



March 18, 2026

NFHS Swimming and Diving Weekly Rule Interpretations

SITUATION 1: For diver A, the announcer incorrectly announces the 3rd round dive in the second round. The diver performs the announced dive. The diving referee records the scores and advises the announcer and desk, as well as the diver and his coach, that the diver will perform his 2nd round dive during Round 3. **RULING:** Acceptable procedure. See 9-6-4b.

Coaches: Coaches (and officials) should instruct divers to listen closely to what is announced. If the announcement is inaccurate, the diver and/or coach should immediately request the diving referee or announcer to correct the error.

Officials: Officials have several options in the case of an announcer error of this sort. Rule 9-6-4 provides those options; officials should endeavor to correct the situation in the least disruptive manner possible, without penalizing the diver. The diver should have the choice of keeping the score for the announced or performing the correct second dive.

SITUATION 2: Just prior to the 500-yard freestyle, a competitor cannot be located and fails to report for the event as was listed on the entry card. The race commences; the swimmer suddenly appears, dives into the assigned lane, and starts competing. At the completion of the race, the referee disqualifies the swimmer as well as all of his teammates who were competing in this race. The swimmer is also disqualified from the remainder of the meet. (See 3-6-4-PEN 1) **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Although the swimmer was listed as a participant in that event, the swimmer failed to report for the start of the race and therefore is a non-participant at the time of entering the water, and the swimmer is disqualified from further competition. (3-2-2, 3-2-2 PENALTIES, 3-6-4 PENALTIES)

Coaches: Coaches must provide instruction to their athletes on the necessity of reporting for the event at the designated time and place, as well as the importance of their taking personal responsibility for being where they should be. Coaches should also be aware of all situations where an entered swimmer is not present for the start of a race and immediately communicate with meet officials to avoid unnecessary delays or confusion. In such a situation, it may be possible/appropriate to utilize a declared false start. (Rule 3-2-3, 2nd paragraph)

Officials: In ALL meets, officials should have a pre-determined protocol in place, in collaboration with the meet announcer, for dealing with swimmers who are not at the starting area when a race is imminent. It is certainly appropriate to call for a missing swimmer, either by name or by lane assignment. Officials

should also be attentive to surroundings to prevent inappropriate entry into the pool during a race.

SITUATION 3: The diver performs Dive #103B subsequent to the announcer's declaration that the diver will be performing #103C. The referee declares the dive failed. **RULING:** Incorrect. A dive performed in an incorrect POSITION shall be considered unsatisfactory and awarded a maximum of 2 points.

Coaches: Before signing the athlete's dive list, coaches should carefully verify that the dives listed are not only within the competence of the diver but correctly reflect the manner in which the diver will perform each dive.

Officials: Officials must differentiate carefully between incidents where a diver performs a dive of a different NUMBER than listed/announced, and a dive performed in a different POSITION. The letter which follows the dive number indicates position (see 9-5-6). The official description for the dive consists of the dive number and position letter (see 9-3-5).

NFHS Swimming and Diving Resource of the Week:

Judging Springboard Diving: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses?role=official>

Swimming and Diving Points of Emphasis: <https://nfhs.org/sports/swimming-diving/resources>