Situation #1: It is discovered a school issued suit, or a personal suit, is illegal according to NFHS and PIAA rules. What should an official do?

Answer: When an official witnesses an illegal suit, bring the issue to the meet Referee. The referee and another official are to approach the Head Coach and indicate the swimmer(s) not appropriately attired. They need to change in to an approved suit before the next event or they will be disqualified from said event. Remember, when reciting the PIAA Sportsmanship Message before the meet, coaches are agreeing to the meet officials their student-athletes are following all NFHS rules with PIAA adoptions. If the school believes they need a uniform accommodation, please have them contact the PIAA office.

Situation #2: Diver A’s dive is announced as 201A. Diver does 202A. The dive is scored. Diver B’s dive is announced and Diver B is on board adjusting the fulcrum, but has not assumed a starting position. As the fulcrum is being adjusted, the referee realizes the error of not calling Diver A’s dive as a fail dive. The referee asks for Diver B to wait and requests the announcer to repeat Diver A’s dive (201A). As a result of that verification, the referee announces scores need to be changed, Diver A’s dive is a fail dive.

Answer: On page 85, 6-2-i - it states that the Referee resolves any disagreement on one dive prior to the next dive. Since the next diver did not begin their dive yet and the Referee stopped the next diver and asked for the dive repetition of the previous diver, it is okay to say that they made a mistake and correct the scores to a Fail dive. Once the next diver has gone on and performed their dive, the scores stand and the Referee can explain to their crew that they made an error after Diving is over.

Situation #3: Diver A’s dive is announced (103C). Diver A adjusts fulcrum, steps on board and obviously assumes a ready position. Diver A then looks down and slides her feet backwards a few inches and assumes a ready position again. There is no forward movement, just backward movement of feet. Would this situation be considered a balk?

Answer: If the diver has gotten on the board and taken the steps backward, they have not started the dive and there is no balk. If they had stepped forward and stopped and stepped back and started again, then that would be a balk.
Situation #4: Divers are allowed to wear a suit that ties but swimmers cannot.

Answer: Yes, divers are allowed to wear a suit that ties. Swimmers are not allowed. Rule 3-3-3.

Situation #5: A team has a limited number of student-athletes. Are they allowed to participate in more than two individual events since there are no relays? What about as an exhibition?

Answer: Swimmers are only allowed to participate in two individual events per NFHS rule pages 17 & 18, 3-1-2a. An exhibition counts as an individual event. This also applies to Last Chance Meets.

Situation #6: Host team has an 8 lane pool. Are teams allowed 3 or 4 entries per event?

Answer: What was the agreement by the coaches prior to the meet. If they agreed to 6 lane scoring, they are allowed three entries per event. If they agreed to 8 lane scoring, they are allowed four entries per event. Open lanes or diving positions can be filled by either team as exhibition entries. Rule 7.1.2 NOTE

Situation #7: Who is to enforce the PIAA No Jewelry Rule?

Answer: The No Jewelry Rule is a PIAA Adoption from the NFHS Rule Book. The PIAA has chosen to eliminate jewelry from being worn on deck for Risk Minimization reasons.' During your Captain’s and Coach’s Meeting when the Sportsmanship Message is read, you are asking the coaches to verify that their athletes are equipped according to NFHS Rules and PIAA Adoptions, but if the athlete slips up, you need to handle the situation as indicated in the rule. The rule states that if the race hasn’t started, the competitor is asked to make them self legal by removing their jewelry before competing. If the jewelry is witnessed during the event, then at the end of the race, the athlete is asked to make them self legal before their next event by removing their jewelry.

Situation #8: A school has a girl participating with a boys team. What are we to do?

Answer: The Principal of the school would need to make the decision that the girl would benefit by being on the boys team. While we may not agree with the intent or the reason, the Principal has the final say. This is consistent with the PIAA Mixed Gender Policy.

Situation #9: A Coach asks what the minimum qualifying standards are for their PIAA District meet. What should I tell them?

