

2017-18 MHSAA SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES INTERPRETATIONS & UPDATES

1. IMPORTANT DATES:

	GIRLS	BOYS	U.P.
Practice Begins	Aug. 9	Nov. 20	Nov. 6
First Contest	Aug. 18	Dec. 2	Nov. 18
Swim Opt-Out Due Date	Nov. 13	Mar. 5	Feb. 12
Regional Diving	Nov. 9	Mar. 1	---
Final Meet	Nov. 17-18	Mar. 9-10	Feb. 17

2. VOLUNTARY DIVE SCHEDULE:

Girls Meets Beginning Aug. 21, 2017 (any meet before Aug. 21, use week one)

<u>Dive Group</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Dates</u>		
Forward	(1,6,11)	Aug. 21	Sept. 25	Oct. 30
Back	(2,7)	Aug. 28	Oct. 2	
Inward	(3,8)	Sept. 4	Oct. 9	
Twisting	(4,9)	Sept. 11	Oct. 16	
Reverse	(5,10)	Sept. 18	Oct. 23	

Boys Meets Beginning Dec. 4, 2017: (any meet before Dec. 4, use week one)

<u>Dive Group</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Dates</u>		
Forward	(1,6,11)	Dec. 4	Jan. 8	Feb. 12
Back	(2,7,12)	Dec. 11	Jan. 15	Feb. 19
Inward	(3,8,)	Dec. 18	Jan. 22	
Twisting	(4,9)	Dec. 25	Jan. 29	
Reverse	(5,10)	Jan. 1	Feb. 5	

UP Meets Beginning Nov. 20, 2017: (any meet before Nov. 20, use week one)

<u>Dive Group</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Dates</u>		
Forward	(1,6,11)	Nov. 20	Dec. 25	Jan. 29
Back	(2,7)	Nov. 27	Jan. 1	
Inward	(3,8)	Dec. 4	Jan. 8	
Twisting	(4,9)	Dec. 11	Jan. 15	
Reverse	(5,10)	Dec. 18	Jan. 22	

3. L.P. QUALIFYING TIMES FOR 2017-18

EVENT	GIRLS DIV. 1	GIRLS DIV. 2	GIRLS DIV. 3	BOYS DIV. 1	BOYS DIV. 2	BOYS DIV. 3
200 MED. RELAY	1:53.39	1:56.59	2:00.19	1:41.59	1:44.19	1:46.49
200 FREESTYLE	1:57.49	2:00.39	2:04.09	1:46.79	1:49.39	1:51.99
200 IND. MEDLEY	2:14.59	2:17.09	2:22.59	2:01.29	2:04.89	2:09.29
50 FREESTYLE	24.89	25.39	25.79	22.29	22.69	22.89
100 BUTTERFLY	59.79	1:01.39	1:03.09	53.89	55.89	56.89
100 FREESTYLE	54.49	55.39	56.89	48.89	50.09	50.59
500 FREESTYLE	5:18.69	5:26.59	5:42.09	4:54.49	5:00.09	5:10.59
200 FREE RELAY	1:42.89	1:44.79	1:46.29	1:31.09	1:33.79	1:35.19
100 BACKSTROKE	1:00.79	1:01.89	1:04.79	55.29	57.99	59.19
100 BRSTSTROKE	1:09.79	1:10.69	1:14.19	1:01.59	1:02.79	1:04.79
400 FREE RELAY	3:45.09	3:50.59	3:56.29	3:19.69	3:26.39	3:30.39

4. MHSAA RULE CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS

- A. Swim officials –The official's uniform for swimming and diving is a white shirt and navy blue slacks.
Regular Season –navy blue slacks or dress shorts are legal. All Final officials will wear navy blue slacks. If shorts are worn during regular season they must be mid-thigh to knee length.
- B. A student may wear a knee brace without any medical documentation or approval by the state association.
- C. Goggles are not part of the uniform; therefore, there is no logo restriction.
- D. The "only one suit allowed" rule is for swimmers, not intended for divers.
- E. Starting pistols shall not be used in any meet. A bell, horn, whistle or air horn may be used.

5. NFHS RULES CHANGES

1-3-2: State associations may determine meets that shall be considered as culminating meets, which utilize the championship meet format. The championship meet format prescribes specific rules associated with team and individual entries, dual confirmation, declared false starts, and applicable penalties for violation of these rules. Non-championship meets may also be conducted under championship meet format and are subject to all rules for a championship meet.

