

THE DIVING REFEREE – BEFORE THE COMPETITION BEGINS

The diving referee is the head diving judge and has full authority over other diving judges. The diving referee's decision is final.

Before diving competition, the diving referee should:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the meet to see that the equipment necessary to conduct the one-meter diving event is in compliance with the rules. Any concern should be referred to the host team's representative or meet manager.
- If necessary, designate a member of the judging panel to assist in determining unsatisfactory or failed dives.
- If necessary, be sure lane lines and backstroke flags are removed from the diving area.
- Confirm all diving scoresheets/dive lists were submitted by the designated time, allowing adequate time for meet management to review prior to the competition.
- Confirm the process being utilized to obtain the diver and coach signatures when using electronic diving entries.
- Check carefully that all diving scoresheets are signed or dive lists are initialed when using electronic entries by the diver and coach.
- Confirm that the degree of difficulty for back and reverse double somersaults in the tuck and pike positions reflect NFHS standards.
- Confirm the protocols to be followed by the diving referee, coaches and divers to ensure all requirements and responsibilities, by rule, are being met. Review the protocol with appropriate meet personnel to ensure smooth administration of the competition.

For dual meets:

- ☐ The number of team entries in diving shall be the same as the number of swimmers allowed in each swimming event.
- ☐ Diving shall count as one of the athlete's two individual entries for the meet.
- ☐ The divers from the visiting team have the choice of selecting the odd or even diving positions. A single diver from the visiting team may select any of the odd or even positions, i.e., 1, 3, 5, which may be different than the lanes selected for the team's swimming lanes.

☒ The diving referee, or his/her designee, should check the diving scoresheets for the following: (This is performed as a courtesy to the diver and his/her coach. The primary responsibility for accuracy of the diving scoresheet lies with the diver and coach.)

- The diver's name and school, diver and coach signatures, dive number and position, the order in which the dives will be performed, and that the designated degree of difficulty for the voluntary dive is circled and not greater than 1.8. Remember: the dive number and position are the official description of each dive. When electronic sheets are utilized, initials may be used as signatures;
- Verify that all divers have the correct Voluntary Dive Group for the week: Week #1 – forward group; week #2 – back group; week #3 – inward group; week #4 – twisting group; week #5 – reverse group; then start again with the forward group (unless determined otherwise by the state association);
- Verify that the five optional dives come from at least four of the five dive groups, and may include any dive from the voluntary dive group other than the voluntary dive, and;
- Be sure no dive is repeated on the scoresheet.

☒ Conduct a meeting with coaches and divers to discuss the following:

- All divers will receive two approaches with entries once the lane lines are moved and backstroke flags are taken down;
- Begin adjusting the board or have a teammate adjust the board as soon as the previous diver has gone;
- Know your order in the diving rotation (encourage naming the “on deck” diver);
- Listen carefully to the dive that is announced if there is any problem stop and ask the announcer to repeat or referee for assistance; and
- If something unusual happens during the dive that causes a distraction or impedes performance, the diver must request permission to repeat the dive;
- The dive referee may give permission to repeat a dive if there was obvious unfairness during an attempt and the diver was visibly too shaken to ask.

o For 11-dive meets:

☒ The number of team entries shall be determined by the meet management;

☒ The order in which the divers shall perform shall be determined by the meet director and shall be by lot or by seeding based on the diver's best competitive 11 dive score submitted. If seeding and no 11 dive score is submitted, the diver shall be seeded by lot at the beginning of the diving order. The same relative position in the diving order shall be maintained by the divers throughout all levels of the competition; however, the diving finalists may be seeded based on the semifinal scores (lowest to highest) or kept in the same dive order as the preliminaries and semifinals, as determined by the meet director;

- The default method for determining the order of the diving competition shall be by lot for a championship meet or meet conducted under a championship format.

o The diving referee, or his/her designee, should check the diving scoresheets for the following: (This is performed as a courtesy to the diver and his/her coach. The primary responsibility for accuracy of the diving scoresheet lies with the diver and coach);

- The diver's name and school, diver and coach signatures, dive number and DD for voluntary dive(s) circled (if electronic diving entries are being used, the voluntary dives will be identified as such, but not circled), position, written description, degree of difficulty, and the order the dives will be performed. Remember: the dive number and position are the official description of each dive. When electronic sheets are utilized, initials may be used as signatures;

- That all divers have 11 dives listed;

- Verify that the five voluntary dives (two in the preliminary round, two in the semifinal round and one in the final round) come from each of the dive groups with their assigned DD and have a sum total of 9.0, or less;

- Verify that the six optional dives include at least one from each of the five groups and that no more than one optional dive from the same group is performed through the semifinals (i.e., first eight rounds); and

- Verify that all five groups are represented in the first eight rounds of competition and no dive is repeated.

o Conduct a meeting with coaches and divers to discuss the following:

- The order in which the divers will perform;
- If more than one board is available, discuss any restriction/limit on which board is used during either warm-ups or competition;
- Warm-up procedures before each session of competition. Immediately prior to the diving competition, each diver is allowed at least two approaches, with or without a water entry at the diver's discretion. A dry bounce shall count as one of the two allotted approaches (i.e. one dry bounce and one separate water entry equals two approaches);
- Responsibility for diving sheets;
- Requesting declared false starts and protocol to follow (Rule 3-2-3);
- The importance of the diver listening to each dive as it is announced and what to do if a dive is announced incorrectly. Instruct the divers that if the description is not accurate, the diver shall immediately bring it to the attention of the Diving Referee before beginning their dive;
- Quieting the crowd;
- Instruct the divers regarding the procedure for exceptional events that may occur. A diver must immediately come to the referee, after the completion of a dive to request that dive be repeated, i.e. not their coach or another person;
- The dive referee may give permission to repeat a dive if there was obvious unfairness during an attempt and the diver was visibly too shaken to ask;
- Requests by the diver to wipe water from the diving board before assuming a starting position;
- Review rules regarding taping (divers may wear tape or wraps for support and no medical authorization is required);
- Any special rules which will apply to the competition;
- Review rule concerning re-entering the water between dives.
- Meet with the other diving judges to review calls by the referee, individual judges' responsibilities, the scale for awarding points, their locations while judging diving and discuss any other unique circumstances related to diving.
- The following areas should be covered:
 - o The designated panel member assisting with calls should sit on the opposite side of the pool whenever possible;

- o With the exception of the designated panel member, judges should NOT discuss or make comments regarding dives with other judges until after the scores are awarded;
- o If a judge is also a coach, it is only appropriate for that coach to talk to his/her own divers;
- o Review mandatory deduction for a balk or violation of the forward approach as determined by the diving referee; and
- o Not showing their score until it is called for and when called not delaying showing the score.