Answer: Refer them to the respective PIAA District Swimming & Diving chairperson as each PIAA district sets their own standards.
Situation #10: A student-athlete has a doctors note to wear a brace on their knee while competing. Is this legal?

Answer: Legal, as long as they have a current script from an MD or DO. Supports are used when an athlete needs more stability than is provided by tape or wraps. Supports are usually black in color and can be made of neoprene or other materials. Supports can be held in place by Velcro or can fit a particular area like a sleeve. Supports are most often used as additional support for ankles, wrists or knees. Supports **cannot** be used by swimmers or divers unless there is an order from an MD or DO. See Situations 3.3.4 A and 3.3.4 C on page 30, Situations 3.3.4 E, 3.3.4 F and 3.3.4 G on page 30 of the 2017-2018 NFHS Rules Book.

Situation #11: We get to a meet and nothing worked—no sound system, touch pads, computer system, etc. What are we to do?

Answer: A meet can be run without electronics. Watches are used for timing each lane, coaches submit entries on a card and officials call the finish and keep score. Equipment issues should be handled by the home team and if they can't be fixed in a timely manner, the coaches need to contact their Athletic Directors so they can decide if they should attempt to wait or reschedule the meet for a later date. The home school Athletic Department is to decide the course of action.

Situation #12: Can boys and girls event be combined in a dual meet? Example: There is only one girl swimming the 500 and the boys event has an open lane. Can they be combined?

Answer: No. Girls events and boys events must be contested separately, no matter how many entries are in each event. The only exception is a Mixed Gender swimmer or diver who competes with the opposite sex team.

Situation #13: A referee in a dual meet DQd a freestyle relay as they swam in a different order than listed on the entry/heat sheet. Rule 8-3-4 states that the first swimmer, once called to the starting platform by the referee, shall not change order. What constitutes the call? The entry or the whistle commencing the race? In Championship meets, we designate the order of swimmers. Is there a distinction between dual meets and championships/invites?

Answer: Rule 3.2.5 states that the coach shall submit the name of the lead off swimmer not later than the conclusion of the race. There is no penalty for incorrectly listing the name of the lead off swimmer for it is for record keeping purposes. Sit.8.3.4, page 70, occurred after the swimmers were called to the block by the blowing of the whistle. The first swimmer cannot change their position, however, the other swimmers can change their order. Swimming in an order that is not on the card or printout is not a DQ and if the coach forgets to change the name of the lead off swimmer at the table, there is no penalty but the first swimmer’s time cannot be used. In reference to your other question, the blowing of the whistle is the start of the event.

Situation #14: Where are photographers allowed on deck?

Answer: Photographers should be kept on the sides of the pool past the referee and starter. No photographer should be behind the blocks or at the end of the pool.
Situation #15: If a non-team scoring parent asks me a question concerning entries or qualifying for post season competitions, what should I say?

Answer: All non-team swimmer’s questions should be directed to their respective school administration or Athletic Director.

Situation #16: Can we add extra exhibition heats in events or designate them as JV?

Answer: Empty lanes can be filled by either team but no extra heats shall be added except for a non team swimmer, who shall swim alone if there is no room in the regular event. Boys swim in boy’s races and girls swim in girl’s races unless there is a Mixed Gender swimmer.

Situation #17: What is the ruling on the warm down after the 500 Free?

Answer: All swimmers should have the opportunity to do a 2 lap warm down after all swimmers in their race have finished. This is a health reason issue but it is up to each swimmer to choose 1, 2 or 0 laps and it is never eliminated.

Situation #18: What is the required air temp in a pool area?

Answer: The pool temperature is 72-82, page 13 Rule 2.6.2 and the pool industry standard of care states that the air temperature should be two (2) degrees above water temperature. Reference: Stroke Sense, page 8.

All proposed Rule Changes should be filled out on line at: nfhs.org/RuleChangeProposal by February 1st and please share your concerns with Connie Harakal at charakal7074@gmail.com

If you are interested in working the State Meet in the future, it is required that you attend the PIAA State Official’s Convention once every five years, and be an official in good standing. Please consider attending this year’s convention.

August 3 & 4, 2018
Hilton Harrisburg