1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO
80909-5770

o 719.866.4578
f 719.866.4669

usaswimming.org

Bruce W. Stratton
398 S. 9th Street, Suite 290
Boise, ID 83702-6066

o 208-336.4953
f 208-342.8962

bruce@strattoncpa.com

June 7, 2010

To: General Chairs
Officials Chairs
Rules & Regulations Committee
Board of Directors, USA Swimming
USA Swimming Officials
USA Swimming Coach Members

From: Bruce W. Stratton, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

Subject: Interpretation of USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Article 101.3.2 (Butterfly)

It has come to the attention of the Rules & Regulations Committee that there appears to be a lot of inconsistency in the application of Article 101.3.2 as it relates to the recovery of the arms in the butterfly stroke. In an effort to provide some clarity and consistency, the Rules & Regulations Committee would like to reiterate its interpretation of the proper application of 101.3.2.

Article 101.3.2 requires that, in the butterfly stroke, “both arms” must be brought forward “over the water" and pulled back simultaneously. For purposes of Article 101.3.2, as it relates to the recovery of the arms in the butterfly stroke, it is the interpretation of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee that the “arm” is that portion of the body which extends from the shoulder to the wrist. It is also the interpretation of the Committee that "over the water" means that the arm, as defined above, must break the surface of the water during the recovery phase of each stroke.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bruce W. Stratton, Chair
USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee