

When/where are Deer Brook's dive meets?

Please see the schedule on South Jersey Diving Association's web site. Deer Brook is in SJDA's Northern Division.

<http://southjerseydiving.org/membership-fee/meet-info/>

What time are dive meets?

Dive meets usually begin at 7 a.m. with a 45-minute warmup for the 9&U age group. As each age group finishes, the age group that is up next begins warmups. *Age group order for meets is not chronological age order. It's usually 9&U first, followed by age 10-11, age 14-15, age 16-18 and finally age 12-13. It is impossible to know how long each age group will take, and sometimes age groups are combined to speed things up (but places/ribbons are still awarded just within your own age group). Divers should arrive early and be prepared to wait for their age group to begin.

Approximate reporting times for 1-meter qualifier meets and 3-meter exhibition meets will be posted before the meets at www.southjerseydiving.org

Where are the dive meets held?

There are only six dive meets: three qualifier meets and one championship for 1-meter, and one exhibition and one championship meet for 3-meter. One of the qualifier meets will be a Deer Brook. All other meets will be at one of the other 15 member clubs of the South Jersey Diving Association. A list of member clubs and driving directions can be found at: <http://southjerseydiving.org/directions/>

What if it rains when a dive meet is scheduled?

If weather conditions are poor and possibly dangerous to the divers, it is the decision of the host club's SJDA Diving Rep (not the coach), along with the host club's pool manager and/or board of directors, to determine whether an event needs to be delayed, postponed or cancelled. Every effort will be made to post this information on southjerseydiving.org. We at Deer Brook will also attempt to contact parents via text and/or email in the event of a meet delay or cancellation.

How many swim clubs/total divers attend each meet?

1-meter qualifier meets: Have five to seven clubs competing, all from the same division. (SJDA has three divisions: South, Central and North; Deer Brook is in North.)

The number of divers from each club, and within each age group, vary from club to club, and year to year.

3-meter exhibition and both championship meets: Divers from all 16 SJDA clubs compete.

How long does a dive meet last?

Generally 4-5 hours, longer for championships, with each age group lasting 90 minutes or so. It depends on how many divers are participating and how the meet combines events. Once your age group is finished and ribbons are awarded, you are free to go. There is no expectation for all divers to stay until the last age group finishes, although you are certainly welcome to. Likewise, you do not need to report until the warmup time for your age group.

What should I bring to a dive meet?

Extra towels (!), especially for the younger ages in the early morning, when it can be chilly. Divers usually go through 2-3 towels in a meet, including one to sit on, and adults will want towels for wiping morning dew off chairs. You might want a soccer chair in case seating is scarce, especially at championships. Bring a water bottle or sports drinks for your diver, and snacks if you need them, although there is usually a snack bar or bake sale. (Bring money.) Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses for yourself and your divers.

How can I help at the dive meets?

Consider working the scoring table, whether the meet is home or away. See the bottom for a list of volunteer jobs at dive meets.

Will my child be in the dive meets?

It's up to you and your child. Some people choose to dive just to learn, without competing in meets. To *compete* in a meet, a child must be able to execute the required dives for their age group (see below). A child who can do some but not all of the dives for their age group may still participate in the meet as "exhibition." They will not be competing for a numbered place, and are not eligible to qualify for championships, even if they earn enough points.

What are the required dives for my child's age group?

That information is found at <http://southjerseydiving.org/diver-info/age-group-requirements/>

Note the different requirements for 1-meter (low dive) and 3-meter (high dive), and for Novice Division vs. Junior Olympic Division.

What is "qualifying"?

If a diver's score in any a 1-meter qualifier meet reaches the cut-off score for their age group, they "qualify" to go to the 1-meter Championship.

There is no qualifying required for the 3-meter championship; any diver who can execute the required dives for their age group may go to 3-meter champs.

What is JO?

Junior Olympic division, for divers who can properly and safely execute more advanced dives. The coach will let you know if they think your diver should dive JO.

How are dives judged and scored?

Judging: Each meet has at least three judges, sometimes five or seven. Each judge awards 0-10 points on each dive.

To learn what judges are looking at when they judge a dive, visit <http://southjerseydiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2016-SJDA-Judges-Handbook.pdf>

Scoring: If there are five or seven judges, the highest and lowest scores are thrown out. The three remaining scores are combined for the dive's "raw" score. The raw score is multiplied by the dive's degree of difficulty (DD) for the total score on that dive.

What does "degree of difficulty" (DD) mean? How do we know what that number is?

Because some dives are inherently more difficult than others, they are worth more points. For example, a diver who scores 5's on a Reverse 1-1/2 should earn more points than a diver who scores 5's on a front jump tuck. So each dive is assigned a number that reflects how difficult the dive is.

The DD's for various dives are listed here:

<http://southjerseydiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SJDA-2015-DegreeOfDifficultyTable.pdf>

I'm still confused. Maybe an example would help.

