



Last week we covered working with a member of the school's Athletic Department. Let's move onto when scheduling is done through an assigner.

Working with an assigner has benefits that do not always occur when working with an Athletic Department scheduler at a specific school. First, the assigner usually has many schools requesting officials. He/she usually has a cadre of officials they regularly assign. They are more likely to have openings in the various school schedules requiring officials. You may begin by filling an occasional spot. If they have lost one of their regulars it becomes an opportunity for new officials to fill in the void. Secondly, assigners will usually serve as a resource and provide personal growth experiences so that you develop the skills to work in situations requiring multiple officials. Be sure to let the assigner know that you wish to participate in multi-official meets, so he/she can guide your growth. The more varied your experiences the better resource you are for the assigner and the more knowledge and experiences you will have to draw on in your officiating career.

If you are being scheduled directly by an Athletic Director or a Swimming Coach, you can expect interaction between the two as they assess your performance. That said, you must be prepared to make rulings that follow MHSAA adopted rules regardless if the decision favors the home school or visitor. You are there to be fair and enforce the rules by which both schools have agreed to abide. Most Athletic Directors and coaches understand this and know that a call or rule application that affects them negatively is part of the

sport. After all, they hired you to make decisions. There is an old axiom involved here: "You can please all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but not all of the people all of the time".

#### **Something to Consider:**

This week's rules question stays on the 15 Meter Mark. You arrive at the pool to find it without 15 Meter Marks, you notify the host coach that they are not in compliance. The host coach indicates he will place a stack of kickboards at each 15 Meter Mark. You agree to allow the kickboards to mark the spot for this meet. What other obligations do you have with regard to correcting the problem on a long-term basis?

#### **Last Week's Consideration:**

Last week's rules question was about the 15 Meter Mark. If you went to Page 13, Rule 2, Section 4, Article 5 you found the answer. You might also look at (same page) 2.4.5 Situation B. Rules about 15 Meter marks have been in place for several seasons now but we still have reason to believe that not all MHSAA schools are complying and are incorrectly relying on only marks on the lane lines. In last week's question did you notice that the float the coach wanted to use was closer to the end wall than the 15 Meter Mark?

#### You Can't Officiate What You Can't See

You are working as the only official in a dual meet. The coaches (head and diving from both schools) want to run diving beginning when the 200 Freestyle starts and ending sometime after the regular Diving event. The latest rule revision allows this (Rule 5, Section 1, Article 2a). What is your answer?

The answer: Any portion of a meet that will add to the score must be observed by the meet official. If you are alone, you cannot watch both diving and swimming at the same time. The answer to the request is "No." Remember: "YOU CAN'T OFFICIATE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE."