

# DIVING JUDGES

While there are many aspects to being a good diving judge, knowledge of the rules is paramount. Knowing the rules regarding the five elements of all dives (starting position, approach, takeoff, flight and positions, and entry into the water) is essential to being a competent diving judge. It is important for diving judges to review the diving guidelines and/or silhouettes frequently.

## **Diving judge should:**

- Be sure to consider all five elements of a dive when scoring. Judge the entire dive independently and select a score promptly upon completion of the dive. Avoid the trap of having the last element—the entry—become the most important determinant of the score.
- Be consistent and fair to all the divers. Score all divers on the same basis.
- Remember the specific rules requiring deductions by a diving judge.
- Trust his/her instincts, judge what is observed and use the entire range of numbers 10-0. Do not allow outside factors such as other judges, spectators, coaches and/or team members to enter into the judging process. Individual judges do not have to agree with the rest of the panel; the score in the middle isn't always the correct one.
- Know the description of each of the judging categories (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Deficient, Unsatisfactory and Failed), and score each dive based on the scores within each category.
- If in doubt, give the benefit to the diver.
- Show the score for a dive when it is called for without delay.
- Expect properly executed dives to be performed in front of the board and at an appropriate distance from the board and walls.

It is important to hear the announcer read the dive and dive description in order to develop a mental picture of the dive to be completed. Begin judging the dive when the starting position has been established and do not stop judging the dive until the diver has passed below the surface of the water. Once the dive is completed, select a score quickly without consulting another diving judge. If there is an error in a score read by the announcer, immediately bring it to the attention of the diving referee.

The diving referee determines failed and unsatisfactory dives. An unsatisfactory dive results in a maximum score of 2 points, but that does not mean that a judge is obligated to show a score of 2 points, especially if there were deficiencies requiring mandatory deductions or deficiencies in other elements of the dive. A score of 0 can be shown without the dive having been declared a failed dive and the score itself would not mean that the dive would be considered a failed dive.

The judging panel may or may not include the diving referee (Rule 9-6-1).

A diving judge, who is also serving as a participating school coach, may converse with his/her diver(s) at times determined by the diving referee, but may not do so when it will distract the diving judge from a dive being performed by another diver. (Note: Coaches may only officiate if it is allowed by their state association.)