3-3-2a: Consistent language has been established for all NFHS sports that describe what information is permitted on the uniform. A competitor's name, school name, school nickname and/or the school logo can be placed on the uniform, which consists of the suit and the cap.

2-7-6, 3-4: Lap counters are now permitted to count the competitor's laps by changing the number to the next higher or lower number, as the competitor makes each turn at the starting end.

3-6, 4-1-8: Rule 3 was reorganized to provide consistency and clarity for penalties associated with various competitor and/or meet personnel conduct. In addition, the rule pertaining to language regarding the prohibition of an official's tobacco use at the competition site was moved from Rule 3-6 to Rule 4-1-8.

4-6-4: Dual confirmation for relay takeoffs is now required for all championship meets. Dual confirmation can be accomplished either (a) by two side judges observing the entire field or (b) by a combination of side and lane judges. The referee and the starter may serve as the relay takeoff judges as well.

8-3-5c, 4-6-1: On relays, the second, third and fourth swimmers are prohibited from taking off from the top of the starting block wedge. Competitors must have at least one foot in contact with the starting platform in front of the starting block wedge during takeoff. The responsibility to observe this aspect of this takeoff falls under the relay takeoff judge's jurisdiction, and does not require dual confirmation.

9-5-2: The word "additional" was removed from the description of the forward approach and the hurdle, clarifying the intent for hops, leaps and/or jumps to count toward the three-step requirement.

6. NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- A. Suit Coverage
- B. Accommodations for Disabled Athletes
- C. Warm-Up Protocol
- D. Valid Times with a Single Manual Watch
- E. Responsibility of the Swimmer in Distance Events
- F. Position Statement on Official's Role

7. START RULE FOR MHSAA COMPETITIONS - FORWARD START:

In all swimming races (exception: Backstroke and Medley Relay races), the referee will give a preliminary signal by whistle to notify the swimmers to line up behind or beside their respective starting platforms. The referee may give brief instructions deemed necessary. The referee then shall turn control of the competitors over to the starter.

The starter shall verbally direct the swimmers to "step up" at which time each swimmer shall step onto his or her starting platform and shall stand in any position on the block, without excessive noise or movement. The starter may give brief instructions deemed necessary.

Upon the starter's verbal command, "Take Your Mark," each swimmer, with no unnecessary noise or movement, shall immediately assume any desired starting position on the starting platform. Sufficient time shall be allowed to enable each swimmer to assume a stationary starting position; however, all swimmers are expected to take their starting positions (with at least one foot at the front edge of the platform) at approximately the same time, and unnecessary noise, movement, or delays shall not be permitted. When the starter sees that the swimmers are stationary, the starter shall start the race.

8. EARNING QUALIFYING SCORES - Close to the end of regular season competition in individual sports where qualifying scores must be obtained in order to enter the MHSAA tournament series, coaches sometimes search for an event to enter team members who still need to qualify.

If you are confronted with this situation, be sure you are complying with all MHSAA regulations. Review the following statements to be sure you are following all MHSAA regulations before entering an athlete in a non-scheduled meet to obtain qualifying scores.

The athletic administration must be aware of and approve the additional end of the regular season competition the team is participating in.

- ◆ A team must have an opponent from another school, organization, or group.
 - ◆ There must be a full complement of officials.
 - ◆ Swim in the event for which you attempt to qualify.
 - ◆ There must be school and officials contracts signed.
 - ◆ Added-on contests cannot exceed the maximum number of allowed regular season meets or days of competition for the team or individual.
 - ◆ Competition in a full schedule of events (not diving) must be arranged (not a few selected events).
- Remember, a team or individual cannot earn qualifying scores unless it competes against an opponent. A cooperative team is considered one team for competition purposes.

