

# MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



Welcome to another season of officiating. We hope these Training Bulletins provide you with information and guidance into your activities as an MHSAA Swimming and Diving Official.

First a few house keeping items. Weekly Bulletins began last year in November approximately at the beginning of the Boys Swimming season last year. Last year's bulletins are still on the website and we encourage you to review them as they contain a great deal of information that can be helpful to you. This year's bulletins have a slight numbering change. Each bulletin is numbered with the school year and then the sequence number. This should help you if you are trying to locate an earlier bulletin.

For those of you that have already read/downloaded this year's MHSAA Officials Program 2019-20 Officials Guidebook there is a small change on page 12 under the (uniforms) Swimming and Diving Accessories – has been changed to allow SILVER whistles in addition to the black whistle indicated (this would include the traditional silver whistle with the pea inside). The modification occurred on 8/25/19 after a brief field test.

As you officiate your first meets this season keep in mind that Coaches have until 9/12/19 to complete their rules meeting/test. It is quite possible you will be working with one or more coaches from a team that have not completed the process and may not be aware of the new rule changes and modifications. After that date all coaches both head and assistant should have completed the Rules Meeting.

You may be working with a new Head Coach or an experienced one. The same is true of their assistant coaches. Be sure you know who the Head Coach is and who the assistant coaches are. There is

only 1 Head Coach per team. The sport is Swimming and Diving, not two separate entities. Should a question arise the MHSAA office can provide the name of the Head Coach for a team.

If you have an Arbiter Contract or a school let contract be sure you have a phone number at the meet site. On time for a meet is a minimum of thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start. Emergencies beyond your control can and do happen. In the Girl's season road paving is in full swing. Motor Vehicle Accidents occur. These may take considerable time to clear. Have in mind alternate routes to the meet site. If you are going to be delayed beyond the planned arrival time have the contact number and use it to explain the delay. You can relieve a lot of anxiety for both the coaches and for yourself.

Remember as we addressed in one of last years bulletins you can't officiate what you can't see! One place this may occur is when you are officiating a dual meet alone and the coaches wish to run Diving concurrently with the swimming events. The rules (5-1-2a) provide that Diving may be conducted first, last or simultaneously with the swimming events (as well as it's normal in the order of events). If only one official is contracted for the meet, he or she must attend the diving event. This eliminates the option of running swimming and diving events at the same time. If there are two officials contracted for the meet it may be possible to detach one of the officials to officiate the Diving event while the other continues the swimming events. Officials must be present at each event, both scoring and exhibition in order to conduct the event.

**Rules Review:** After being given permission for an in-water start for a freestyle event, the swimmer dives headfirst to enter the pool and returns back to the end wall for the start.

**Ruling:** At the discretion of the starter/referee, Rule 8-1-3b calls for the false start and disqualification of the swimmer.