

The Meet Referee may be the Announcer, one of the judges, a dive coach (that both teams agree will be referee), or an additional volunteer. It is best if the Meet Referee is a dedicated volunteer rather than serving a dual role so they can focus on the meet and not other duties. **The Meet Referee should have judged at 3+ meets (including prior seasons).**

The Meet Referee's Role:

BEFORE THE MEET

Dive Sheets

- Optimally, the Meet Referee should review all dive sheets to verify that each diver has the correct number of dives in different groups with correct DDs and no repeated dives. Sometimes there isn't time and we trust the coaches to have done this correctly. Examples:
 - Repeated dive: 101 Forward Dive *Tuck* and 101 Forward Dive *Pike*.
 - Repeated dive: 102 Forward 1 SS Tuck as both a dive and 102 Forward 1 SS Tuck as an eggroll
 - DD issue: 5211 Back Dive Half Twist for 8U and 10U should have DD 1.0; older divers get DD 1.8
 - Group issue: Diver needs 3 groups and has dives from only 2 groups, e.g. 3 forward dives, 2 backward dives, and does not have a dive from a third group such as inward, reverse, or twist
 - Group issue: Diver needs 3 groups and has 3 groups but dives are listed in an order such that they do all forward dives first, followed by backward dives, and ending with the 3rd group. Dives should be reordered so that the dives reflect different groups as noted on the dive sheet.

Swimwear

- Meet with the dive coaches from each team and ask if there are any swimwear exception requests.
- The Meet Referee may need to rule on the swimwear exception if the diver does not have pre-approval from the Midlakes Dive representatives.

The Announcer will call for a Judges' Meeting before the meet begins.

The following volunteers must attend the Judges' Meeting:

- Meet Referee
- All Judges for the current dive group
- Announcer

DURING THE MEET

- The diver or coach may ask to change the position of a dive while the diver is at the board. There is no penalty. The Degree of Difficulty (DD) should be adjusted at the announcing/scoring table. The Meet Referee should verify the DD change. DD can only go down not up, e.g. diver changes #201 Back Dive position from Pike to Straight, keep the lower DD of the two.
- The Meet Referee will listen to each dive as it's announced and review the dive as it's executed looking for infractions:
 - Balks – judges score normally, scorers deduct 2 points from each score.
No balks are called for 8s and 10s.
 - Failed Dives – the dive didn't meet the requirements. The 8 and Under divers may redo the dive one time and a second failed dive = no score. All other divers get no score.
 - Maximum Score – the infraction was not severe enough to be failed but has a maximum score.
- If the Meet Referee rules that an infraction occurred, the Meet Referee will inform the Announcer who announces the infraction and the penalty before judges offer scores.

Common Infractions (complete list on Midlakes Judging Chart):

- Arms below waist on a jump = max 4.5
- Arms above shoulders on a feet-first entry = max 4.5
- Coach-assisted dive = max 2.0
- Lineup for newer divers = max 2.0
- Lack of a 3-step hurdle = max 4.0. This includes a diver who:
 - Takes 3 steps, then has a significant pause at the end of the board before a knee lift and takeoff.
 - Takes 1 step, then executes the knee lift and takeoff.
 - Takes no steps, stands at the edge of the board, executes knee lift and takeoff.
- Egg roll: 102 Forward 1 SS Tuck – diver sits at edge of board and rolls in = max 2.0
- Failed dive = no score. Scorers write in all zeros.
 - A body part other than feet touches water on feet-first entry
 - A body part other than hands touch water on hands-first entry
 - Diver does wrong dive (e.g. they did back jump instead of back dive, etc.)
 - Diver does wrong position (e.g. they did forward dive in straight or pike position instead of tuck position)
- Dive #5211 Back Dive Half Twist has several maximums specific to Midlakes judging.
The ideal takeoff should look like a back dive with diver arms going up over head as their feet leave board and then twist while in the air to enter like a forward dive.
 - Feet Move on Board (including starting with feet in altered position) – Max 2.0
 - Hips Twist Prior to Takeoff – Max 3.0
 - Falling Backward to get into the Twist position – Max 4.0
- Twists:
 - If a diver goes more than $\frac{1}{4}$ twist past the specified twist, then it is a failed dive.
 - If a diver does not go more than $\frac{1}{4}$ twist toward the specified twist, then it is a failed dive.

Meet Referee Final Thoughts:

You are probably not the most qualified person at the meet to rule on dives. If you don't feel comfortable ruling on certain types of infractions, e.g. twists, please engage the coaches to help determine if there was an infraction. *Ask the coaches at the start of the meet to help watch for certain types of dives carefully and help rule on them.*

If you are a dedicated Meet Referee who is not performing a second role at the meet, e.g. announcing, judging, then you can take video of some of the dives that you are not comfortable with ruling, like the 5211 back dive half twist, and replay them to determine if there was an infraction. It will take too much time to replay dives more than a couple of times in the meet, but you'll have the video if there is an objection from one of the coaches.