

## Standardizing Diving Judging Highlights 2010 Rules Changes

INDIANAPOLIS — Standardizing the judging of diving highlighted rules changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Swimming and Diving Rules Committee at its annual meeting. The changes, which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors, will take effect with the 2010-11 season.

Language in **Rule 9** was clarified to better distinguish successful versus unsuccessful dives and to minimize the risk of injury to divers. A new note states that both the diver and the coach must review and sign off on the diver's score sheet in order to confirm that the diver is capable of completing the listed dives and the accuracy of the score sheet.

"This year, the committee spent a considerable amount of time on the event of diving," said Becky Oakes, NFHS assistant director. "The changes were about creating consistency in the diving rules and risk minimization for the diver."

There were also several points of clarification on what to consider for successful dives.

**New Rule 9-7-4d** states that the dive will be considered unsatisfactory if the diver does not attempt to come out of a twist. **New Rule 9-7-5h** also clarifies how much of a twisting dive must be performed once the diver leaves the board. The rule states a dive will be considered unsatisfactory if the diver's shoulders are turned more than 90 degrees before his or her feet leave the board.

In swimming, the committee further defined what constitutes a legal swimsuit.

"It was necessary to add additional language to clarify swimsuit design and construction regulations," Oakes said.

A change regarding the placement of a school logo is an adjustment to the major rule change last year. **Rule 3-3-2b(2)** states that the swimsuit worn during competition must be 100 percent permeable to air and water except for the school name or logo, which may be an area no more than nine square inches added to the suit after construction.

Additionally, a change to **Rule 3-3-3** states that a device, such as tape, worn to compress any part of the body to aid in speed is also illegal for use in competition.

"Most of the work of the committee this year was administrative," Oakes said. "It focused on swimsuit questions that still needed to be addressed and focused on the consistency of rules and risk minimization in the event of diving."

Following are other changes:

- **New Rule 3-3-1** states the FINA logo is not considered a form of advertising and swimsuits with the logo will be legal for competition.
- In addition, **Rule 8-3-8b** added that a lead-off time will be nullified not only if a relay team is disqualified for a conduct rule, but also if the team has any entry rule violation.

- In diving, **Rule 9-7-5g** now states a twisting dive is a failed dive based on the position of the diver's shoulders upon the feet/hands contacting the water, if the twist is greater or less than 90 degrees of what is listed on the score sheet.
- A diver not stopping the oscillation of the board just before or after the starting position is taken will have a half-point to two-point deduction under **Rule 9-8-2a**.