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## WELCOME TO THE 2021-22 SEASON

Welcome to another season of Girls Swimming. Weekly Bulletins were suspended in the 20-21 season because it was felt that the rapidly changing events revolving around Covid 19 required officials to be focused on that information as a priority. With the start of the 21-22 school year Weekly Bulletins for Swimming will recommence. As we move into the new school year, we will try to play a little catch-up, look at new rules from both school years and try to update the previous bulletins issued over the last several years. You should remember that past bulletins can serve as a resource and offer guidance for both new and seasoned officials.

This year's uniform shirt offered by Correct Call Officiating Outfitters (for Swimming Officials) or a plain white collared shirt with the horizontal MHSAA logo over the left breast are acceptable. This shirt may or may not have a pocket. The Officials Guidebook for this year does not specify a lanyard color or whistle type. The formerly used circular emblems are no longer appropriate.

Officials are reminded to have phone contact numbers for the school they are contracted to and the Assigner they are working with. Should an emergency develop that prevents an official from reaching a contest in a timely manner, there should be a way to contact the contest site regarding the nature of the emergency. If there is going to be a delay in the official's arrival the official should indicate to the contest host the length of the delay.

The use of automated e-mails with reminder of scheduled dates and times of a contest is common. Reminders should be scrutinized when they are received. We are already aware of a meet scheduled

this season that had officials reporting at noon and the event was scheduled to start at 8:00 am. If an e-mail doesn't match the information you have, investigate immediately! Don't let it wait until the day of the contest as school personnel may not be available to confirm the information you need.

Expect to spend extra time in pre-meet duties as many of the volunteers who work the deck may be new to high school meet protocol. Some will have experience with age group swimming that, perhaps, uses U.S.S. Swimming Rules, or with leagues that have adopted modified NFHS rules. You need to be prepared to address what is correct and the current state of the rules. You may also need to address the roles played by the various deck volunteers *i.e.*, *Head Lane Timer vs. Timer, etc.*

During the 20-21 school year a notice was sent from the office to officials that addressed the pre-meet conference conducted by the Referee, with the Starter, Coaches and Captains. The pre-meeting, appearing in Rule 4-2-1d was not to be conducted due to Covid transmission concern. This direction no longer remains in effect.

## RULES REVIEW

In a five-lane pool, the host school chooses to close Lane 3. The next meet, the same school closes Lane 4. Is this permitted. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your answer.