



A LOOK BACK

Last week's bulletin indicated we would review previous bulletins for accuracy and content. Bulletins began during the 18-19 school year. During the past week a review of the bulletins issued that year found all directions or recommendations issued in that year remain valid. None of the rule changes or comments issued in the interim years conflicts with their content.

We want to reiterate an item in last weeks bulletin. Once again, information delivered to the official regarding their scheduled starting time has been in error. Read your notices and contracts carefully. If they don't match contact your assigner, the host school or the Athletic Director of the issuing school. In this most recent instance, the official is reported to have arrived as scheduled which was several hours ahead of the starting time of the meet.

A secondary method of validating the starting time might be to go onto the host school's website and find where they announce their home meets to parents and interested parties. Often this is found under the Athletic Department as the calendar is sport specific.

We often hear coaches say there is "prior mutual consent" when they wish to do something that appears "unique". What is "prior mutual consent"? When does "prior mutual consent" have to occur? How is the official notified of the existence of such consent? Do all changes require the execution of "prior mutual consent" agreement?

When you arrive at the meet site determine if you will be giving directions to Timers and Head Lane Timers or if it is to be done by the

Chief Timer. You may find you will be sharing the duty with the Chief Timer. Be sure you know the difference between the roles and what additional responsibilities the Head Lane Timer must perform.

Keep in mind you will be meeting many new volunteers who will be performing duties on the deck to help meet management and you provide a good experience for the participants. Their support is essential to the process. You should be a knowledgeable, reliable and a professional resource for them. Try to answer their questions fairly and objectively. The more they learn, the better resource they are for you and their school.

Most will have swimmers on one of the teams. They will be proud of the son's or daughter's efforts and successes. A few well-chosen words from you as the official can truly enhance their day.

RULES REVIEW

Prior to the start of a dual meet, the coaches notify you that they have mutually agreed to swim a 400-yard individual medley instead of the 200-yard individual medley. Is this permitted. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your answer.