USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

2021 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO USA SWIMMING RULES & REGULATIONS

Prepared by Clark Hammond (Chair),

Mickey Smythe (Secretary)

Version: September 25, 2021 / Meeting Packet

- 1. The legislative items will be considered in block order.
- 2. Sections A and B will be considered as omnibus motions, except for those items pulled for discussion. Within the block, delegates will be given the opportunity to pull items.
- 3. To pull an item, type "PULL R-#" in the "Ask a Question" box with your name and LSC or committee in the LUMI Global platform. Anonymous requests will not be recognized.
- 4. Items pulled will be considered in numerical order after the respective omnibus motion.
- 5. Omnibus motions are in the affirmative as motions to approve the block of items.
- 6. Other motions should generally be stated in the affirmative.
- 7. Any amendment requires simple majority for approval. The subsequent amended main motion will require the original percentage (majority, 2/3 or 90%). An entirely new item will require 90% for adoption.
- 8. If you wish to speak to an item, please reference the attached LUMI Global instructions. Anonymous requests will not be recognized. Please use the following action terms:
 - PULL (and the item number) = pull an item
 - PRO = speak for a motion
 - CON = speak against a motion
 - AMEND = make an amendment
 - CALL = move the previous question
 - OBJECT = raise an objection
 - POINT = point of order
 - QUESTION = request information
 - SECOND = second a motion
 - REMOVE = be removed from speaking
- The LUMI Global platform will be used for all voting matters.
- 10. A main motion may only have two amendments pending at any one time.

Considered as a block EXCEPT for any items pulled.

Α	Description	Location	R&R Rec	Required
R-1	To remove the definition of bullying from the Rulebook.	Official Glossary	Approval	50%
R-2	To align the definition of Personal Care Assistant with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy.	Official Glossary	Approval	50%
R-3	To reassign responsibility of the Policy Manual from the Board of Directors to staff and to further specify that the Policy Manual contains operating policies.	Official Glossary	Approval	50%
R-4	To align the term "assistant" with the defined term Personal Assistant	Various	Approval	50%
R-5	To specify the events to be contested in Development competitions	(new) 102.1.3	No Recommendation	50%
R-6	To give swimmers alternatives related to swim-offs consistent with previous practice/interpretations of the Rules and Officials Committees.	102.5.2	Approval	50%
R-7	To specify the minimum number of officials required for development competitions is the same as that of dual and intra-squad meets.	102.10.4	No Recommendation	50%
R-8	To use "athlete first" language when referring to athletes who are deaf or hard of hearing	103.18 & 105.3.1	Approval	50%
R-9	To remove reference to personal (care) assistants only being required to be a member of USA Swimming if also acting in a coaching capacity. A Personal (Care) Assistant who meets any of the provisions of Corporate Bylaw 2.6.6 is required to be a non-athlete member of USA Swimming.	105.1.3 C	Approval	50%
R-10	To use "athlete first" language when referring to athletes who have cognitive impairments	105.4	Approval	50%
R-11	To reflect current practices and the Times and Recognition Policy Manual	202.6.4, 202.8.1, & .2	Approval	50%
R-12	To reduce the number of swimmers at two-course meets in order to address frequent overcrowding at Sectional meets.	204.9.3	Approval	50%
R-13	To specify Development Competition program as part of the Age Group Program	(new) 205.11	No Recommendation	50%
R-16	To add the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Chair/Coordinator as a member of the LSC Board of Directors.	Required LSC Bylaws Template	Approval	50%

Considered as a block EXCEPT for any items pulled.

В	Description	Location	R&R Rec	Required
R-14	To include the preceding Open Water Olympic Head Coach as a member of the National Steering Committee.	501.1.2 A (1)	Approval	2/3
R-15	To ensure all non-athlete members of USA Swimming receive annually a printed copy of the Rule Book as a benefit of membership.	(new) 503.1 & .2	Approval	2/3

According to *Robert*, "an amendment must be germane to be in order. To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question that is raised by the motion to which it is applied. A secondary amendment must relate to the primary amendment in the same way. An amendment cannot introduce an independent question; but an amendment can be hostile to, or even defeat, the spirit of the original motion and still be germane."

