

# TECHNICAL RULE CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA-S RULES

USMS Rules Committee

June 28, 2002

In accordance with USMS rule 601.4.6B, the rules of competition within USMS have changed due to actions taken by the USA Swimming Rules Committee on or about June 1, 2002 and the USMS Rules Committee on June 28, 2002. The actions by USS were in response to a request for interpretation of the USA-S rules in light of the current FINA rules. The changes are detailed below. Please inform all coaches, officials, meet directors, LMSC web sites, and members of USMS of these changes. Questions can be directed to Leo Letendre, USMS Rules Chairman, 267 Glandore Dr, Manchester MO 63021, e-mail: Rules@usms.org

EFFECTIVE DATE: <b><u>JUNE 1, 2002</u></b> (same as USA-S effective date)
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## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Backstroke: To permit the movement of toes and feet above the surface of the water after the start signal is given. Toes, however, may NOT be brought over the lip of the gutter.

## NOTES FROM RULES COMMITTEE

1. The next two pages show the amended rule in the standard format used for proposed rules changes. New language is underlined; Deleted language is ~~struck~~. The changes are the same as the USS changes (adds and deletions).
2. The last page (entitled Cut and Paste Format) shows the resulting changed language. It is formatted so that you can literally cut and paste the changed paragraphs into your 2002 rule book.
3. The change is a permissive change. Current practice is not a violation of the new rule. The rule allows a swimmer to raise their feet above the surface of the water after the start signal has been given. However, placing the toes in or on the gutter after the start signal is given is still not permitted. Thus, the movement is only permitted in pools with flat walls or in which the water level is below the gutter.
4. Sample Newsletter article:

USMS has adopted a change to the rules of competition based upon changes made by USA Swimming on June 1, 2002. The change was made to the Backstroke start rules. Swimmers are no longer prohibited from raising their feet above the water level after the starting signal has been given. However, the swimmer is NOT allowed to place their toes or feet in or on the gutter during or after the start. Thus the rule effectively allows a change from the current practice only in flat walled pools and pools with the water level below the gutter. The current legal start is still legal. These changes are effective June 1, 2002.

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**USMS 101.1.2B BACKSTROKE START**

**B – All courses** – The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Prior to ~~the command “Take your mark,” and until the feet leave the wall at~~ the starting signal, the swimmer’s feet, including the toes, shall be placed under the surface of the water. Standing in or on the gutter or curling the toes over the lip of the gutter is not permitted at any time ~~before the start~~. A backstroke starting block may not be used.

*These changes are effective **June 1, 2002**.*

2002 UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING RULE CHANGES TO CONFORM TO USA-S  
CHANGES

***CUT AND PASTE FORMAT***  
(EFFECTIVE DATE: **JUNE 1, 2002**)

**REFERENCE/ LOCATION      NEW WORDING**

**101.1.2 BACKSTROKE**  
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**B – All courses** – The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Prior to starting signal, the swimmer’s feet, including the toes, shall be placed under the surface of the water. Standing in or on the gutter or curling the toes over the lip of the gutter is not permitted at any time. A backstroke starting block may not be used.