

Diving—Part I—Coaches

A few thoughts for to ponder about the diving event and diving coaches. Most officials come to the sport with a very limited background. Few are the former divers who become officials, far more are former swimmers. Each time you watch a heat of swimming you are comparing multiple swimmers against the rules for that stroke and/or event and judging their order of finish. When you officiate diving you watch one competitor perform a series of actions to complete a specific dive. There maybe six to eleven dives per diver during a meet. Depending on the experience of the diver and their dive selection you may see certain basic dives repeated several times in a meet. Or with a very experienced diver you may see a dive that you haven't seen in months or ever before. Regardless of which your opportunity to see and judge each type of dive is far less than your opportunities to judge swimming strokes in each meet.

Diving Coaches are technician that specialize in a specific activity. They are usually an assistant coach as opposed to the Head Coach of a team although they may be the teams Head Coach in rare instances. Diving Coaches experience may vary. In some instances, the diving coach maybe last years graduated senior who was a diver. In other instances, the coach may have decades of experience and be nationally recognized for his or her expertise.

Often diving coaches will coach divers from multiple high schools which may or may not be from the same school districts. This arrangement usually occurs when there is a lack of experienced diving coaches in a given area or, with schools of choice where a coach has an outstanding reputation for their expertise and student have move

to the school to be under their guidance. Diving Coaches who are coaching divers from multiple teams tend to become proponents of the individual diver as opposed to a specific team. When the coach is working with divers from two different competing teams, he/she must be careful to be totally objective.

The latter arrangement often posses' challenges on meet day. The coach may have two meets in different locations at the same time on the same day in which case the Head Coach takes over the role of diving coach. The Head Coach usually does not have the same level of experience in diving as the person he/she is replacing. When this happens, you should be particularly vigilant to ensure that the diver's entry sheets are correct and properly signed. You should also pay particular attention to changes that occur after your review of the diving sheets either before or after the commencement of the diving event.

Legal Swimsuit Follow-Up

Suits designed to be cut and intentionally worn outside of the red dotted lines would be illegal.



Rules Review: Following completion of the 200-yard individual medley, a coach approaches the referee to complain that the winning opposing swimmer was wearing two suits. The swimmer has made her way into the locker room and the next heat is about to begin.

Ruling: Officials may only rule on violations that they observe. Since this swimmer was not observed in violation, and it could not be determined immediately following the conclusion of the heat, the referee should let the meet continue with no violation called/reported.

