

Notes from Meet Referee for 2017 State Champs

- Welcome and we are looking forward to what amounts to Great Championship this week!
- Because the Coaches meeting is always such a rushed event, we thought we would send some notes and reminders rather than go over everything verbally.
- If your relay team is in the very first heat of the very first event, please make sure you get them ready before you go to coaches meeting. . . less stress for everyone.
- Only swimmers who are registered in the meet are allowed on deck, everyone else needs to be in stands. If you have a “helicopter” situation that is awkward for you to handle, let us know. We will alert our friend Tiny to have a conversation with them.
- We may use dive over starts
- Swimmers are expected to step up on the blocks on the second whistle. The Deck Referee will notice an empty lane. . . look. . . look again, and then close the heat. The starter has nothing to do with the closing of the heat. If a swimmer misses an event, the swimmer unfortunately is out for the rest of the meet. If you have a sickness, change of mind, etc., then get with Meet Referee or Deck referee and declare a false start. This will keep your swimmer eligible for their other events, but the DFS will count as an event to the individual’s total.
- Uniforms: Please review in detail the NFHS rules concerning uniforms and swim caps. The rules are very specific. The officials have to enforce ALL OF THEM. Please make sure all caps and uniforms adhere to ALL THE RULES IN THE BOOK. I would suggest a line up and review of each swimmer. There are no warnings for uniform violations.
- Sportsmanship: Again, no warnings. Profanity, demonstrative behavior, taunting, etc. Throwing goggles and caps. Smashing the water in disgust. All of these could be Sportsmanship violations . . . again, read the rule book.
There are two levels of sportsmanship: Please read the rule book for a description of each.
Unsporting Conduct results in Disqualification from further participation in the meet.
Unacceptable Conduct results in Disqualification from that event.
- Backstroke: Year round swimmers are used to leaping into the water. NFHS requires swimmers to step into the water. NO LEAPING. We realize that some areas of the state, heavily influenced by USA Swimming, have not enforced this rule, however, we must enforce the “leaping backstroke”. Please, please remind all swimmers of this nuance in NFHS rules. USA swimmers are not used to this and but we must call it. No warnings.
- Physical issues . . . tape, braces, casts. . . Again read the book. If tape, etc. is required, we need to have documentation from a medical professional or Athletic Trainer (ATC). We need the documentation printed out and give to Meet Referee before the meet begins. Email is not good enough. Print it out and bring it.
- If any swimmers have any special needs, please let us know during warm ups so we can prepare and communicate.
- Relay takeoffs: If we have electronic relay pads. We will follow the protocol established by NFHS. If you don’t know what that protocol is. . . you guessed it, it’s in the book (appendix B page 94).

- False starts: The starter will notify the Deck Referee if a swimmer started early. The Deck Referee will have independently noted an early start. When the Starter tells the Deck Ref that there is a potential early start in Lane 2, the Deck Referee will confirm (thus a DQ) or not confirm (no DQ) That's how that process works.
- 500 free: only one lap counter per lane. Unfortunately, we need to restrict teammates who are cheering, not counting, from the area.
- Please let your swimmers know that we need quiet for the start. Especially critical for those teams by the starter. After the start, the Meet Referees expect and welcome absolute screaming, whistling, barking, whatever. Most officials wear earplugs for this reason. It should be LOUD during the swims.
- Please be sure swimmers compete in no more than the maximum allowed number of events. We will be keeping a check on this.
- Please have a great time. Our job as officials is to insure a fair and equitable competition. We have to enforce the rules. But our ultimate goal is to be irrelevant and perhaps, invisible.