

Rules Change Process (USA Masters Diving specific rules)

Background

USA Masters Diving rules can be found [here](#). Traditionally, if USA Masters Diving, does not spell out a specific rule, we will default to World Aquatics (formerly FINA) rules, which can be found [here](#)

However, there are opportunities for USA Masters Diving to increase flexibility and inclusion by considering athlete requests to amend existing rules or to propose new rules and regulations.

Rule Amendment, Addition, or Deletion Process

Any member of the USA Masters Diver, with a current USA Diving Membership that is in good standing can submit a proposal that a rule should be amended, removed, or added. Rule changes can only be proposed during the Athlete's Meeting at one of the USA Masters Diving National Championships (Nationals Meet), held twice a year. Each member is able to submit a limit of two (2) new rules proposals / amendments per Nationals up to a maximum of five (5) total new rules (by all athletes) to be addressed per athletes meeting. Rule proposals / amendments will be determined on a first come, first served basis as to proposals submitted via the intake form that meet all requirements of the intake form. Any additional proposals submitted after the maximum is reached will result in the submitter being notified that they will need to resubmit at a future event. If a proposal is submitted without meeting all requirements, then the rule will not be determined as ready to discuss. Rules that have moved to the second stage and are preparing for a vote will not be included in the above maximum of five proposals. New rule proposals and second stage / voting must occur in successive national championships.

Prior to announcing their proposal during the Nationals Meet, the member who would like to add, amend, or remove a rule must declare their intention by completing the initial rule proposal form [here](#), a minimum of 45 calendar days prior to the next athletes meeting at the upcoming Nationals Meet. For example, if the Athlete's Meeting is occurring on Thursday evening on August 15th, the request to update a rule, must be submitted via the [google form](#) by the end of day July 1st.

Each rule proposal, including all additions, removals, or amendments, must include the following:

- A rule sponsor – the member submitting the proposal, including USAD Membership number

- A rule co-sponsor – an additional member who would like to co-sponsor the request, including USAD Membership number
- The current wording of the rule if the rule currently exists
- The proposed wording for the rule, for all additions or amendments
- Reason for the rule amendment, addition, or deletion (what prompted the request)

This process allows time for the rule amendment, addition, or removal to be added to the meeting agenda. The agenda will be sent out to National Meet registrants prior to the meeting allowing those attending the meeting sufficient time to consider the issue and prepare appropriate thoughts/questions. The submitting member must be present during the Athlete's meeting for the rule to proceed to discussion. If the submitting member is not available to attend, they can resubmit the request for the meet when they will be attending. A rule co-sponsor must be identified by the sponsor prior to submitting the rule proposal. (This will meet the requirement of "seconding the motion"). The co-sponsor will also need to have a current USA Diving Membership and be in good standing. The co-sponsor is not required to be at the athlete's meeting but is strongly encouraged. If the co-sponsor is not able to attend, a "second" will be required at the meeting by an attendee for the proposal to move forward for consideration.

Proposal Discussion

Prior to the Nationals Meet when the rule amendment, addition, or deletion will be presented and discussed, the USA Masters Diving Chairperson or other designated leadership team member will e-mail the proposal all the USA Masters Diving email distribution list not later than 2 weeks prior to the National Meet Athlete's Meeting, so that members will be aware of what proposed amendment, addition, or deletion to be discussed at the meeting.

The rule proposal amendment, addition, or deletion will be read by the rule sponsor during the Athlete's Meeting and the floor will be opened for discussion.

Rules of Engagement

- Attendees will present their thoughts in a respectful manner
- All views should be presented in 2 minutes or less, in order to allow anyone would like to speak, the option to voice their opinions

The Initial discussion will be moderated by the chairperson and the motion will be stayed for voting at the next scheduled Nationals Meet Athlete's Meeting when the discussion has ended.

After the discussion, the rule sponsor will need to confirm the rule proposal, including any edit the initial rule proposal, by submitting an additional [google form](#), a minimum of 45 calendar days prior to the next Nationals Meet Athlete's Meeting. This form will be required for the rule proposal to proceed to a vote.

Similarly, with the proposed edit, the USA Masters Diving Chairperson or other designated leadership team member will e-mail the proposal to the USA Masters Diving email distribution list not later than 2 weeks prior to the National Meet Athlete's Meeting, so that members will be aware of what proposed amendment, addition, or deletion to be discussed and voted on at the meeting.

Voting

Prior to voting, the rule sponsor, if they choose to, may speak on the rule proposal.

If there are any additional thoughts by attendees, the attendees may discuss for a brief time, for a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker

After the completion of the discussion, a vote will take place. To be eligible to vote on a rules proposal for USA Masters Diving, you **MUST** be:

- Present at the athlete's meeting where the vote is occurring (* remote voting is not permitted)

- An USA Masters Diver (*international divers participating in USA Masters Nationals are not permitted to vote on USA Masters diving rule proposals)

AND fall into one of the two categories below:

- A diver registered for the current USA Masters National Championship for which the athletes meeting is a part of

OR

- Have previously competed at a past USA Masters National Championships

Results of the vote will be announced to the attendees of the athletes meeting. If the proposal is passed, it will be announced the general USA Masters Diving membership in the recap of the competition email and submitted to USA Diving to be updated in the official rulebook online. Successful proposals will go into effect at the next USA Masters Diving National Championships.