



## 2017-18 SWIMMING RULES CHANGES and POINTS OF EMPHASIS

### RULES CHANGES

1-3-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ART. 12 . . .</b> A championship meet is a culminating meet, as determined by state association policy.</li> <li>▪ <b>NOTE:</b> <del>An invitational/multi-team meet is not considered a championship meet, but may be conducted using championship meet format.</del> Non-championship meets may be conducted using the championship meet format.</li> </ul>
2-7-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ART. 6 . . .</b> A visual lap-counting system for the 500-yard/400-meter freestyle event shall be required for each visiting swimmer's lane. The system shall consist of a sufficient number of white cards with 12-inch (.3048 m) tall, black, odd, ascending <b>or descending</b> numerals and one solid fluorescent orange card, with or without a numeral.</li> </ul>
3-3-2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ART. 2 . . .</b> The uniform consists of a suit and, if worn, cap(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The suit or cap(s) may display <del>the name and/or number of the competitor</del> the competitor's name, school name, school nickname, and/or the school mascot logo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3-4	<p><b>SECTION 4</b></p> <p>... The lap counters shall be positioned on the deck at the end of the pool opposite the starting end within the lateral limits of the lane of the competitor for whom each is counting. The lap counter changes the visual counter to the next higher <b>or lower</b> odd number, or fluorescent orange card, as the competitor makes each turn at the starting end. (The solid fluorescent orange card is shown to indicate the final length of the race.) The visual count may be supplemented by a verbal count.</p>
3-6	<p><b>ART. 1 . . .</b> No team personnel/competitor shall display unsporting conduct. This includes any act the referee deems unsporting, including, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. making insulting or derogatory remarks, gestures or acts including taunting;</li> <li>b. trying to influence or showing disgust with officials' decisions;</li> <li>c. interfering with meet officials in the performance of their duties;</li> <li>d. deck changing before, during or after a meet;</li> <li>e. <u>use of electronic devices to transmit information to the competitor(s) during the race or dive;</u></li> <li>f. <u>use any form of tobacco product from the time the team personnel/competitor arrive at the site of the competition until they leave following completion of the meet;</u></li> <li>g. <u>performing any on-site shaving before, during or after the meet.</u></li> </ul>

**NOTE:** The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances.

**PENALTY:** Team personnel/**competitor** shall be disqualified from further participation in the meet, including all events in which the competitor previously qualified, for unsporting conduct. For excessive unsporting conduct, team personnel (as defined in 1-4-2) may be ejected from the competition area.

**ART. 2 . . .** No team personnel/competitor shall display unacceptable conduct. This includes any act the referee deems unacceptable, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. willful failure to follow the directions of a meet official;
- b. using profanity whether or not directed at someone or any action which could bring discredit to the individual or his/her school;
- c. not swimming in his/her assigned lane throughout the race and interfering with a swimmer in another lane;
- d. contacting, or walking on, the bottom of the pool for the purpose of gaining an advantage;
- e. not leaving the pool promptly when requested to do so by the referee.

**PENALTY:** Team personnel/competitor shall be disqualified from that event or the next event, whichever is appropriate.

**ART. 3 . .** When a spectator becomes, unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the meet, the referee shall suspend the meet until meet management resolves the situation and the meet can proceed in an orderly manner.

**ART. 4 . . .** No team personnel/competitor shall enter the water without the referee's approval.

**PENALTIES:**

- 1. All participants from a team shall be disqualified from that race/heat when a nonparticipating team member enters the water during the race (and that person is disqualified from further competition).**
- 2. A competitor shall be disqualified from the event for:**
  - a. entering the water before the race without the referee's permission;**
  - b. re-entering the water during the race without the referee's approval.**
  - c. In the case of diving, entering the water without the diving referee's permission**
- 3. When all competitors in that event have completed a race and a competitor in that event enters/re-enters the water without the referee's approval, that competitor shall be disqualified from his/her next scheduled event.**


