
2010-11 NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Interpretations

SITUATION 1: A swimmer from school A has a medical condition that requires him/her to wear a full body suit of some kind while in the water. The coach tells the meet referee this is a customization that is needed for a medical reason. The referee does not approve the swimmer to compete due to the absence of a letter of authorization from the state association. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Rule 3-3-2 provides that a swimmer with special needs may request customization through his/her school to the state association. If the customization is approved, it should not set aside the restrictions on material. (3-3-2)

SITUATION 2: The referee observes the swimmers from Team A, the Eagles, during warm-ups wearing suits with an eagle on the front of the females' suits larger than 9 square inches. Likewise, the males' jammers have an eagle on the side of the suit larger than 9 square inches. The referee confirms with the coach of Team A that these mascots are dyed in the material and are not placed over the textile material of the suit impacting permeability. The referee allows the suits in competition as Rule 3-3-2b(2) does not apply to this suit. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The restriction on the size and number of post-construction school logos is necessary to prevent covering the suit to make it impermeable. The restrictions are not necessary when the sublimation process is used.

SITUATION 3: A male swimmer is wearing a swimsuit such as a “board short.” When he steps on the block, it extends below the top of the kneecap. However, when he assumes his starting position, it no longer extends below the top of the kneecap. Is this legal? **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** The suit would be viewed as the swimmer is upright with the suit in its natural state, legs not rolled up. The rule on swimwear design is very specific and has been adopted for a purpose. The suit, worn in its natural position on the swimmer, is illegal. (3-3-2b(5))

SITUATION 4: Two contestants from Team A are shaving on-site in the locker room. This is observed by a meet official and reported to the meet referee. The referee disqualifies both contestants from any further competition in the meet under the penalty for Rule 3-5-7. **RULING:** Correct procedure.

COMMENT: Coaches should be certain to educate their athletes and enforce Rule 3-5-7 regarding the restriction of on-site shaving to avoid an unnecessary penalty. (3-5-7)

SITUATION 5: An invitational meet is using fully automatic timing (FAT). At the completion of the first heat of the 200-yard IM, the referee does not agree with the results of the FAT and overrides the order of finish results with no indication of a timing malfunction. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Even when FAT is used, the appropriate meet officials should observe the order of finish as a back-up. If there is no timing malfunction, the FAT times stand and the referee shall not override the results. (6-5-1, 6-4-1)

SITUATION 6: The coach of Team A fails to sign the diving scoresheet; however, it is signed by the diver. The referee, in error, accepts the scoresheet for review. After the event has begun, it is discovered the scoresheet for the diver from Team A is not signed by both the coach and diver. The diving referee, without interrupting competition, has the coach report to the scoring table and sign the scoresheet.

RULING: Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The diver is not disqualified, but the scoresheet shall be signed by both coach and diver. The diving referee erred by first accepting the improperly signed scoresheet for review. The review of the sheet should have discovered the problem prior to competition. In this case, the diver is not penalized for an error of the official because the signatures do not directly impact being able to judge the dive or the correct dive being announced for the diver. (9-3-3 NOTE, Penalty)

SITUATION 7: Diver A performs dive 5112 and, in the opinion of the diving referee, the diver does not release his/her arms and is not attempting to come out of the twist. The diving referee declares the dive unsatisfactory. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A twisting dive is unsatisfactory if the diver does not attempt to come out of the twist. (9-7-4d)