

# Swimming and Diving Rules Changes - 2018-19

By NFHS on June 08, 2018 [swimming & diving](#)

**Rule 1:** Rule 1 has been reorganized to more accurately reflect and define meet specifications and organization.

**Rationale:** Clarifies and consolidates terminology and reorganizes sections to reflect the order in which rules appear in the rules book.

**2-4-5:** The 16.4-yard/15-meter marks must be visible on both sides of the pool deck.

**Rationale:** Although markings may be integrated into each lane marker/lane line, because the position of such floats are often irregular, the marks on the sides of the pool are the uniform default marking for all lanes.

**2-7-2b:** Backstroke starting ledges are not permitted in high school swimming.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that backstroke starting ledges are prohibited in high school swimming due to risk minimization.

**2-7-2c (NEW), 2-7-2 NOTE (NEW):** Options for starting platform malfunctions are provided, and direction for malfunctioning swimming equipment has been re-organized.

**Rationale:** Clarifies directives when swimming equipment malfunctions or is non-compliant.

**4-2-1d:** The referee shall conduct a pre-meet conference with the starter, the coach and the captain of each team for all non-championship meets.

**Rationale:** Emphasizes the importance that participants are aware of all details associated with the event.

**4-5-3, 4-7:** The responsibilities of stroke inspectors and turn/finish judges can now be combined by the referee.

**Rationale:** Specifies when the availability of officials is limited, the referee has the option to staff the deck effectively and efficiently with available officials.

**5-1-2a:** In non-championship meets, the diving event maybe held first, last or simultaneously with the swimming events, in addition to the traditional placement as Event 5 between the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly.

**Rationale:** Allows for flexibility in conducting the diving event within the dual meet program which will permit more options for competing teams.

**5-3, 5-3-2, 5-3-6 NOTE:** Section 5-3 has been updated to provide lane and heat assignment protocol from the dual meet to the championship meet.

**Rationale:** Clarifies direction for situations in which the number of teams and/or entries cannot be equally divided into the number of available lanes.

**5-4-2:** New language provides scoring protocol based on pool facilities with differing numbers of available lanes.

**Rationale:** Clarifies protocol for number of qualifiers and scoring for facilities that have 4, 6, 8, 9, or 10 lanes available.

**9-4-6 NOTE 2 (NEW):** The NOTE clarifies that it is permissible to conduct eleven-dive competitions during dual meets, double-dual meets, and other non-championship multi-team meets.

**Rationale:** Provides for additional options for competitors to prepare for tournament series events.

## **2018-19 SWIMMING AND DIVING MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES**

**2-6:** Reorganizes water condition requirements and provides directives for non-compliant conditions.

**2-7-9, 7-2-5:** Clarifies the recommendation for posting team scores through a meet.

**4-1-2:** Clarifies that a meet committee and meet director are only required for championship meets. Other meets are administered by the referee or other officials appropriate to the type of meet.

**8-3-3 NOTE:** Instruction for the starting procedure during a backstroke relay was moved to a NOTE, as this is not an NFHS event. The NOTE can provide the guidance that may be needed.

## **2018-19 SWIMMING AND DIVING EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-2-3, 3-1-1, 3-1-2, 3-2-1, 3-2-2, 3-2-3, 3-2-3 PENALTIES, 3-6-1 PENALTY, 4-1-2, 4-1-4, 4-1-7, 4-3-1b, 4-6-2, 4-6-3, 4-6-4, 4-9-3, 5-1-1 NOTE, 7-1-2, 7-1-3, 9-1-1f, g, 9-2-4

## **2018-19 SWIMMING AND DIVING POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Suit Coverage
2. Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning or Thunder Disturbances

3. Officials Retention and Recruitment
4. Scratch/Declared False Starts/Failing to Compete