USA SWIMMING

RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

R-1 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled 1 Location: Page 15 – Official Glossary 2 Proposed by: Safe Sport Committee 3 Purpose: To remove the definition of bullying as references were eliminated from the USA Swimming Code of Conduct 4 and is now addressed by the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 5 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval. 6 **Effective Date:** Immediately 7 BULLYING the severe or repeated use, regardless of when or where it may occur, by one or more USA Swimming members 8 of an oral, written, electronic or other technological expression, image, sound, data or intelligence of any nature (regardless 9 of the method of transmission), or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at any other member or 10 Participating Non-Member that to a reasonably objective person has the effect of: (i) causing physical or emotional harm to 11 the other person or damage to the other person's property; (ii) placing the other person in reasonable fear of harm to 12 himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creating a hostile environment for the other person at any USA 13 Swimming activity; (iv) infringing on the rights of the other person at any USA Swimming activity; or (v) materially and 14 substantially disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any USA Swimming activity (which shall include, 15 without limitation, practices, workouts and other events of a member club, LSC or Zone). R-2 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled 16 Location: Page 15 - Official Glossary 17 Proposed by: Safe Sport Committee & National Disability Committee 18 Purpose: To align the definition of Personal Assistant with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse 19 Prevention Policy. 20 Recommendation: The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval. 21 **Effective Date:** Immediately 22 PERSONAL ASSISTANT — person assigned to aid a disabled swimmer an individual who assists an athlete requiring help with 23 activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. A Personal Assistant provides support unique to the needs 24 of the athlete(s) in their care. This support may include, but, is not limited to, mobility guidance, assistance with transfer, 25 entering/exiting the pool, dressing, showering, toileting, medication administration, and communication. Some athletes 26 require a Personal Assistant to enable successful participation in the sport, while others need help to assure personal safety 27 in practice and meet environments.

R-3	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled	
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- 28 Location: Page 15 - Official Glossary
- 29 Proposed by: **Board of Directors**
- 30 Purpose: To reassign responsibility of the Policy Manual from the Board of Directors to staff and to further specify that
- 31 the Policy Manual contains operating policies and to align with current practices.
- 32 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.
- 33 Effective Date: **Immediately**
- 34 POLICY MANUAL — document adopted maintained by the USA Swimming Board of Directors President/CEO that specifies

35 operating policies and procedures not contained in Rules & Regulations.

R-4 ACTI	ON: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
Location:	Page 15 – Offici Page 57 – 105.1 Page 58 – 105.4 Page 126 – 701 .	General Cognitively Di				
Proposed by:	_		al Disability Committee			
Purpose:	To align the term	ı "assistant" with	the defined term Personal	Assistant.		
Recommendation	on: The Rules and F	Regulations Con	nmittee recommends appro	val.		
Effective Date:	Immediately					
. —	ersonal a <u>A</u> ssistant of turns and the finis	•	ole with a soft-tipped end	to tap a bli	nd or visually-im	paired swimm
105.1 GENERA	L					
.1 [no changes]					
.2 Responsibi	lities					
of any	disability of the sw	immer and of t	ner's coach) is responsible he requested modification. leck mats, etc.) if required.			
			er may be permitted to he			
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701.24 SWIMN	IERS WITH DISAB	ILITIES			·	
.1 [no changes	i] lities					
.1 [no changes .2 Responsibi	lities Swimmer — The competition, of any provide a ny Person	swimmer (or the swimmer to the swimmer (or the swimmer) and	ne swimmer's coach) is re he swimmer and of the re or <u>any</u> equipment (tappers	equested mo , deck mats,	edification. The setc.) if required.	Referee, prior t wimmer/coach
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75 25, 50 butterfly

76 100 individual medley

77 100, 200 freestyle relay

78 100, 200 medley relay

79 100, 200 mixed competition category freestyle relay 80

100, 200 mixed competition category medley relay

81 [re-number remaining]

