**FLORIDA (FL)** — That portion of the State of Florida east of the Apalachicola River and including Gulf County, except for the counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and the part of Hendry east of Route 833.

**FLORIDA GOLD COAST (FG)** — In the State of Florida, the counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and the part of Hendry east of Route 833.

**GEORGIA (GA)** — State of Georgia, and Chambers and Russell counties in the State of Alabama.

**GULF (GU)** — That portion of the State of Texas bounded on the north by and including the counties of Shelby, Nacogdoches, Angelina, Houston, Leon and Robertson; and on the west by and including the counties of Brazos, Grimes, Waller, Fort Bend, Wharton, Colorado and Matagorda.

**HAWAIIAN (HI)** — State of Hawaii.

**ILLINOIS (IL)** — State of Illinois, except the counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Jackson and Vermilion.

**INDIANA (IN)** — State of Indiana, except Floyd and Clark counties, and including Vermilion County in the State of Illinois.

**INLAND EMPIRE (IE)** — That portion of the State of Idaho north of and including Idaho County; the counties of Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker in the State of Oregon; and that portion of the State of Washington east of and including the counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, and the part of Klickitat east of Highway 97 and including the City of Goldendale.

**IOWA (IA)** — State of Iowa, except the counties of Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O'Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont and Page.

**KENTUCKY (KY)** — Commonwealth of Kentucky except the counties of Campbell and Boone; and including Floyd and Clark counties in the State of Indiana.

**LOUISIANA (LA)** — State of Louisiana.

**MAINE (ME)** — That portion of the State of Maine, including the counties of Knox, Hancock, Aroostook, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Lincoln, Washington, and Waldo. The portion of Cumberland County including the towns of Bridgton, Harrison, Freeport, Harpswell, and Brunswick. The portion of Penobscot County not including the towns of Dexter, Garland, Charleston, Bradford, Alton, Argyle Township, Greenbush, Old Town, Indian Island, Orono, Bradley, and Milford. The portion of Franklin County not including the towns of Jay, Chesterville, and New Sharon. The portion of Piscataquis County not including the towns of Wellington, Parkman, Sangerville, Guilford, Dover-Foxcroft, Sebec, and Atkinson. The portion of Somerset County not including the towns of Starks, Mercer, Anson, Embden, Concord Township, Bingham, Brighton Plantation, and Fairfield. The portion of Kennebec County not including the towns of Waterville, Winslow, Benton, Oakland, Belgrade, and Rome.

**MARYLAND (MD)** — State of Maryland, except Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

**METROPOLITAN (MR)** — That portion of New York State south of and including the counties of Sullivan, Orange and Dutchess.

**MICHIGAN (MI)** — State of Michigan.

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC (MA)** — That portion of the State of New Jersey south of Mercer and Monmouth counties; the State of Delaware; and that portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania east of and including the counties of Potter, Clinton, Centre, Huntingdon and Bedford.

**MIDWESTERN (MW)** — State of Nebraska except the counties of Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Dawes, Box Butte, Morrill, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Garden and Deuel; and including the counties of Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O'Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont and Page in the State of Iowa.

**MINNESOTA (MN)** — State of Minnesota, except for Polk and Pennington counties; and including the counties of Polk, St. Croix, Dunn, and Pierce in the State of Wisconsin.

**MISSISSIPPI (MS)** — State of Mississippi.

**MISSOURI VALLEY (MV)** — The state of Kansas and including the counties Schuyler, Adair, Macon, Randolph, Audrain, Callaway, Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Hickory, Polk, Greene, Christian and Taney in the State of Missouri; Texas County in the State of Oklahoma; and Hansford County in the State of Texas.

**MONTANA (MT)** — State of Montana, except Dawson and Wibaux counties.

**NEW ENGLAND (NE)** — The states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. That portion of the state of Maine, including the counties of York, Androscoggin, and Cumberland, including towns of Baldwin, Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, Naples, New Gloucester, North Yarmouth, Portland, Pownal, Raymond, Scarborough, Sebago, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, and Yarmouth. The portion of Penobscot County in the State of Maine including the towns of Dexter, Garland, Charleston, Bradford, Alton, Argyle Township, Greenbush, Old Town, Indian Island, Orono, Bradley, and Milford. The portion of Franklin County in the state of Maine including the towns of Jay, Chesterville, and New Sharon. The portion of Piscataquis County in the state of Maine including the towns of Wellington, Parkman, Sangerville, Guilford, Dover-Foxcroft, Sebec, and Atkinson. The portion of Somerset County in the state of Maine including the towns of Starks, Mercer, Anson, Embden, Concord Township, Bingham, Brighton Plantation, and Fairfield.

