

USMS Rule Change

June 23, 2004

Effective June 5, 2004, USA Swimming amended their rules in order to align them with FINA with respect to the use of equipment that can convey pacing information to a competitor. The change is in response to the availability of individual radio receivers that can transmit information to a swimmer from a coach or other person.

Pursuant to USMS rule 601.4.6B, USMS has adopted this change based upon the action of the Rules Committee that accepted the USA Swimming change. Thus the following change is effective immediately (the addition is underlined):

102.15.9 -- Swimmers are not permitted to wear or use any device or substance to help their speed, pace, or buoyancy. Goggles may be worn and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the referee.

USMS will follow the interpretation of USA Swimming that indicates that pacing devices including tempo training devices and radio transmitters that allow instructions to be passed to the swimmer are forbidden.

Leo Letendre
For the USMS Rules Committee