

USMS POOL LENGTH REPORTING FORMS

For initial pool length certification as well as pool length confirmation for bulkhead pools

Maintaining pool length certification forms is an LMSC responsibility. Completed forms shall be sent to the LMSC Top Ten Recorder. If a pool being considered for a sanctioned or recognized competition is **NOT** on file with the USMS National Swims Coordinator, the **Pool Length Certification Form** should be submitted prior to competition (ideally before it is sanctioned or recognized). To add the pool to the USMS List of Measured Pools, email the **Pool Length Certification Form** to the National Swims Coordinator, topten@usmastersswimming.org.

There are two constructions of **Racing Courses** (defined under USMS rules 106.3.1 and 106.3.2):

- **Permanent Course Walls** (106.3.1) – means the start/turn walls are **FIXED** and cannot be moved. These pools require a one-time measurement for **Certification** that the pool is in compliance with USMS Facility Standards 106.2.1 for times to be considered for USMS and World Aquatics top ten and records. The **Pool Length Certification Form** should be submitted for certification with every lane being measured.
- **Non-Permanent Course Walls** (106.2.1 F and 106.3.2) with one or more movable walls (aka “movable bulkheads”) – means that one or more of the course walls (start and/or turn) is **NOT** permanent. In this situation:
 - The **Pool Length Certification Form** must be used when submitting a pool of this type for **Initial Certification**, containing the measurements for every lane in the course, to establish the initial measurements in the USMS database,
 - **AND** in addition, the **Bulkhead Placement Confirmation** form must then be submitted for **each** competition in that course (including the initial competition in that course) if the times are to be considered for USMS Records and Top 10.

Pool Length Measurement Information:

- It is permissible to use existing certification documents on file with the pool or the LMSC if all the lanes have been measured and are in compliance with USMS Facility standards.
- Measurement devices must meet the following standards:
 - Have a minimum measuring quality of a steel tape for the entire course length.
 - Laser devices meeting this standard are permissible.
 - The accuracy of the measuring device must be at least +/- .005m, +/- 0.20 inch, or +/- 0.016 foot. This tolerance refers to the tolerance of the measuring device only.
 - Two or more measuring tapes shall **NOT** be combined to perform the measurement.
- Frequency of measurement for **Permanent courses**:
 - For initial certification, use the **Pool Length Certification Form**. One measurement must be conducted on each competition lane.
 - After initial certification, re-measurement is **NOT** required unless structural changes affecting course length, including resurfacing, take place.
- Frequency of Measurement for **Non-Permanent Courses** (aka “movable bulkhead” pools):
 - For initial certification use the **Pool Length Certification Form**. One measurement must be completed on each competition lane.
 - Thereafter, for events Sanctioned or Recognized by USMS use the **Bulkhead Placement Confirmation** form. A course length equal to or greater than the minimum required length must be confirmed before competition begins **AND** at the conclusion of each session. Confirmation measurement includes measuring each **outside competition lane** and one of the center lanes. A session is any portion of a meet distinctly separated from other portions of the meet by locale, time, day or type of competition;

i.e. first day and second day, morning and evening, etc., exclusive of a short break between events such as before the start of distance events or relays.

- World Aquatics measurement rules and policies shall be the standard for events sanctioned by World Aquatics Masters member federations other than USMS. Currently, World Aquatics does not require course length confirmation for either World Aquatics Top 10 or records.
- The measurement rules and policies of USA Swimming shall be the standard for Top 10 eligibility for events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. Currently, USA-S only requires course length confirmation for national records. Therefore, times achieved by USMS members at USA-S sanctioned meets are eligible for Top 10 consideration without length verification. A bulkhead placement course confirmation measurement **is required for a USMS record** set at events sanctioned or approved by USA-S. For dual sanctioned events, USMS measurement rules and policies shall apply, so course length confirmation must be performed in accordance with USMS standards for times to be considered for USMS Top 10 and records.

For times from USMS sanctioned or recognized competition to be considered for USMS and World Aquatics (formerly known as FINA) Top 10 and records, the course length must comply with USMS Facility Standards as defined in Article 106 (2025 USMS Rule book).

Minimum Measurement lengths:

- Measurements (certifying or confirming) may be conducted with or without touchpads in place.
- If touchpads are NOT in place, the measurement must be taken in the center of the lane at water level. If a protrusion exists where the touchpad would be placed, the protrusion must be used as a measuring point.
- If touchpads are in place, measure from the face of the touchpad in the center of the lane at water level to the other end of the course.
- The minimum measured course length during competition shall be as follows:
 - SCY – 25 yards, 75.00 ft, or 75 ft 0 in or 75' 0"
 - SCM – 25 meters, 82.02 ft, or 82 ft 0.24 in or 82 ft 1/4 in or 82' ¼"
 - LCM – 50 meters, 164.04 ft, or 164 ft 0.5 in or 164 ft 1/2 in or 164' ½"
- Courses measured with no touchpads in place AND will have one touchpad in place for competition must be at least the following measured lengths:
 - SCY: 25.01 yards, 75.03 ft, or 75 ft 3/8 in or 75' 3/8"
 - SCM: 25.01 meters, 82.05 ft, or 82 ft 0.6 in or 82 ft 5/8 in or 82' 5/8"
 - LCM: 50.01 meters, 164.08 ft, or 164 ft 1 in or 164' 1"
- Courses measured with no touchpads in place AND will have two touchpads in place during competition must be at least the following measured lengths:
 - SCY: 25.02 yards, 75.06 ft, or 75 ft ¾ in or 75' ¾"
 - SCM: 25.02 meters, 82.10 ft, or 82 ft 1.2 in or 82 ft 1 1/8 in or 82' 1 1/8"
 - LCM: 50.02 meters, 164.11 ft, or 164 ft 1.3 in or 164 ft 1 3/8 in or 164' 1 3/8"