The portion of Kennebec County in the state of Maine including the towns of Waterville, Winslow, Benton, Oakland, Belgrade, and Rome.

**NEW JERSEY (NJ)** — That portion of the State of New Jersey north of and including Mercer and Monmouth counties.

**NEW MEXICO (NM)** — State of New Mexico.

**NIAGARA (NI)** — That portion of New York State west of and including the counties of Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland and Broome.

**NORTH CAROLINA (NC)** — State of North Carolina, except the counties of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck.

**NORTH DAKOTA (ND)** — State of North Dakota, Dawson and Wibaux counties in the State of Montana, and Polk and Pennington counties in the State of Minnesota.

**NORTH TEXAS (NT)** — That portion of the State of Texas east of the counties of Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Haskell, Jones, Callahan, Brown, Mills and Lampasas; and north of the counties of Bell, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Angelina, Nacogdoches and Shelby; and excluding Bowie County.

**OHIO (OH)** — State of Ohio and including the counties of Campbell and Boone in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**OKLAHOMA (OK)** — State of Oklahoma, except Texas County.

**OREGON (OR)** — State of Oregon, except for the counties of Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker and Malheur; and in the State of Washington, the counties of Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and the part of Klickitat west of Highway 97, excluding the City of Goldendale.

**OZARK (OZ)** — That portion of the State of Missouri east of and including the counties of Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Osage, Miller, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Douglas and Ozark; and the counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe and Jackson in the State of Illinois.

**PACIFIC (PC)** — In the State of Nevada, the counties of Lyon, Douglas, Carson City, Storey, and the part of Washoe lying south of the northerly boundary of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation; and in the State of California, the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Tuolumne, and Alpine, and the parts of: Solano and Sacramento counties south of Highway 12, including the communities of Vallejo and Benicia and excluding the communities of Fairfield, Suisun City and Rio Vista; San Joaquin County south and west of the line created by Highway 12 to Interstate 5 to Eight Mile Road to Highway 99 to Highway 4, including the City of Stockton; Stanislaus and Calaveras counties south of Highway 4; El Dorado County east of Highway 89; and the City of Bishop in Inyo County and the community of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County.

The Solano Community College pool in Solano County and any pool between Eight Mile Road and Hammer Lane in San Joaquin County shall be available for the use of the Pacific Swimming and Sierra Nevada Swimming LSCs and their respective member clubs, and both LSCs may sanction swimming events in these pools under their own rules and regulations.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST (PN)** — That portion of the State of Washington west of the counties of

Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas and Yakima; north of Skamania County; and north and west of Cowlitz County.

**POTOMAC VALLEY (PV)** — The District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's counties in the State of Maryland; and Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL (SI)** — San Diego and Imperial counties in the State of California.

**SIERRA NEVADA (SN)** — In the State of Nevada, the counties of Humboldt, Pershing, Churchill, Mineral, Lander and the part of Washoe lying north of the northerly boundary of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation; and in the State of California, the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Butte, Sierra, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, Yolo and Amador; and the parts of: Solano and Sacramento counties north of Highway 12, including the communities of Fairfield, Suisun City and Rio Vista and excluding the communities of Vallejo and Benicia; San Joaquin County north and east of the line created by Highway 12 to Interstate 5 to Eight Mile Road to Highway 99 to Highway 4, excluding the City of Stockton; Stanislaus and Calaveras counties north of Highway 4; and El Dorado County west of Highway 89.

The Solano Community College pool in Solano County and any pool between Eight Mile Road and Hammer Lane in San Joaquin County shall be available for the use of the Pacific Swimming and Sierra Nevada Swimming LSCs and their respective member clubs, and both LSCs may sanction swimming events in these pools under their own rules and regulations.

**SNAKE RIVER (SR)** — That portion of the State of Idaho south of Idaho County; the counties of Elko, White Pine and Eureka in the State of Nevada; and Malheur County in the State of Oregon.

