

## **Guidelines for Officiating Swim Meets During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

NYSPHSAA has made a number of adjustments as to how a swimming and diving meets must now be conducted. Officials are to adjust the way they officiate to meet changes and the adoptions set forth by the NYSPHSAA.

All new guidelines and changes put forth are to be enforced for all varsity, junior varsity and middle school meets.

### **For Virtual Meets**

- Schools may conduct virtual meets. Officials must be assigned to each of the venues where the virtual meet is being conducted. Conducting a meet virtually is the option of the schools involved with the cooperation of their respective Section.
- With respect to the timing of a virtual meet, the following is taken from the NYSPHSAA guidance: “State associations may permit competition to be conducted using manual watches or semiautomatic timed results. Fully automatic timing is the most equitable in a “virtual” situation, but some facilities may not be able to offer that environment. Be aware that it will not be possible for the meet referee or other official to perform an across-the-board place pick to serve as a “check” on the times from stop watches/buttons. Regardless, the same timing protocol is **recommended but not required** to be used at all venues involved in the “virtual” competition.”  
**[This NYSPHSAA guidance supersedes the National Federation requirement regarding timing of a virtual meet.]**
- Virtual meets are to be conducted as “normal” meets are conducted. Therefore, the breaks for both teams in a virtual meet must be exactly the same.
- NFHS guidance requires uniformity with regard to pools (meters vs yards) when conducting virtual meets. NYSPHAA has waived the Federation guidance regarding facilities. Teams may conduct virtual meets even if they don’t have uniform pool distances. After the meets are conducted, the times from the “meter pool” will be converted to yard times using the directions from NFHS, then integrated with the times from the “yard pool” to determine a winner.  
**[This NYSPHSAA guidance supersedes the National Federation requirement regarding uniform pool distances of a virtual meet.]**

### **For In-Person Meets**

- Visiting teams still have their choice of lanes. However, by mutual agreement, teams may choose to swim in the lanes on the side of the pool where their team is seated. For example, in a six lane pool, one team may choose to utilize lanes 1, 2 and 3 while the other team utilizes lanes 4, 5 and 6. If teams do not agree on lane usage, the default selection is that as put forth in the rules book.

### **For Both Virtual and In-Person Meets**

- A pre-meet conference involving the referee, the head coach and one captain from each team is still required. These conferences are to take place for all interscholastic meets.
- All entries for all events must be submitted to the table prior to the start of the meet. No exceptions! Coaches may change entries by doing so in writing prior to the start of an event, as per usual. This requirement is to be enforced for all virtual and all regular meets!
- Two or more officials should be utilized to officiate and to judge diving. If only one official officiates and judges the diving, that diver is diving exhibition and their score is not to be counted when determining the meet score.
- Meet referees may adjust the meet responsibilities of officials to ensure a safe environment. For example, a referee may assign an official to remain at the far end of the pool for the entire meet so they do not have to walk past a team area.
- Schools and their representatives are responsible for establishing, administering and enforcing all COVID-19 protocols. This includes such items as team seating and the wearing of masks.

Officials should work with the schools and their personnel to successfully conduct all meets.

Expect the unexpected!