

Measurement Procedures

- Note that existing certification forms may be used if on file with the pool, the LMSC, USA Swimming, or USMS, as long as all lanes have been measured.
- A 25 meter pool measures 82 feet 0.25 inch. A 50 meter pool measures 164 feet 0.50 inch.
- Measurements must be conducted using a measuring device with a minimum measuring quality of a steel tape over the nominal distance. A laser measuring device may be used, but it must be as accurate as required for steel tapes. The accuracy of the measuring device must provide accuracy of at least ± 0.005 m (± 0.20 inch or 0.016 foot). This tolerance refers to the tolerance of the measuring device only. A pool must always be at least as long the specified distance in the rulebook, which has a minus zero tolerance.
- Tapes may not be combined to perform the measurements.
- Measurements may be reported in either the English system (feet/inches) or the metric system (meters/centimeters).
- For initial certification, one measurement must be conducted for each lane of competition. For bulkhead confirmation, only the outermost lanes and a center lane must be measured.
- Inspect each end of the pool. In general, if a protrusion would have an adverse impact on the length of the course in the area where a touchpad would be placed (to 0.80 meter below the surface of the water), the protrusion must be used as a measurement point. Otherwise, measurements must be taken in the center of each lane at water level.
- Measurements may be conducted with or without touchpads in place. If no touchpads are in place at the time of measurement and will be used for competition, the LMSC Top Ten Recorder will apply a correction of 1 centimeter (or 0.25 inches) per lane per pad.
- Permanent courses need only be measured once unless structural changes, including resurfacing, have occurred since original measurement.
- For a pool with a moveable bulkhead, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed by a responsible person at the conclusion of the session. It is recommended that the bulkhead placement be confirmed prior to the start of the meet.