



2014-15 SWIMMING AND DIVING MAJOR RULES CHANGES

3-3-4 Reorganize to list the items a competitor may wear/use and clarifies that adhesives are not allowed for swimmers and/or divers. Divers may wear tape or wraps for support and no longer limited to the wrist.

Rationale: Lists items a competitor may wear/use as it makes the rule easier to use and assists in compliance. The change also prohibits the use of adhesives, such as sprays, as they become slick when wet and can interfere with performance of others.

**3-6-1, New
2, 3** Delineates more clearly unsporting conduct, which results in removal from the meet and all events in which the competitor previously qualified, and unacceptable conduct, which carries a penalty of disqualification from the event. Separates spectator conduct from athletes and coaches.

Rationale: More clearly defines what is considered unsporting conduct, with a resulting penalty of no further participation up to ejection from the competition area, and what actions are considered unacceptable conduct with a resulting penalty of disqualification from that event. Delineates in Rule 8-3-8b when a relay lead-off time shall not be eligible for use as a qualification time or record. Spectators are also separated from athletes and coaches when dealing with unsporting/unacceptable conduct.

**4-3-1 NOTE,
4-2-2 NOTE,
2-7-3 NOTE** Prohibits the use of a pistol/starter's pistol as the sounding device in interscholastic swimming.

Rationale: It is inappropriate to use a pistol of any kind at a school swimming meet. Alternative sounding devices are readily available.

8-1-5 Swimmers no longer step off the starting platforms after the referee/starter gives the command, "Stand up." Swimmers will be directed to step down only when unusual circumstances occur.

Rationale: For risk minimization, swimmers should not step off the starting platform unnecessarily once stepped up, especially with the track-style starting platforms. Referees and starters should direct swimmers to step down only when unusual circumstances occur.

8-2-1e Specifies in the backstroke event, the swimmer shall remain on or above the water surface on the finish and cannot submerge.

Rationale: Specifies in the backstroke event, the swimmer shall remain on or above the water surface on the finish. This can be accomplished with any body part and prevents premature submersion by a swimmer that could create an advantage.

9-2-1 Divers shall be permitted at least two practice approaches, with or without water entry, immediately prior to the start of diving competition.

Rationale: For risk minimization and fairness to competitors for warm-up after a break, divers are permitted at least two practice approaches, with or without water entry, prior to diving competition.

9-2-2 In championship meets, as determined by the meet director, he/she has the option in the event of diving to seed the finalists based on their semifinal score (lowest to highest) or keep the same dive order as preliminaries and semifinals.

Rationale: As an OPTION, the finalists in the diving event in championship meets may be seeded by their semifinal score (lowest to highest) prior to the final three dives, and dive in that relative order for the finals. The method will add excitement to the meet and give a benefit to the highest-scoring semifinalist, by performing last.

9-7-2 The diving scoring scale was updated.

Rationale: The dives listed on the NFHS diving table are consistent with NCAA, USA Diving and FINA in regard to the degrees of difficulty. There are no technical reasons for the scoring scale to be different.

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3-2-1 Added language to clarify application of the penalty for a competitor violating allowable
PENALTY event limits.

Rationale: Clarifies the penalty for a competitor violating allowable event limits does not remove the competitor from competition he/she had previously and legally qualified for.

3-3-3 Removed unnecessary language from the penalty due to change in rules last year.
PENALTY 2 Consistency in rules language.

Rationale: With last year's change in 3-3-3 Penalty 2, Penalty 3 was no longer needed. This editorial provides consistency in rules language and removes unnecessary language.

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1-3-10 NOTE, 1-3-12 NOTE, 2-7-4 New NOTE, 6-4-1a,b, 9-3-5, 9-7-5o, Appendix B

2014-15 SWIMMING AND DIVING POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Touch pads
2. Conduct
3. Reporting for events in championship meets
4. Diving points scale