9. FINAL MEET INFORMATION:

- A. For up-to-date information check the MHSAA Web site www.mhsaa.com.
- B. SWIM FINALS:
1. Each swimmer must have equaled or bettered the qualifying time in a bona fide high school varsity meet
 2. Relays – The combination of swimmers participating at the Final Meet must be capable of equaling the Qualification Time
 3. Electronic entries are required
 4. **Entries are due Monday by noon, the week of the Finals.**
 5. Psych sheets will be posted Weds., by Tues. evening, entries are closed.
- C. DIVING QUALIFICATION MEETS:
1. Qualification Meet locations will be posted on the Web
 2. Entries due Tuesday at noon prior to the Thursday meet
 3. Electronic entry is required. (<http://www.cleanentries.com>)
 4. Divers can modify dives until 1½ hours prior to meet on Thursday
 5. First bounce on board –Thursday two (2) hours prior to meet.
 6. Diving warm up will be from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Competition will begin at 5:00 pm, unless cleared through the MHSAA Office.
 7. All divers perform the first five (5) dives, then cut to 20. Those 20 divers will do three (3) more dives, then cut to 16. The 16 divers will complete their last three (3) dives and the top 12 advance to the Final Meet.
 8. At Diving Qualification Meets – No one, including the host school's divers or any diver coached by the host school's coach, may use the diving facility within one hour of the scheduled warm-up.
- D. DIVERS HAVE TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALIFICATION:
1. Have placed ahead of all divers from opposing schools in actual varsity meet competition in at least 4 meets. **OR**
 2. In league/conference meet or in a season ending varsity invitational (if school does not belong to a league) as many divers may qualify to the Qualification Meet as there are schools which are participating in diving. **AND**
In a Conference Meet, add a qualifying spot (to Qualification Meet) equal to the number of returning Final Meet participants from that conference.

10. **The season limitation** for any individual or team is 17 days of competition. A two-day meet counts as two days of competition – Except that the entire qualifying rounds of diving competition could be on a separate day than all swimming events and the meet would count as only one day of competition (or two days of competition for a two-day swim meet.)

11. Legal Swimsuit - ART. 2 . . . The uniform consists of a suit and, if worn, cap(s).

- a. The suit or cap(s) may display the name and/or number of the competitor, school or mascot.
- b. Advertising or name other than that permitted in 3-3-2c is prohibited.
- c. A single visible manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2¼ square inches is permitted on each item of the uniform (suit and cap(s)).
- New d. An American flag, not to exceed 2x3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches and with written state association approval, may be worn on each item of the uniform.

NOTE: The FINA mark and/or individual barcode on certain swimsuits designating that the suit has been approved for FINA and/or USA Swimming competition is not considered to be a second manufacturer's logo nor a form of advertising. Such swimsuits with a FINA marking shall be legal for NFHS competition (unless they have more than one manufacturer's logo).

PENALTIES: When an official discovers a competitor wearing illegal attire as described in Article 2, the official shall:

1. when observed prior to the start of the heat/dive, notify the competitor to make legal the attire before becoming eligible to compete. If the competitor cannot comply without delaying the start of the heat/dive, the competitor is disqualified from the event/dive and shall not be eligible for further competition until in legal attire;
2. when observed after the heat/dive officially begins, disqualify the competitor at the completion of the heat/dive; nullify the competitor's performance time/score and he/she shall not be eligible for further competition until in legal attire.

ART. 3 . . . Suits worn by swimmers shall be limited to the following requirements:

- a. only one swimsuit shall be permitted in competition. (A swimmer with special needs may request customization through his/her school to the state association.)
- b. the swimsuit shall be:
 1. constructed of a woven/knit textile material;
 2. permeable (100 percent to air and water), except for one post-construction, impermeable school name and/or logo which shall not exceed 9 square inches;
 3. made so as not to aid in buoyancy and shall not be altered to aid in buoyancy;
 4. made with no zippers or other fastening system other than a waist tie for a brief or jammer and elastic material within the casing/ribbing in the terminal ends (straps, leg openings and waist openings); and
 5. constructed so that the style/shape of the suit for males shall not extend above the waist nor below the top of the kneecap and for females shall not extend beyond the shoulders nor below the top of the kneecap, nor cover the neck.

PENALTIES: When an official discovers a competitor wearing an illegal swimsuit by the wearing of two suits or a suit which is of an illegal construction, the official shall:

1. when observed prior to the start of the heat, notify the competitor to make legal the swimsuit before becoming eligible to compete. If the competitor cannot comply without delaying the start of the heat, the competitor is disqualified from that event and shall not be eligible for further competition until in a legal swimsuit;
2. when observed after the race has officially begun, disqualify the competitor at the completion of the heat. Nullify the competitor's performance time and he/she shall not be eligible for further competition until in a legal swimsuit.

12. The NFHS rule (3-3-4) states:

The use of tape is permitted to treat a documented medical condition which allows a competitor to compete, but not to gain an advantage over the remainder of the field. The meet referee must be presented with signed documentation from an appropriate health-care professional before permitting the swimmer to compete. Tape may be used by divers to support the wrists, ankles, etc in a preventable manner without medical documentation.