**SOUTH CAROLINA (SC)** — State of South Carolina.

**SOUTH DAKOTA (SD)** — State of South Dakota.

**SOUTH TEXAS (ST)** — That portion of the State of Texas bounded on the west by and including the counties of Val Verde, Sutton and Schleicher; on the north by and including the counties of Menard, Mason, Llano, Burnet, Lampasas and Bell; and on the east by and including the counties of Milam, Burleson, Washington, Austin, Fayette, Lavaca, Jackson and Calhoun.

**SOUTHEASTERN (SE)** — State of Tennessee; the State of Alabama, except Chambers and Russell counties; and that portion of the State of Florida west of the Apalachicola River, excluding Gulf County.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (CA)** — In the State of California, the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside; and in the State of Nevada, the counties of Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda.

**UTAH (UT)** — State of Utah.

**VIRGINIA (VA)** — Commonwealth of Virginia, except Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church; and including the counties of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck in the State of North Carolina.

**WEST TEXAS (WT)** — That portion of the State of Texas bounded on the south by and including the counties of Reeves, Pecos, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch and San Saba; on the west by the State of New Mexico and by and including Loving and Winkler counties; on the north by Hansford County and the State of Oklahoma; and on the east by the State of Oklahoma, and by and including the counties of Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Haskell,

Jones, Callahan, Brown and Mills.

**WEST VIRGINIA (WV)** — State of West Virginia, except the counties of Hancock, Brook, Ohio and Marshall.

**WISCONSIN (WI)** — State of Wisconsin, except the counties of Polk, St. Croix, Dunn and Pierce.

**WYOMING (WY)** — State of Wyoming; and the counties of Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Dawes, Box Butte, Morrill, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Garden and Deuel in the State of Nebraska.

## ARTICLE 604

### LSC REDISTRICTING PROCEDURES

**604.1 CHANGE IN LSC AFFILIATION BY A CLUB MEMBER** — A change of a Member Club from one LSC to another LSC which is contiguous and where no other Member Club geographically (as determined by the club's primary training facility location) intervenes between the changing club and the new LSC boundary must be approved by a majority vote of the members present of each of the LSCs' House of Delegates. Club approval of change in affiliation shall be in accord with the rules of the Member Club and shall be duly certified by the Member Club's president and secretary. Such transfer shall become effective ninety (90) days after receipt of a written notice of approval from the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair who shall notify the USA Swimming National Office.

**604.2 CHANGE IN LSC TERRITORY** — If two-thirds (2/3) of the number of clubs in a contiguous area within an LSC wish to affiliate with a neighboring and contiguous LSC, and should the House of Delegates of each LSC by a majority vote of the members present approve the change, the change in territorial jurisdiction shall include all Club Members in the contiguous area and shall become effective no sooner than sixty (60) days following the receipt by the Chair of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee of satisfactory evidence of the various votes required. Club Member approval of change in affiliation shall be in accord with the rules of the Club Member and shall be duly certified by the Club Member's president and secretary.

### 604.3 FORMATION OF A NEW LSC

- .1 If two-thirds (2/3) of the number of Club Members in a contiguous area within an LSC wish to form a new and independent LSC, and should the House of Delegates of the LSC, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present approve the change, the proposed formation of the new LSC shall be submitted to the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair. Such request must be received by the Chair prior to April 1.
- .2 The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee shall make a recommendation to the USA Swimming House of Delegates at the next annual meeting for its approval or disapproval. Should approval be granted, the formation of the new LSC shall become effective as of the first day of the fiscal year of the old LSC following such approval, unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Board of Directors of the existing LSC. Club Member approval of the creation of the new LSC shall be in accordance with the rules of the Club Member and shall be duly certified by the Club Member's president and secretary. The change shall include all clubs in the specified contiguous area.
- .3 At the time of the effective date the net assets of the existing LSC (after payment of or provision for all debts) shall be divided with the new LSC in proportion to the number of registered athletes within each LSC as of the August 31 closest to the effective date.

