



In our last bulletin we talked about “League Rules”. You will recall that “League Rules” can not “modify, alter, negate or in fashion conflict with the adopted National Federation of High School rules”.

**Example 1:** “Swimmers who are charged with a false start shall be permitted to swim the event for time only”. This modification would violate 8-1-3 penalties.

**Example 2:** “Alternates shall not be listed on relay entry cards. All members of the team who will not exceed their permitted total numbers of events for the competition may swim as an alternate.” This “League Rule” is partially consistent with NFHS rules. If we look at 3-2-3 we see that in multi-team meets 8 names maybe submitted for a relay entry. One of the alternate swimmers may swim if the criteria outlined is met. This is further emphasized in 3-2-3 Situation B. In a dual meet alternates are not required to be listed on relay cards (All though entries maybe given to the “Meet Office” hours ahead of the meet for record keeping purposes the team coach can change swimmers up to the start of the event unless noted otherwise prior to the start of the meet 3-2-4). There is one issue in not entering alternates in at dual meets. Rule 3-2-6 addresses an entered swimmer who cannot compete due to bleeding and or wounds. The alternate swimmer, if a replacement is needed, must be “replaced by another legal entry on the relay card”. If there is no alternate listed, there is no replacement, and the relay would not be allowed to compete. The “League Rule”, as written, does not clarify if it is addressing dual meets or multi team

meets. It is redundant for the portions that are correct and incorrect in others.

**Example 3:** “In all events the swimmers head will break the plane of the surface by the 15-meter mark.” Rule 8-2-2 addresses the Breaststroke and there is no requirement to “break the plain of the surface by the 15-meter mark” in the rule. Therefore the “League Rule” as written would seek to impose a different standard than the NFHS rule and would be unacceptable.

During conference Prelims/Finals a brief informal survey was taken of team Captain’s regarding pre-meet coaches and captains. The Captains and Co-Captains were asked “In how many dual meets this season did you, your coach and the official have a meeting prior to a dual meet?” Although the sampling was of only six team the results were interesting. One team indicated that they always had a meeting (they use the same official for all home meets). The other 5 teams indicated they had never had a meeting either at home or away meets with one exception which was at an away meet.

These results suggest that there is widespread non-compliance by MHSAA Swimming Officials of Rule 4-2-1d which was adopted during the 2018-19 season. This is not an optional rule and officials who are not conducting these required meetings should commence immediately. Topics such “as sportsmanship, illegal attire, medical issues involving tape, students with disabilities and other general concerns” are suggested but should not be considered as limiting.

This week’s question: Does a referee have to resolve a dispute over one race/heat before starting the next?