There are times when an injury to a swimmer occurs onsite.

In such cases either the host school medical personnel or the school's own medical personnel shall provide the necessary medical care which may result in the need for the use of tape.

Situation: A swimmer from Team A cuts his/her foot needing to be treated and taped to allow for further competition in the meet. The swimmer is treated by (a) host school medical personnel or (b) Team A's medical personnel. The meet referee accepts the treatment and allows the athlete to continue in competition.

Ruling: Correct procedure providing treatment is from appropriate health-care provider onsite.

Situation: A swimmer during the 50 free, jams, breaks or dislocates his/her index finger as he/she finishes the race. The swimmer reports back to the block to compete in the 100 free and now has two fingers taped together to stabilize the injury. The referee allows the swimmer to compete.

Ruling: Legal. Tape may be worn for valid medical reasons to cover a wound or treat an injury.

Situation: During the pre-meet warm up, the referee notices three (3) swimmers from the same team wearing kinesio tape. Swimmer A has a double strip on his/her calf, Swimmer B has a sports tape wrapped around his/her knee and Swimmer C has a compression tape on his/her shoulder. The coach is only able to produce documentation from a health care professional for Swimmer C. The referee asks swimmer A and B to remove their tape.

Ruling: Correct procedure. Competitors shall not wear or use any device to aid their speed, buoyancy or body compression. Tape may only be used to cover a wound or for a documented injury.

Reminder: Preventive taping by divers to support their wrists, ankles, etc requires no medical documentation.

The rule was meant to establish a procedure to follow at the local level to address when and how a competitor may use tape to treat a documented medical condition. Each local school will determine (similar to the evaluation for concussion) who qualifies as their health care professional. This procedure is intended to eliminate the potential for abuse of using tape for reasons other than for medical conditions.

13. Backstroke Finish (8-2-1e)

- After breaking the surface of the water, the swimmer must remain on the surface until the finish
 - Any part of the swimmer's body is on or above the surface
- The only exception to remaining on or above the surface once breaking the water surface is for turns
- Only when the entire body is submerged is there a violation of the rule
- This new change applies to both the finish in the backstroke and the finish of the leg of the backstroke in the IM and MR.
- The problem being addressed here is "submerging well before the true finish".

For officials, watch the swimmer approaching the wall – if the swimmer submerges prior to the turn judge having to shift attention to the touch wall – this would be a disqualification

- For referees: only call a completely submerged swimmer kicking into the wall (this would be a violation)
- If a swimmer has misjudged the wall and is reaching or lunging to touch wall – chances are the chest or feet or hand/arm are on or above the water – ok.
- Once again, this change is looking for a swimmer making an obvious attempt to submerge and stay under water a "distance" to finish race/leg.



2017-18 NFHS SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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SITUATION 1: A school hosts a “last-chance” meet to allow athletes who have not achieved a qualifying time/score an opportunity to qualify for the state championship meet. The state association wants to use the preliminaries and finals format, but not use the rules applicable to championship meets. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** State associations may determine which meets are championship meets. (1-3-12)

SITUATION 2: In a non-championship meet, Team A, which only has five eligible swimmers, submits an entry that provides for each swimmer to swim two individual events and, in addition, enters a team in each of the three relay events. The meet director informs Team A that its entry is inaccurate as there are not enough eligible competitors to fill all three relays without two of the competitors exceeding their permitted maximum number of events, and requests that the entry be corrected before the deadline of entry submittal. Team A does not modify its entry. The referee informs Team A prior to the start of the meet that the third relay team (the 400-yard freestyle relay) will be permitted to compete, but will ultimately be disqualified for exceeding the event limit. **RULING:** Correct procedure. To field a team of four in the 400-yard freestyle relay, two of the competitors would be competing in their fifth event. (3-2-1, 3-2-2, PENALTY 1)

SITUATION 3: At the regional meet where participants qualify for the state championship meet, School A's 200-yard medley relay team wins the event and secures that region's entry at the state meet the following week. Swimmer A-3 is unable to participate because the meet is held the same

weekend as the state one-act play competition. The coach of School B, which finished second, requests that the team from School A be disqualified and the region entry given to School B because one of the swimmers who earned the School A time will not be at the state meet. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Relay times belong to the school not the athletes who swam the event. Provided that there were other eligible athletes entered in the relay, and state association entry rules permitted, the relay would be allowed to advance. (3-2-3)

