MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN

Diving—Part II—Judging

How can you develop your skills? First read the rulebook and understand what the rule means. If you don't understand a specific rule, ask the MHSAA office for help before the meet. If you often work with a well skilled diving coach, ask them to give you their vision of the rule or term. If you know other season officials, ask them for their view. During a dual meet, if there are sufficient qualified judges on the deck to make up a 3-judge panel without you performing the role of a judge let the others judge and you sit with the panel and perform the referee's duties. If there is a more experienced official working with you can sit with the panel and observe, referee or serve as a diving judge. These options lessen the demands while you are learning. Be sure all the judging panel knows your role ahead of time. If you are observing, ask for a copy of the announcer's script or a copy of the dive sheets. Use these forms to record the scores you would have awarded. After the event, time permitting, talk with members of the panel about things you saw differently or did not understand. It is everyone's best interest for your skills to develop.

Obviously, the more diving you watch, the more experience you gain and the more effort you put into be a diving judge the better you will become. Be sure you have read and keep with you the most recent copy NFHS Diving Officials' Guidelines Manual. It offers a good deal of information and is a must read. Remember that your role is to be sure to conduct the diving event consistent with the published rules in NFHS 2019-20 Swimming and Diving Rules Book. Ultimately you are trying to give all competitors a fair and level playing field on which to compete.

Timing…Timing…Timing…

Rule changes have added or clarified enhanced duties for timers, head lane timers and chief timers in rules 8-1-7, 8-2-1g, 8-2-2h, 8-2-3g, 8-2-4e and 8-3-5. At high school meets most Chief Timers are parents who are not normally familiar with all of the rules or the changes that have occurred regarding timing. They are usually familiar with how to assign lanes, watches and the operation of the deck end of the timing system of their facility. As such you should anticipate attending the timers meeting prior to the start of the meet. You will most likely be explaining rule changes and giving information on timing techniques including backup buttons and watch operation. Once Head Lane Timers have been selected, they must be instructed on how to proceed if competitors finish off the touch pads. They are responsible for maintaining a lap count of the swimmers in their lane during the 500 freestyle. This recording should independent of the count cards turned by the Counters at the at the turn end of the pool. Timers must know what to record on their timing cards and understand the new finish rules to obtain a proper hand and button time.

You may charge all timers with looking at competitors as they approach the start area to ensure there is no visible bleeding. They should also be observing swimmers in the water and exiting the pool for signs of bleeding. Timers should be asked to keep swimmers waiting to compete or having just competed to stay away from the finish end of the pool. The Chief Timer, if positioned near the starter/referee, may be used to notify a Head Lane Timer when an individual or relay team is to be held at the conclusion of the event so the officials may speak with them. This notification should be done discreetly and not communicated to swimmers until the conclusion of the heat.

Rules Review: When the diving events begin, the announcer skips the first dive on the line and instead announces the second dive scheduled. The first diver doesn't recognize the error in announcement and performs the dive listed first on the scoresheet.

Ruling: The dive should be judged and scored as it is performed. The error was made by the announcer and the diver should not be penalized.