Important Tips to Remember

**Suits:** Tape the pictures of the appropriate and Inappropriate suit examples to your clipboard so that you have easy access to show the coaches as you read the Sportsmanship Message. (2019-2020 Bulletin 1)

**Photographers:** Please make sure that the only place that a photographer, including parents and teammates, take pictures is between the flags on the sides of the pool. (This should be handled by the Referee) 2016-2017 NFHS Rule Book under Points of Emphasis, page 90.

**500 Counters:** All counters should be covered appropriately with clothing or a towel over their suit as they position themselves at the end of the pool to count for their teammate swimming the 500 Freestyle. (This should be covered at the Coaches & Captains Meeting)

**Cell Phones & iPads:** These items have no place on deck for use by officials during a meet. Because of their ability to take photos, they bring into question your intention by spectators in the stands.

**Water Conditions:** NFHS Rule 2.6.1-2 addresses water clarity and water level and the NOTE states that when water conditions do not meet rule specifications, the referee may declare that the meet will not be conducted. Rule 2.6.3 addresses water temperature and this issue is not under our jurisdiction. It is best handled by the coaches and schools.

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### Situations

1. **What is the ruling on Exhibition divers?**
   
   **Ruling:** Exhibition divers may fill the empty slots left by either team. They may not score points but it does count as an event for them. They must also dive in the same sex event.

2. **When is it necessary to get a letter of accommodation from the PIAA?**
   
   **Ruling:** When the swimmer or diver needs an accommodation for them to compete, the Athletic Director will seek approval from the PIAA. They may include physical, mental or religious reasons. If approval is granted, a letter will follow from Dr. Lombardi explaining the situation and what the parameters of the accommodation are and this letter will be shown to the Referee before the meet.
3. Can nose clips be worn by competitors?
   **Ruling:** Nose clips are permitted to be worn during competition.

4. If a school has to replace a single block during the season and it is different than the over blocks, how is this handled?
   **Ruling:** As long as the new block meets the standards in Rule 2.7.2, no prior consent is necessary and the visiting team has the choice of lanes when they arrive at the meet. 5.3.1.

5. Can we deny the use of a warm down pool if it is available at a facility?
   **Ruling:** No. If a facility has a warm down pool, it may be used by both teams after all events as long as the coaches are in agreement.

6. If a coach repeatedly sends swimmers in illegal attire to the blocks to compete, can we assign the coach as Unsporting?
   **Ruling:** No. Unsporting violations are made for insulting or derogatory remarks, trying to influence or show disgust with an officials' decision, interfering with meet officials performing their duties, deck changing, use of electronic devices transmitting information to a competitor, use of alcohol or tobacco from arrival to departure or on-site shaving. If the repeated disqualifications leads to any of the above mentioned behaviors, an unsporting can be given, otherwise, the athlete is disqualified from the event for inappropriate attire/uniform.

7. Is it necessary to get both coach’s signatures on the back of the scoresheet to verify each team’s entries, even if they are using electronic entries?
   **Ruling:** Yes, according to Rule 3.2.4, the coach’s signature should accompany the competitor’s first and last name, school and event. When using electronic entries, the signature on the back of the score sheet suffices for swimming entries. It also verifies that they are acting in accordance with the Sportsmanship Message. Non team swimmer’s coaches can also sign this sheet for their entries.

8. If an interpretation of a rule is in question, how much time does the official have at the end of the meet before the official scoresheet must be signed?
   **Ruling:** Rule 4.2.3. The Referee has within one hour after the meet to check tabulations, record the time that the meet was completed, and sign the scoresheet. This one hour is the time stipulated in the NFHS Rule Book for completion on the Referee’s duties and shall not be set aside.

9. Are watches part of the official’s uniform because we need a final meet time if the clock on the wall doesn’t work?
   **Ruling:** No, watches can be put in your pocket during the meet and when they are needed at the end of the meet, they can be taken out to read the time. Fitbits are also not allowed and can be put in your pocket and will work from there.

10. If the head coach is on deck at the beginning of the meet, must they attend the coach and captain’s meeting?
    **Ruling:** As far as the head coach attending the meeting, it would be the preference, but we all know that many last minute issues, too numerous to name, come up. So, an assistant coach can be sent with no penalty. Rule 4.2.1.d.
11. What is the ruling about electronics (iPad, Cell Phone, etc.) on deck?

**Ruling:** No electronics on deck. The perception from those watching is what are the electronics being used for? We, as officials, do not want to put ourselves, or PIAA, in a potential legal situation.

12. Are watches/fit bits allowed to be worn during competition?

**Ruling:** Rule 3-5 covers electronic devices being worn during competition.

13. A local team has a transgender athlete who is biologically female but the school has determined the student-athlete will be on the boys team. What is the suit requirement?

**Ruling:** The coach will have a letter from Dr. Lombardi stating he is allowed a suit accommodation to cover him above the waist. It also states it must be a one piece suit.

14. Are Officials allowed to wear jewelry?

**Ruling:** The jewelry rule changed for athletes only. Officials may not wear jewelry, including watches and fit bits, as per the PIAA Official’s Manual. [Click here for the Official’s Manual](#).

15. A school has a damaged starting block and does not have the resources to purchase new blocks for this season. One of the blocks will be different from the others. Is this permissible?

**Ruling:** As long as the new block(s) meet all standards as outlined in the NFHS Rule Book, the block(s) are legal.