SITUATION 4: During the 500-yard freestyle, the lap counter inadvertently dropped the lap counting device into the pool. She takes no further action while the race progresses and makes no attempt to provide a verbal count to the competitor. The lane judge disqualifies the swimmer in that lane from the event and disqualifies the lap counter from her next event. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** No violation occurs when the lap counting device is inadvertently dropped, provided that the lap counter does not enter the pool to retrieve it until after the race is completed and only after securing permission from the referee. (3-4)

SITUATION 5: During the 500-yard freestyle, the lap counter shows something other than the fluorescent orange card for the last turn of the race. The turn judge disqualifies the swimmer in that lane from the event and disqualifies the lap counter from her next event. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** While the fluorescent orange card typically is shown prior to the swimmer's last turn, it is not a requirement. (3-4)

SITUATION 6: In a dual meet, Swimmer A participates on the winning 200-yard medley relay team and places second in the 200-yard individual medley. Just prior to her 100-yard backstroke race, she is observed by the referee performing a deck change into a different competition suit. The referee immediately disqualifies her from participation in the 100-yard backstroke and 400-yard freestyle events, and also disqualifies the 200-yard medley relay and forfeits her place and participation in the 200-yard individual medley, making adjustments in the placing/scoring for both events. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** While the removal of the swimmer from the backstroke and relay events is correct, there is no provision in the penalty for unsporting conduct for nullification of previous performances. However, had this been a preliminaries and finals meet and the infraction had occurred during the preliminaries round, barring Swimmer A from participation in the finals round, including in events for which previously qualified, would be correct. (3-6-1 PENALTY)

SITUATION 7: In the finals of a championship meet, Swimmer A has competed in the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard individual medley, scoring points in both events. Just prior to her 100-yard backstroke finals, she is observed by the referee performing a deck change into a different competition suit. The referee removes her from the backstroke event and also the 400-yard freestyle relay but does not adjust her prior performances. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The offending swimmer is removed from the remainder of the meet. In the backstroke event, re-seeding should occur

if possible (if the consolation heat has not already been completed) to fill all lanes. In the relay, her team may compete if an eligible alternate is available to take her place. (3-6-1)

SITUATION 8: Swimmer C, who is competing in the finals of the conference championship meet, completes his event and looks up at the scoreboard and realizes he has won the event in a personal best time. He does a fist pump, shouts "YES!" and slaps the water before turning to congratulate the swimmers in the adjacent lanes. The finish judge raises his arm signaling a disqualification under the conduct rule, arguing that personal celebration is a form of taunting and thus constitutes unsporting conduct. The referee overrules the disqualification. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** NFHS rules define unsporting behavior as making insulting or derogatory remarks, gestures or acts. Celebrating a personal achievement in the manner described does not rise to the level defined. (3-6-1 NOTE)

SITUATION 9: In a championship meet, the referee raises her hand after

the second relay exchange in Lane 4 and declares that the feet of Swimmer A-3 left the surface of the block prior to the touch of Swimmer A-2. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Championship meets require the use of dual confirmation relay takeoff judging for which the protocol requires that no signal occur until after the last competitor in the heat is in the water. Only if the side judge and the takeoff judge have recorded the same takeoff violation shall a disqualification occur. (4-6-4)

SITUATION 10: When using electronic relay judging equipment, a relay exchange disqualification is called when the violation is confirmed by one official and the electronic equipment. **RULING:** Correct Procedure. (4-6-4, Appendix B)

SITUATION 11: In the 200-yard individual medley event, the swimmer, while finishing the backstroke leg, crosses his lead arm across his chest and, in doing so, before the lead hand touches the wall, the shoulders rotate past the vertical plane. An official disqualifies the swimmer for the position

of the body during the finish of the leg. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The position of the body for the backstroke requires that the shoulders do not turn over beyond the vertical plane except while executing a turn. The 200-yard individual medley requires that the swimmer finish each section in accordance with the finish rule that applies to that stroke. (8-2-1b, 8-2-5, 8-2-5 PENALTY)

SITUATION 12: Diver A, performing a dive requiring a forward approach from the starting position, takes two steps followed by a leap and a forward hurdle to the end of the board executed from one foot into the takeoff, which occurs from both feet simultaneously. The diving referee deducts two points from each judge's score for a violation of the forward approach. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The diver must take three steps, hops, leaps and/or jumps before the culminating hurdle. (9-5-2)