Special comments:

- When using a laser, ensure that the device is set properly to compensate for the length of the measuring device (typically about 4.5" - 6"). Measurement lengths that exceed the minimum lengths above by more than 2" should be re-confirmed before submitting any forms.
- Additional information can be found on the Records and Tabulation section or the Event management section of the USMS Guide to Operations. ([When to Measure Pools](#))

Pool Length Certification Form (rev. 9/16/2024)

Submit this form for either of the following conditions: a) the pool is not on the list of USMS Measured Pools or b) the pool has undergone renovation to any portion of the pool where starts and/or turns will take place.

Only this page needs to be submitted for your pool certification.

1. Facility (*See Note)

Pool Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
LMSC _____

**Note: For facilities with multiple pools, please identify the specific pool being measured either by unique pool name within the facility or the pool location in relation to other pools within the entire facility.*

Course measured (check one)

___ 25 Yards

___ 25 Meters

___ 50 Meters

Bulkhead (check one)

___ Yes ___ No

2. Measurement parameters (check one)

a. Measuring device (see instructions): Steel tape ___ Laser ___ Other _____

b. Distances measured in (check one):

feet with feet displayed as a decimal to 1/100 like 75.01 feet

feet and inches with inches displayed as a fraction to 1/8 like 75ft 3/8 in. or 75' 3/8"

meters with meters displayed as a decimal to 1/100 like 50.01m

meters and centimeters with centimeters displayed separately as 50m 1cm.

3. Measurements *Complete measurement of each lane for ALL lanes.*

Date of Measurement: _____ How measured: ___ wall-to-wall, ___ pad-to-pad, ___ wall-to-pad

Be sure to include fractions or decimal places.

Lane 1	_____	Lane 2	_____	Lane 3	_____	Lane 4	_____
Lane 5	_____	Lane 6	_____	Lane 7	_____	Lane 8	_____
Lane 9	_____	Lane 10	_____	Lane 11	_____	Lane 12	_____
Lane 13	_____	Lane 14	_____	Lane 15	_____	Lane 16	_____
Lane 17	_____	Lane 18	_____	Lane 19	_____	Lane 20	_____
Lane 21	_____	Lane 22	_____				

4. Measured by:

Name _____

Title _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Submitted by:

Name _____

Title _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Completed forms should be sent to the Top Ten Recorder of the LMSC. Attach a copy of this form to record applications if the form is not already on file with the USMS National Swims Coordinator. To add the pool to the USMS List of Measured Pools, email a copy of this form to Mary Beth Windrath, National Swims Coordinator, topfen@usmastersswimming.org. Measure before applying for a sanction.

Last revised 11/12/2024

Bulkhead Placement Confirmation (rev. 9/16/2024)

This form assumes that the Pool Length Certification Form is already on file with USMS. Submit this form to confirm a course that has non-permanent wall(s). Only this page needs to be submitted for your bulkhead placement confirmation.

1. Facility (*See Note)

Pool Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 LMSC _____

**Note: For facilities with multiple pools, please identify the specific pool being measured either by unique pool name within the facility or the pool location in relation to other pools within the entire facility.*

Course measured (check one)
 ___ 25 Yards
 ___ 25 Meters
 ___ 50 Meters

2. Measurement parameters (check one)

- a. Measuring device (see instructions): Steel tape ___ Laser ___ Other _____
- b. Distances measured in (check one):
- feet with feet displayed as a decimal to 1/100 like 75.01 feet
 - feet and inches with inches displayed as a fraction to 1/8 like 75ft 3/8 in. or 75' 3/8"
 - meters with meters displayed as a decimal to 1/100 like 50.01m
 - meters and centimeters with centimeters displayed separately as 50m 1cm

3. Bulkhead Placement Confirmation Measurements (per Article 105.1.7)

Measure the outermost **competition** lanes and a center lane **BEFORE** the meet **AND** after each Session. Include **how** it was measured: wall-to-wall, or wall-to-pad (same as pad-to-wall), or pad-to-pad.

	Pre-meet	Post Session 1	Post Session 2	Post Session 3
Full Date of Measurement				
Left Outer Competition Lane # ->				
Left Outer Competition Lane Length				
Center Lane # ->				
Center Lane Length				
Right Outer Competition Lane # ->				
Right Outer Competition Lane Length				
0) wall-to-wall? 1) wall-to-pad? 2) pad-to-pad?				

4. Measured by:

Name _____
 Title _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

5. Submitted by:

Name _____
 Title _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

A copy of this form from the beginning of the meet and after each session must be included with meet results sent to the LMSC Top Ten Recorder in order to confirm bulkhead placement. For a record application, this form should be attached to and submitted with the Record Application form.