> R-6 ACTION: Pulled Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed

82 Location: Page 29 – 102.5 Seeding, Lane Assignments, Swim-Offs, and Order of Heats

83 Proposed by: Lake Erie Swimming

84 Purpose: To give swimmers alternatives related to swim-offs consistent with previous practice/interpretations of the

85 Rules and Officials Committees.

86 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

87 **Effective Date: Immediately**

88 102.5 SEEDING, LANE ASSIGNMENTS, SWIM-OFFS, AND ORDER OF HEATS

89 [no changes] .1

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Swim-Offs —A swim-off is considered to be part of the total preliminary process of qualifying for the finals. In no case may a swimmer with a faster time displace another who placed ahead of him within a heat as the result of a decision by the Referee or Place Judges in accordance with Section 102.24. If this situation results in disputed qualifications, all swimmers having times tied or within the disputed times shall swim-off the event to qualify for the disputed place or places in the final unless the swimmers, coaches, and Referee mutually agree to resolve the tie in an alternative manner, such as coin toss or racing a different distance/event. The swim-off shall be timed and judged in the same manner as the original event unless a subsequent timing system malfunction requires that an adjustment be made. For the seeding of finals, the times used for the swimmers involved shall be the times achieved in their original preliminary heats. This elimination may be held at any time set by the Referee, but not more than 45 minutes after the last heat of any event in which any one of these swimmers is competing in that session. In the case of a disqualification in a swim-off, the swimmer so disqualified is relegated to the lowest qualifying position for which he/she is competing. Disqualification in a swim-off for a qualifying position shall not eliminate a swimmer from eligibility to compete in the accompanying finals, or as an alternate. If disqualifications leave a vacancy for the full complement of finalists, swim-offs shall be continued among the disqualified swimmers until a full complement of finalists is assured.

Note: It shall be the swimmer's responsibility to become acquainted with information pertaining to swim-offs, final events and the participants therein.

106 Location: Page 34 - 102.10 Officials

107 Proposed by: Age Group Development Committee & National Officials Committee

108 Purpose: To specify the minimum number of officials required for development competitions is the same as that of dual

109 and intra-squad meets.

110 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee makes no recommendation.

111 **Effective Date:** Immediately

112 102.10 OFFICIALS

113 .1-.3 [no changes]

114 Minimum Number of Officials Required for Development, Dual and Intra-Squad Meets

1 Referee, who may also act as a stroke and turn judge

116 1 Starter

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117 1 Other Stroke and Turn Judge (may be the Starter)

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119 3 Timers per lane (one minimum if automatic timing equipment with touchpads is used)

120 1 Administrative Official

121 1 Place Judge

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122 Relay Take-off Judges (if applicable)

Timing Equipment Operators (as needed)

124 Marshal(s) (number determined by the LSC)

> R-8 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled

125 Location: Page 51 – 103.18 /NC/ Loudspeaker Start System

126 Page 58 – 105.3 Deaf and Hard of Hearing

127 Proposed by: **Disability Committee**

128 Purpose: To use "athlete first" language when referring to athletes who are deaf or hard of hearing.

129 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

130 **Effective Date:** Immediately

131 103.18 /NC/ LOUDSPEAKER START SYSTEM — An electronic sound generating device shall be provided to give the

132 starting and recall signal. Loudspeakers may be mounted underneath or on the side of each starting platform, between every two

133 platforms, on each side of the racing course, or positioned behind the starting platforms in such a manner that equitable

134 dispersion of sound to all lanes is assured. The device shall also activate a strobe light, or similar visual signal, located on the

135 starter's side of the course approximately 15 feet forward from the starting end, to indicate the start to manual timers and 136

swimmers who are deaf and or hard-of-hearing swimmers. The start system may include an underwater recall speaker and final

137 lap signal option.

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105.3 DEAF AND OR HARD OF HEARING

Swimmers who are Dedaf and or hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal, i.e., a strobe light and/or Starter's arm signals. The Referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat, i.e., exchanging one lane for another, so that the strobe light or Starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the swimmer who is deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard Starter's arm signals are shown in Figures 1 and 2. A false start rope is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a swimmer who is deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.

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R-	9	ACTION:	Adopted	Deleated	Adopted/Amended	rabied	Postponea	Pulled

145 Location: Page 57 – **105.1 General**

146 Proposed by: Safe Sport Committee & National Disability Committee

147 Purpose: To remove reference to personal assistants only being required to be a member of USA Swimming if also

acting in a coaching capacity. A Personal Assistant who meets any of the provisions of Corporate Bylaw 2.6.6

is required to be a non-athlete member of USA Swimming.

150 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

151 Effective Date: Immediately

152 105.1 GENERAL

153 .1-.2 [no changes]

154 Modifications — Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.8.1E). Some of the modifications which the Referee 155 may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:

156 A change in starting position.

157 В Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.

Allowing the swimmer to have a pPersonal aAssistant(s). A Personal Assistant that meets any of the requirements of

159 Corporate Bylaw 2.6.6 shall be a member of USA Swimming. A personal assistant is not required to be a member of 160 USA Swimming unless acting in a coaching capacity. Other allowable modifications are further described in this 161 section under the type of disability.

