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MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



This week's bulletin has a series of thought provokers and a few suggestions.

First a couple of items to include in your pre-meet conference with coaches and captains. You might suggest that teams only send counters who are familiar with the cards to end of the lanes during the 500 freestyle. A recent meet produced a count card display of 31 mid way through the 500 Freestyle. Maybe some training is necessary here? Note rule 3-4 and Situation 3-4-A.

Another topic---Swimmers should not pass between the officials and the pool during the period of time that an event is in progress.

Ever had your view blocked by a passing swimmer as you are trying to judge a series of turns or finishes? Some pools have unusual configurations at the turn end of the pool. While it is best to judge 15-meter mark compliance for the lanes closest to the official and have one official on each side judging their respective lanes, pool configurations can preclude the best arrangement. Expanded shallow water exit point, a ramp, crowded deck seating of teams are all point to be considered in making a decisions as to who and how the mark will be monitored. Be sure the Referee clarifies to all officials how the observation will be accomplished and who shall be responsible for the call.

As a starter the Breaststroke has the most complex duties in that he/she must not only get the swimmers into the water on the start but also closely monitor their under-water activities until they completed their first stroke. Frequently, we see starters trying to hang up the starting microphone while the breaststroker is moving

underwater. If you find yourself guilty of this ask yourself how many illegal kicks (often flutter kicks) prior to a dolphin kick or breaststroke kick may have occurred. What about multiple dolphin kicks? You might also be surprised at how many breaststrokers have a sculling motion with their hands at the end of the first pull on either starts or turns Rule 8-2-D. This topic previously appeared in Weekly Bulletin Vol.2, #6 but is continuing to be an issue.

We have addressed subvarsity participation in earlier bulletins. You might wish to look on page 94 of your rulebook regarding this topic. As we move toward the back half of the Boys LP Swimming and Diving season you might wish to reread Bulletin Vol.1, #13 which addresses competitions using multiple officials and culmination meets which will be coming up shortly.

Last Rules Review: Does a referee have to resolve a dispute over one race/heat before starting the next.

Ruling: The answer is no. Rule 4-2-1-G indicates it must be done in a timely manner but not necessarily before the next race/heat.

This Week's Rules Review: A swimmer performing the butterfly completes a full stroke as he is approaching the wall for the finish. He commences another pull but stops and then pushes his hand forward from where they are, toward the wall, when he realizes he is to close for another stroke. Legal?