### 604.3

- .4 During the period of time between the date on which the new LSC is approved by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and the effective date of the new LSC, the USA Swimming Board Chair shall promptly appoint a governing ad hoc committee of no fewer than seven (7) members from among USA Swimming members of the new LSC, including one athlete and one coach, to be charged with the responsibility of:
  - A notifying all clubs within the new LSC to elect at least one delegate and alternate to the new LSC House of Delegates;
  - B scheduling and notifying in writing about the place, date and time of a meeting of the new LSC House of Delegates as soon as conveniently possible after the effective date;
  - C providing an agenda for the first meeting to permit the orderly election of officers and directors, adoption of Bylaws, appointment of committees and their respective chairs; and
  - D attending to such other matters as may be necessary to permit the new LSC to become a fully functioning administrative unit of USA Swimming.

**604.4 MERGING TWO LSCs** — If the Boards of Directors of two (2) LSCs that share a common geographical border agree in principle to merge their two LSCs into a single LSC, and should the House of Delegates of each LSC by a majority vote of the members present approve the merger, then the merger shall become effective no sooner than sixty (60) days following the receipt by the Rules & Regulations Committee Chair of satisfactory evidence of the various votes required.

## ARTICLE 605 ZONES

**605.1** For administrative purposes, USA Swimming has grouped the LSCs into the following zones:

**Eastern Zone** — Adirondack, Allegheny Mountain, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Metropolitan, Middle Atlantic, New England, New Jersey, Niagara, Potomac Valley, Virginia.

**Southern Zone** — Border, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Texas, South Carolina, South Texas, Southeastern, West Texas, West Virginia.

**Central Zone** — Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Midwestern, Minnesota, Missouri Valley, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ozark, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

**Western Zone** — Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Colorado, Hawaii, Inland Empire, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, San Diego-Imperial, Sierra Nevada, Snake River, Southern California, Utah, Wyoming.

### **605.2 ZONE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, ELECTIONS OF DIRECTORS AND VOTING**

- .1 Each Zone shall adopt Administrative Procedures which shall govern its affairs and shall be approved by the USA Swimming Secretary & General Counsel (or their designee).
- .2 Zone Directors shall be elected in accordance with Zone Administrative Procedures.
- .3 On all voting matters, each LSC is entitled to five votes, of which at least one vote must be

designated to the LSC Athlete Representative(s). If no Athlete Representative is present, the LSC shall cast only four votes.

**605.3 ZONE MEET ADMINISTRATION** — Zone Age Group Championships, meets delegated to the Zone in the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations and any other meets scheduled by the Zone shall be conducted and administered by the Zone.

**605.4 CHANGE IN ZONE ALIGNMENT** — If an LSC by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a meeting of the LSC House of Delegates approves a change moving the LSC from one Zone to another, and if both Zones approve of the change by majority vote of the LSCs in each Zone, that change shall become effective at the close of the next USA Swimming annual meeting at which the USA Swimming House of Delegates shall approve the change. Prior to the vote of the House of Delegates, the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee shall make a recommendation as to approval or disapproval of the proposed change.

## **ARTICLE 606 REGIONAL COMPETITION**

In order to reduce travel distances for athletes and to provide equitable quality competition the LSCs may make arrangements to compete on a regional basis.

## **ARTICLE 607 APPEALS AND REVIEW**

**607.1 PETITION TO THE USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE** — Any House of Delegates of any LSC or any member of USA Swimming may petition the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee with respect to any proposed changes referenced in Articles 604 and 605 above. Such appeal must be submitted at least one hundred (100) days prior to the next regular or special meeting of the USA Swimming House of Delegates.

**607.2** In any case in which an LSC House of Delegates or a Zone fails to approve or agree to a requested change, the proponents of the change may petition the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee to investigate and determine whether the change should be allowed notwithstanding the failure of the LSC or Zone to approve. Such appeal must be submitted at least one hundred (100) days prior to the next regular or special meeting of the USA Swimming House of Delegates.

**607.3** Submission to the Committee shall be in writing; shall contain the name of the proponent(s), the name(s) of the club(s) involved, a record of vote(s) taken at any level certified in writing by an appropriate officer; and shall contain a summary of the rationale for the proposed change(s).

**607.4** The Rules & Regulations Committee shall investigate the matter and hold a public hearing thereon at the time of the next annual meeting of the USA Swimming House of Delegates. The Committee shall then make recommendations to the House for its final determination.