R-10 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled	R-10	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled
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162 Location: Page 58 – 105.4 Cognitively Disabled

163 Proposed by: **Disability Committee**

164 Purpose: To use "athlete first" language when referring to athletes who have cognitive impairments.

165 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

166 **Effective Date:** Immediately

167 105.4 COGNITIVELY DISABLEDITIES — A swimmer with a cognitive disability may be permitted to have an Personal

168 aAssistant on the deck when necessary. No other specific rule modifications are required other than patience and clarity in

169 communicating instructions. Specific circumstances may allow rule modifications as communicated and approved in accordance

170 with Rule 105.1.2 to be granted. Patience and clarity in communication is often required for a swimmer with a cognitive disability.

R-11 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled	R-11	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled	
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171 Location: Page 65 – 202.6 Requirements for Approval

172 Page 67 – 202.8 Requirements for Observed Swims

173 Proposed by: Times and Recognition Committee

174 Purpose: To reflect current practices and the Times and Recognition Policy Manual.

175 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

176 **Effective Date: Immediately**

177 202.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL — Approval of competition may be issued, withheld or withdrawn by an LSC in 178 accordance with the following regulations:

- 179 Approvals may be issued to non-member clubs/organizations for meets conducted in accordance with USA Swimming 180 technical rules.
- 181 .2 Applicants for approval of an open water competition shall complete the application provided by USA Swimming.
- 182 Approvals may be issued to member clubs for closed competition (such as YMCAs) conducted in accordance with USA 183 Swimming technical rules.
- 184 .4 Approvals may be issued to member clubs or to LSCs for open competition conducted in accordance with USA Swimming 185 technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator Times & 186 Recognition Committee staff leader (or his/her designee).

187 202.8 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVED SWIMS — Swims may be observed by assigned USA Swimming or YMCA officials 188 for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under other than USA Swimming rules. Official times 189 achieved as observed swims may be submitted for entry into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met:

- 190 The meet must be a season-culminating Championship, e.g., League, Conference, District, Sectional, State, Regional, or be 191 specifically approved by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator Times & Recognition Committee staff leader (or 192 his/her designee). A time trial held in conjunction with the season-culminating championship meet that is officiated in 193 accordance with the same standard as the championship meet may also be observed.
- 194 .2 Requests for observers for certification of times from meets in the championship progression must be made to the host LSC 195 in accordance with LSC procedures at least 10 days prior to the meet. Applications for observation of all other meets must 196 be made to the host LSC at least 10 days prior to the meet. Authorization of such non-championship meets must then be 197 approved by the Program & Events Committee Coordinator Times & Recognition Committee staff leader (or his/her 198 designee).

R-12 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled

199 Location: Page 71 – 204.9 Sectional Championships

200 **Proposed by:** Senior Development Committee

201 **Purpose:** To reduce the number of swimmers at two-course meets in order to address frequent overcrowding at

202 Sectional meets.

203 Recommendation: The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

204 Effective Date: Immediately

205 204.9 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

206 .1-.2 [no changes]

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The goal size for the Sectional meet is 700 athletes. If 800 or more athletes enter a given meet, the Section shall either (a) tighten the time standards (but not faster than the <u>maximum</u> standards established by the Senior Development Committee), or (b) split the meet into two meets for the following year. For meets held in two courses, the goal size of the meet is 1,000 800 athletes. If 1,100 900 or more athletes enter a given meet, the Section shall either (a) tighten the time standards (but not faster than the <u>maximum</u> standards established by the Senior Development Committee), or (b) limit the out-of-section athletes (this number should be equal to the difference between the entry cap and the number of swimmers entered by in-section teams), or (b c) split the meet into two meets for the following year.

R-13	ACTION:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled	
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214 Location: Page 75 – (new) 205.11 Development Competition Program

215 **Proposed by:** Age Group Development Committee

216 **Purpose:** To specify Development Competition program as part of the Age Group Program.

217 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee makes no recommendation.

218 Effective Date: Immediately

219 205.11 DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION PROGRAM

- 220 <u>.1</u> Development competitions are limited to athletes ages 12 and under offering events listed in 102.1.3.
- 221 <u>.2</u> The Development competition season shall be defined by three, ten-week seasons with dates defined by the Age Group Development Committee not later than February 15 annually.
- 223 .3 Athletes shall be limited to participating in four Development competitions per season.
- 224 <u>.4</u> <u>Development competitions may operate as multi-day, multi-session meets. Sessions shall be planned to allow the events not to exceed two hours in length. Athletes shall only participate in one session per sanctioned competition.</u>
- Member clubs hosting Development competitions shall not be charged sanction fees of more than \$50 per 10-week season.