Say a diver executes a dive with a Degree of Difficulty (DD) of 1.4. The diver receives the following scores (one score from each judge): 3.5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3.5

The diver's highest score (4) and lowest score (one of the 3's) are tossed out. The three remaining scores are added (3.5 + 3.5 + 3) for a "raw score" of 10. That raw score of 10 is multiplied by that dive's DD of 1.4. Raw score of 10 x DD of 1.4 = 14.

The diver's score on that dive is 14. The diver will do more dives in their next rounds. After all rounds are complete, the divers scores are totaled for their final score for the meet.

So should my young diver attempt more difficult dives in order to score higher?

Not necessarily. Each age group/division must perform certain required dives, and all divers have Degree of Difficulty "cap" that varies by age group. Your coaches will know which dives are best for your child to maximize their total score.

My diver is really talented. Can they “dive up” in the next age group, like they do on swim team?

No, that is not allowed in SJDA. But you may want to explore diving Junior Olympic division instead of Novice.

How many turns does a diver get in a meet?

A diver gets one “turn” per round. When all divers have done their first dive, Round 1 is over and Round 2 immediately begins without a break. Divers should listen for their name and know which diver they follow, so they know when to be on deck.

How many rounds are there? (i.e., how many “turns” does my diver get)?

It varies by age group and competition division, ranging from three rounds for 9&Under Novice divers to nine rounds for age 16-18 JO divers.

What is an “event” in a dive meet?

Generally, it means the age group, gender and division of the divers competing. For example, “9&U Girls Novice” or “12-13 Boys JO.”

The host club combined events to make the meet go faster and now my child is “diving against” someone who is older/opposite gender/in JO. How is that fair?

It wouldn't be. That's why even though events are sometimes combined to speed things up, the awards themselves are still only within the official event grouping (9&U Girls Novice, etc.)

Will my diver get a ribbon/medal?

It depends on how your child scores in comparison to other divers competing in the same event. At the 1-meter qualifier meets and 3-meter exhibition meet, ribbons are usually awarded for 1st-6th place in each age group and gender. At the championship meets, Novice divers get medals 1st-4th place and “big ribbons” for 5th-12th place in each age group and gender. In the JO division at championships, medals are usually awarded for 1st-8th place and no ribbons are awarded. Some meets do award participation ribbons to everyone who doesn't earn a place ribbon.

What is a “dive sheet” or “meet sheet”?

Before each meet, coaches prepare a dive sheet/meet sheet for each diver in the meet, listing the diver's name, club, age group, gender and division (Novice or JO). The scorers use these sheets to record and tabulate the divers' scores, and the announcer uses them to announce the divers. The diver is given the sheet when his/her score is announced in the award ceremony after his/her event. We do ask coaches to send a copy of the sheet home before each meet so divers and families know what they're doing in that meet.

See an example meet sheet here: <http://southjerseydiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-SJDA-MeetSheet-Web.pdf>

How is the “winning team” determined at a meet?

Unlike swim team, dive meets are not “dual” meets (i.e., it’s not Deer Brook vs. Anther Swim Club). Team winners are only declared at the championship meets. At those meets, points are awarded to the clubs whose divers who come in 1st-6th place (7 points for first place, 5 points for second, 4 points for third, 3 points for fourth, 2 points for fifth and 1 point for sixth; ties split the points among the teams). At the end of the championship meets, the Top 3 point-getting teams get trophies.

What clubs do we “dive against”?

At the 1-meter qualifier meets Deer Brook divers compete against divers from clubs within our same SJDA division. At the 3-meter exhibition and both championship meets, our divers compete against divers from all 16 SJDA clubs.

List of SJDA member clubs: <http://southjerseydiving.org/directions/>

Volunteer Jobs at Dive Meets:

Please sign up to work the score table at least one event at one meet each season. The same parents end up working every meet because not enough people volunteer.

Each diving meet needs at least:

3-5 judges: Usually judges are the dive coaches from whatever clubs are in that meet.

1-2 photographers: Take pictures during meet, especially of any qualifiers after they get their ribbons as we like to send these to The Central Record.

1 Announcer: Says what event is up, the name of diver, club they are from and what dive they are doing. and who is on deck.

1 Master Scorer: Writes down the scores when the judges hold up the little flip cards.

2 Scorekeepers: On each diver’s dive sheet, records the judges’ scores; crosses out the high and low score (only when there are five judges). Adds the remaining three scores to get a diver’s “raw score”

2 Tabulators: On each diver’s dive sheet, multiplies the raw score by the degree of difficulty and adds it to the diver’s previous score

1 Checker: Compares results from the two scorers/tabulators to ensure they match,; finds the mistake if they don’t.

1-2 runners (keeps dive sheets in order and gets them to announcer)

2 ribbon writers (fills out child’s name and score on awards)