4-1-8	<b>ART. 8 . . .</b> <u>No participant, coach, administrator or game official shall use alcohol or any form of tobacco product (e-cigarette or similar items) beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the contest.</u>
4-6-1	<b>ART. 1 . . .</b> Takeoff judges shall assume a position at the starting end or at the side of the pool at the starting end to observe first the feet on the takeoff of the departing swimmer, then the touch of the incoming swimmer’s hand. <u>Takeoff judges shall also observe the second, third and fourth swimmers to insure at least one foot is in contact with the surface of the starting platform in front of the wedge, during takeoff.</u>
4-6-4	ART. 4 . . . For championship meets <del>or when</del> dual confirmation is <del>used</del> <u>required</u> :
8-3-5a,b,c	<p><b>ART. 5 . . .</b> On the takeoff, the second, third and fourth swimmers on a relay team may be in motion before the previous swimmer finishes. The swimmer shall remain in contact with the starting platform/pool deck until the previous swimmer has finished. However, moving from the back of the starting platform to the front is permitted provided the swimmer is on the starting platform and does not initiate the action from the pool deck.</p> <p><b>NOTES:</b></p> <p>a. On starts from the deck, the second, third and fourth swimmers must use the forward start with at least one foot at the edge of the deck. The body may be in motion but no intentional movement of the feet is permitted.</p> <p>b. For in-water starts, the second, third and fourth swimmers need only maintain contact with the end wall with a foot until the previous swimmer has finished.</p> <p>c. <u>When starting block wedges are installed, the second, third and fourth swimmers must have at least one foot in contact with the surface of the starting platform in front of the wedge, during takeoff.</u></p>

**MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES**

<b>3-3-2 Note</b>	<b>NOTE:</b> The FINA mark and/or individual barcode on certain swimsuits designating that the suit has been approved for FINA and/or USA Swimming competition is not considered to be a second manufacturer’s logo nor a form of advertising. Such swimsuits with a FINA marking shall be legal for NFHS competition, <u>if otherwise legal.</u>
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**POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

<b>Suit Coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per rule 3-1 student athletes should be wearing uniforms of decent appearance, including suit coverage. If individuals or teams are in violation of this rule, officials are encouraged to contact the head coach of the offending team, rather than the student, requesting that the student athletes be appropriately equipped with uniforms that meet specified standards.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Accommodations for Disabled Athletes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accommodations for student with special needs may be addressed through the rules and policies set forth by a variety of organizations (Special Olympics, Disabled Sports USA, US Paralympics, USA Swimming, etc.). In addition, by state association permission, additional accommodations can be made provided those do not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk, or place opponents at a disadvantage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inclusion of Students with Disabilities</b>  <b>Guidelines for Schools and State Associations for Consideration of Accommodations</b></p>  <pre> graph TD     A[Request from Student to School for Accommodation(s)] --&gt; B[School Conducts Individual Student Assessment]     B --&gt; C[Request from School for Accommodation(s) to State Association]     C --&gt; D[Notice and Opportunity to be Heard]     D --&gt; E[State Association Review of Request]     E --&gt; F[State Association Provides Written Determination for Accommodation(s) to School]     F --&gt; G[If appropriate, School Provides Letter of Authorization to Head Official for Local Contest Allowing Competition with Accommodation(s)]     </pre>
<p><b>Warm Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet Directors and Coaches are encouraged to review the “Suggested Meet Warm Up Procedures” located at the front of the <u>NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Book</u>. Supervision, safety suggestions for pace/sprint lane practices, lane selection and other pertinent issues are highlighted to aid in the organization and precautionary measures suggested, prior to hosting a meet.</li> </ul>

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<b>Valid Times with a Single Watch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The referee is responsible for making decisions on matters not specifically covered by the rules. In the case of a timing malfunction, he/she is expected to utilize “other information” or data such as his/her place pick of the order of finish, times on other lanes, etc., to make sure the single data point (watch/button) is reasonably accurate. Referees have the authority to reject times that are clearly inaccurate and to determine placing without assigning a specific time to a swimmer.</li></ul>
<b>Responsibility of Swimmer in Distance Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ When counter malfunctions occur - i.e.: the lap counter is inadvertently dropped into the water. It is the responsibility of the swimmer to know their lap count and continue the race. Accidental error by the counter should not result in disqualification of the swimmer.</li></ul>
<b>Position Statement on Officials’ Role</b>	<p>The Rules for swimming and diving exist to ensure fair competition in a positive, safe and healthy environment.</p> <p>Athlete performances in swimming and diving inevitably involve both physical and emotional components. When enthusiastic responses accompany/follow an athlete's performance in competition, officials should be careful to avoid intervention unless absolutely necessary. If a celebratory response violates Rules 3-6-1 and 2 and is considered unsporting or unacceptable, it should be sanctioned accordingly.</p>