 Development competitions shall not be subject to splash fees, surcharges or other fees by the LSC.

R-14 ACTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Pulled	
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228 Location: Page 103 – 501.1 Operating Committees

229 **Proposed by:** National Steering Committee

230 **Purpose:** To include the preceding Open Water Olympic Head Coach as a member of the National Steering Committee.

231 **Recommendation:** The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.

232 Effective Date: Immediately

233 .2 NATIONAL TEAM STEERING COMMITTEE

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

235	(1)	Eight (8) Nine (9) coaches selected as follows;								
236		Preceding Head Men's Olympic Coach (1)								
237		Preceding Head Women's Olympic Coach (1)								
238		Preceding Head Open Water Olympic Coach								
239		The Head Women's Coach for the two (2) Long Course World Championships preceding the Olympic Games (2)								
240		The Head Men's Coach for the two (2) Long Course World Championships preceding the Olympic Games (2)								
241 242		Two coaches appointed by the President/CEO (or his/her designee) in consultation with the National Team Managing Director (2)								
243 244		Any vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment by the President/CEO (or his/her designee) in consultation with the National Team Managing Director.								
245	(2)-(5) [no changes]								
	R-15 A	CTION: Adopted Defeated Adopted/Amended Tabled Postponed Pulled								
246	Location:	Page 107 – (new) 503 Rulebook								
247	Proposed by:	National Officials Committee								
248 249	Purpose:	To ensure all non-athlete members of USA Swimming receive annually a printed copy of the Rulebook as a benefit of membership.								
250	Recommenda	tion: The Rules and Regulations Committee recommends approval.								
251		ARTICLE 503								
252		RULEBOOK								
253 254		Swimming shall annually publish an updated Rules & Regulations (Rulebook). It shall be posted on the USA osite by January 1 of each year.								
255 256 257	membership.	n non-athlete member of USA Swimming shall annually receive a printed copy of the Rulebook as a benefit of Such Rulebooks shall be mailed out as close to January 1 as possible or immediately upon a non-athlete's egistration received prior to September 1.								

R-1	6 A	CTION	: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amen	ded Tabled	Postponed	Pulled	
Locat	ion:		5.1 Members – Required LSC Bylaws Template 6.2 Other Directors – Required LSC Bylaws Template						
Propo	sed by:	LS	C Development (Committee, Ath	nlete Executive Comr	mittee, and Divers	sity, Equity, and Inc	clusion Committee	
Purpo	se:	То	add the Diversity	, Equity & Incl	usion (DEI) Chair/Co	ordinator as a me	ember of the LSC I	Board of Directors.	
Reco	mmenda	ition: Th	ne Rules and Reg	gulations Comn	nittee recommends a	pproval.			
ffect	tive Date	: Jai	nuary 1, 2023						
					ARTICLE 5				
					ARD OF DIRECT				
5.1					l consist of the following those additional in				
	.1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 .10	Admin Finance Coach Athlete Secreta Treasur Senior Age Gr Safe Sp At-Lar	rer Vice-Chair roup Vice-Chair port <i>Chair/Coor</i> ge Athlete Boar	es (2) r r <i>dinator</i> rd Members [as needed]) Chair/Coordinate	0r ¹⁵			
5.2			ECTORS						
	.12 .3 C	_	o changes]	/COOPDINA	ATORS/AT-LARG	E DOADD ME	MDEDC		
	.5 C	. The j		ittee chairs/co	oordinators/at-larg			ed by the House of	
	В		following comm propriate]	ittee chairs/co	oordinators/at-larg	e Board membe	rs shall be electe	d as follows: [List	
		EXA	AMPLES:						
		(1)	The Officials Policies and I		be elected by the	e Officials Con	ımittee in accor	dance with XXSI	
		(2)			shall be elected by XXSI Policies and		v represent in acc	cordance with the	
		(3)	The Athlete A Athlete Repre	_	rd members shall l	be elected by th	e athletes at the	same time as the	
	C		following commercal Chair with a		/coordinators/ at-la				

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Each LSC may add to this list other positions in accordance with its needs, but may not remove any of the listed positions. Typical positions on many Boards include: Officials Chair, Registration/Membership Coordinator, Technical Planning Chair, Disability Chair, Operational Risk Chair/Coordinator, and Non-Athletes At-Large.

Insert the DEI Chair/Coordinator into the proper section of 6.2 as appropriate for your LSC.