



## Frequently Answered Questions regarding pool certifications:

- We do not send or e-mail copies of the actual forms to LSC's or other swim organizations who request them. This is why we created the web list [www.usaswimming.org/poolcertifications](http://www.usaswimming.org/poolcertifications). If you need to see a copy of the actual form, you will have to request it from the facility.
- For an American or World swimming record to be recognized, the racing course must be certified. LSC's who are the only entity who can sanction a meet may have specific rules or conditions other than pool length certification to get a sanction.
- For measurement, the pool needs to be filled with water to operational level, and have all equipment (lane lines, touchpads, starting blocks installed) If USA Swimming already has a copy of the certification on file (see list of certified pools on web site) a copy of the certification does not have to be mailed with the application for record if the record was achieved in a fixed wall pool.
- If the course has fixed walls (no bulkheads), the measurements can be taken prior to the meet and forms sent to [mick@totalaquatic.llc](mailto:mick@totalaquatic.llc) OR measurement can be done immediately after the race.
- Form/measurements must be certified by a Registered Surveyor or Registered Engineer.
- If the course has a movable bulkhead(s), the measurements must be taken immediately after the competition (before any lane lines or touchpads are adjusted) and certified by a Registered Surveyor or Registered Engineer. A copy of the USA Swimming official certification form must be filled out and have the engineer's license number, stamp, and signature on the form. Drawings, sketches, and separate sheets or attachments need not be included, and they will be discarded when the file is created. We need the lane measurement on our form. The completed documents need to be sent to USA Swimming along with any application for records. Sending them in an e-mail with a .pdf or word.doc attachment. Do not land-mail them.
- Bulkhead pools will be included in the web list but will have a "B" in the column next to the pool listing. These pools must always have the "lane" the record was achieved in re-measured for a record verification.
- For a pool to be included on the USA swimming web list, all lanes must meet the "minimum" lane length requirement of 25.02 yards/meters, or 50.02 meters measured without touchpads. Pools can only be measure 2 ways:
  - The pools can be measured with touchpads installed which makes the minimum length requirements 25.00 yards or meters and 50.00 meters. Make sure the form has the proper check box marked – touchpads at one end OR touchpads at both ends.
  - Pools measured without touchpads that measure 25.19 yards/meters (or shorter) or 50.19 meters or shorter will not be listed and forms returned. If one lane is short, the pool will not be listed (certifications done after 2004). ***It may be best to measure the pool with touchpads installed since many pools were built shorter than 25.02 yards/meters but still measure 25.00 with pads.***

- Our rule book uses the term “tolerance” and this wording is copied from the FINA international rule which we must adhere to. It is not a tolerance in the sense we in the USA are used to – it is a minimum measurement that can be accepted. The proper box on our forms must be checked for measurements - with pads at one end or pads at both end or without pads. Pool depths also must be listed on the form and the minimum depth of every lane at the starting end of the pool (if dive starts are done from both ends then both ends must be listed) must be 4’0” minimum. Measurements should be submitted in a form matching the course – meters for meters and yards for yards. Do not list measurement in feet and inches list in yards or meters with appropriate decimal places to 2 decimals. E.g. 25.02 yards not 75.08 feet
  - We cannot accept measurements that try to add the thickness of touchpad to the measurement. That is against the rules.
  - E-mail all forms to [mick@totalaquatic.llc](mailto:mick@totalaquatic.llc) No land mail or certified mail or fed ex can be accepted.
- There are instances when a pool is 25.00 yards/meters long but if touchpads are used the lanes become shorter than 25.00. These pools may only be used for age group dual meets (and the like) that still use stop-watches or button activated automatic timing. The certification list is not for this type of pool, but we can list the pool with the following notation: *This pool course was measured without touchpads installed and all lanes are 25.00 yards or longer. It is certified for competitions with no touchpads. If a meet is conducted with touchpads, the pool must be re-measured with the pads in place and a new certification form submitted and approved.*
- Having racing courses be accurate and consistent is a goal of all competitors, officials, coaches, and swimming enthusiast. It is not fair to the swimmer to swim their best time once (in a “short pool”) and then wonder why the feat is so hard to achieve again. It should be standard practice when a pool is built and commissioned that the length, width, and depth are checked and certified to follow USA Swimming rules.
- Each facility or club has the responsibility to keep the original copy of certification in their own files. USA Swimming does not forward or send-out copies of the forms to other organizations. These must be requested from the facility. Our listing does not include individual lane lengths or pool depths. If individual lane length or pool depth confirmation is required for LSC sanctioning, then it is the responsibility of the facility to supply that information to the sanctioning entity. A copy of the completed certified forms can be sent via e-mail to [mneslon@usaswimming.org](mailto:mneslon@usaswimming.org) and the pool will be listed if it complies with USA swimming rules.

If more clarification is needed, please email your questions to [mick@totalaquatic.llc](mailto:mick@totalaquatic.llc) All correspondence must be in writing so an accurate record of what was said can be referenced. No phone calls can be made concerning pool certifications.