

The Skinny on Judging

Judging diving is challenging...so much is happening so fast and it is up to the judges to look for some specific things in order to come up with a fair rating of each diver. There is absolutely subjectivity in scoring, however there are some guidelines and rules that help to determine the score for each dive. Here are a few details that may help spectators better understand judging a little better. Some of these guidelines are specific to the All-City league; these may be different standards from other leagues.

GENERAL RATINGS:

- Excellent 10
- Very Good 8.5-9.5
- Good 7 to 8
- Satisfactory 5-6.5
- Deficient 2.5-4.5
- Unsatisfactory 0.5-2
- Failed 0

WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

The judges are watching the diver from starting position to finishing the dive in the water. There are many factors being evaluated including, but not limited to the following:

- Approach – diver uses the flexibility of the board to project upward and away from the board
 - Front approach must consist of at least 3 steps and a hurdle
 - Hurdle should direct diver upward and slightly away from board
 - Pointed toes on hurdle
 - Good use of board to get height to execute the dive
 - Back approach must consist of a full arm circle before leaving the board
 - Feet do NOT leave the board during the approach (this is call a balk)
 - Diver uses momentum to get the board bouncing
 - Finishes arm circle with arms above head and reaching up and slightly back
- Distance from the board – should be a safe distance, but not too far away. Usually 1-2 feet in front of the board is ideal.
- Position of the dive – diver must perform the position announced and maintain throughout dive
 - pike is performed with the legs straight and bent at the waist to touching toes
 - straight must maintain a straight body throughout the dive
 - tuck is the easiest with the knees bent and against the chest
 - Free is used for twisting dives and allows freedom of position, but mostly looking for straight legs and combination of pike and straight with a few exceptions
- Pointed toes throughout the dive
- Legs together from the time the diver leaves the board until the dive is completed
- Entry is very important and the last thing the judges see before scoring. Looking for:
 - Entering with a straight body (coming completely out of the dive for entry)
 - Small splash indicates entering straight
 - Head first entry – hands enter clean and the rest of the body enters the same hole
 - Feet first entry – feet enter clean, body upright, and everything enters the same hole
 - Pointed toes!!

JUDGES PENALTIES

Deduction of ½ to 2 points:

- Not stopping the oscillation of the board just before or after the starting position is assumed
- Excessive oscillation(more than 4 times)
- A foot or feet leaving the board prior to a back/inward takeoff
- Spreading knees in the tuck position
- Not holding straight position on flying somersaults until body is horizontal to surface of water
- Entering to the side of the board
- Twisting manifestly from the board

Deficient Dive (Maximum Award 4.5 points):

- Partially alters position of diver during flight (ie. bending knees on pike position)
- Enters water with one or both hands above the shoulders on a dive requiring feet-first entry
- Enters water with one or both hands below the shoulders on a dive requiring a head-first entry

Unsatisfactory Dive (Maximum award 2 points):

- Dive clearly done in position other than described on scoresheet
- Hits the diving board
- Diver does not attempt to come out from tucked or piked positions
 - 10 & under will be awarded max of 4
 - 11 & ups max of 3
- Diver does not attempt to come out of the twist
- Does not hold straight position until horizontal to the water on any flying one somersault dive
- Does not hold straight position until perpendicular to water on any flying 1-1/2 somersault dive

Deduct 2 points from each judge's award for:

- Violation of the forward approach (ie. takes fewer than 3 steps)
- Balk (starting the approach, stopping, and then starting again)

Failed Dive:

- Executes a dive other than the one given on the diving sheet
- Does not assume a starting position
- Diver falls into the water
- Diver is assisted by another person
- Does not execute a pike before the twist for dives 5111B and 5411B
- Feet touch water first on head first entry
- Twist shoulders 90 degrees more or less than indicated on the diving scoresheet when the diver's feet/hands contact the water
- Twists shoulders past 90 degrees before the feet leave the board
- Repeats a dive
- Steps off board after assuming the starting position
- Uses standing forward position on a forward dive
- Official description of dive not recorded on score sheet
- Commits two balks

- In dual meet, the voluntary dive is not performed first
- Championship meet voluntary/optional dive is not performed first as specified

Diver is disqualified if:

- Diver does not make a sincere attempt to perform the dive
- When dives listed on scoresheet are obviously too difficult for the diver
- Diver unnecessarily delays the performance of dive
- Fails to submit completed sheet at the proper time and place
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- For not completing all rounds of dives
- Diver enters water without permission of diving referee
- Diver fails two dives for any reason

NOTES:

- Dual confirmation of failed dive required
- Announcer shall announce (and judges should also display) the award given
- The meet referee has the authority to replace diving judge with an alternative judge
- No Monona Diver does any “flying” dives at this time