NFHS/PIAA STATEMENT REGARDING SUIT COVERAGE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SWIMMING & DIVING

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members by providing leadership for the administration of education-based high school athletics and activities through the writing of playing rules that emphasize health and safety, educational programs that develop leaders, and administrative support to increase participation opportunities and promote sportsmanship.

Education-based activities is the platform that provides the opportunity to discuss not only appropriate behavior, but attire as well. Athletes serve as role models and representatives of their sport, school, and state association. Education-based activities teach young students the importance of presenting themselves in publicly appropriate attire.

There is a growing trend in high school swimming and diving of athletes wearing training and competitive suits in a manner that contradicts with the intention of their original design and manufacture. Specifically, suits are being worn in such a way as to expose the athlete’s buttocks. This issue is not gender specific and is occurring in various states across the country.

The 2019-20 NFHS Swimming and Diving Committee has addressed this concern by creating tools and resources for member school administrators, coaches, officials, athletes and parents. Coaches and school administrators should take a proactive role and address suit coverage with parents and athletes during their pre-season meetings to specify that suits should be worn as the manufacturer intended. Coaches should select team suits that provide appropriate coverage as it pertains to NFHS rules. In addition, coaches should permit different styles to be worn that will appropriately fit various body sizes. During practice and competition suits shall be worn in the appropriate size as dictated by that manufacturer’s specifications for the athlete’s body type and shall remain unaltered. Simply put, boys shall wear suits which cover the buttocks, and girls shall wear suits which cover the buttocks and breasts.