

## Proposed Rule Changes for 2014 Season

### A. Editorial Rule Changes for Consideration:

**1. Summary:** This clarifies the intent of the 001 and 002 substitutions. It does not change the rule, but clearly states the way these substitutions are supposed to work and eliminates possible confusion or misinterpretation.

**3.b.(1):** Dives for Dual, Three-Meter, Divisional, and All-Star Meets shall be in the order specified as follows:

(1) Freshmen -- 2 required (101 and 201) and 1 optional. Front or back jump may be used as an optional. 001 may be substituted for the 101 as the required dive. 002 may be substituted for 201 as the required dive. 001 and 002 cannot be used as optional dives, and if either is used as substitute required dive, the 101 and 201 cannot be used as optional dives. There is no position specified for dives 001 and 002. A total of 3 dives.

**Rationale:** During registration for the Wally Martin meet, a freshman boy diver signed up to do a 001 as his required dive and a 101 as his optional. The DiveMeets.com programming allowed this (as these are different dives), though it did not meet the intent of the rule. The current rule wording does not specifically prohibit this (i.e., it could be interpreted to be allowable), nor does it specifically prohibit using 001 or 002 as an optional dive. Recommend adding verbiage to clearly state that the 001 can ONLY be used as a substitute required dive and if it is used, the 101 cannot be used as an optional dive. The same would apply to the 002 and 201.

**2. Summary:** Recommend adding verbiage to clarify the intent of the required dives for seniors and the consequence for not putting the 401 as the third dive.

**3.b. – d.:** Dives for Dual, Three-Meter, Divisional, and All-Star Meets shall be in the order specified as follows:

....

(4) Seniors -- 3 required (101, 201 and 401) and 3 optional, each from a different group of dives (3 optionals from 5 groups). A total of 6 dives.

c. For all meets required dives will be performed in the order specified in this handbook. Optional dives may be performed in any order at the election of the competitor.

d. For all meets, a diver may eliminate one, but only one, optional dive and take zero on the dive without prejudice and remain in the contest if otherwise eligible. A diver may not eliminate a required dive and remain in the contest. (Note: because of requirements of rules 3.b.(4), 3.c. and 3.d., if a senior diver does not have 401 as their third dive, they are disqualified.) If a diver makes a legitimate attempt to perform a required dive and fails, he/she may remain in the contest if otherwise eligible. A diver who, in the referee's opinion, willingly fails, eliminates, or purposely chooses not to perform a required dive, shall be disqualified from the contest. A diver failing two dives, without regard to the dives being required or optional, may complete his/her event, but cannot register placement points for the team.

**Rationale:** Senior divers are required to do the 101 Forward Dive, 201 Back Dive and 401 Inward Dive as their required dives, in that order. The younger age groups are not required to perform the 401. For seniors, failing to list the 401 as their third dive results in disqualification. While this point is stressed at referee clinics, not everyone understands this (especially people who don't attend the referee clinics - including team reps, divers and coaches). This continues to be a point of confusion and results in disqualification of divers, including two senior boy divers this past year. Because of requirements of rules 3.b.(4), 3.c. and 3.d. work together, the disqualification requirement is not readily apparent to everyone. This does not change the rule, but clearly states the consequence of not listing the 401 as the third dive. This is intended to eliminate confusion and misinterpretation. Recommend edit words to eliminate confusion and to minimize disqualification situations.

**3. Summary:** Clarify the existing rule, rather than a change in rule, concerning dive number and dive description discrepancies discovered when a dive is announced.

**4.s.** It is the responsibility of the diver to immediately correct the announcer..... Divers may correct discrepancies between the dive number and name noted at the time the dive is announced. The diver must

choose either the numbered or named dive prior to the performance of the dive- the diver may not choose to change to another dive (even if it might otherwise be allowed by rule 10.a.(9)).

**Rationale:** During the 20 June 2013 referee clinic there was a significant discussion regarding how to deal with a dive sheet that has a dive number / dive name discrepancy. It was apparent that this rule was not being applied uniformly. While rule 10.a.(9) allows a diver to change an optional dive (subject to certain conditions), rule 4.s states “The diver must choose either the numbered or named dive”. The intent of rule 4.s is to limit the diver to those two choices (the numbered dive or the named dive) and no other choices. Also, when there is a discrepancy between the dive number and dive name, typically there are different degrees of difficulty associated with each; if a diver could choose to perform a different dive, we would need to stipulate which DD was the maximum DD they could use for their changed dive. Recommend adding verbiage to clarify the intent of this rule. This would also eliminate the issue of which DD to use when establishing limits for changed dives.

**4. Summary:** Clarify existing rule on assignment of DD to a position change.

**10.a.(8)/10.b.(6):** Entry forms may not be changed after the start of the meet except that a diver may change the position in which a dive is performed up to the time of its execution, so long as this change is clearly announced to the judges and the scoring table prior to the execution of the dive. ***The degree of difficulty on the score sheet shall be changed to reflect the position selected for the dive (i.e., for a POSITION change [not a dive change], the DD may go up or down).***

**Rationale:** Despite the wording changes approved last year, there continues to be confusion regarding dive position changes. Many people do not think the DD is ever permitted to go up. We should continue to work to educate everyone on this rule and at the same time state, in plain language, that it is permissible for the DD to increase on a position change. Recommend adding verbiage to clarify the difference between dive changes and position changes and to clearly state that the DD may go up as well as down for position changes. By adding these words it should help clarify this rule and avoid improper scoring of dives.

**5. Summary:** Allow use of digital image copies of the Diving Meet Participants form whenever a meet is postponed.

**10.a.(13):** The meet secretary will prepare three copies of results which affect team scores. These results must also include the names and scores for the top three divers participating in the meet. Before the start of the meet,..... If the meet is not completed and is resumed on another day, each team representative shall be given a copy of that form (legible, digital image, cell Phone picture acceptable) before departing the meet site. After the meet, one copy of all meet forms is to be provided ..... the other copy is to be forwarded to the Division Coordinator not later than the day following the official dual meet.

**Rationale:** In the event a meet is interrupted for weather or other conditions and continued on another day, a copy of the Meet Participants sheet is to be provided to each team rep. This provides a record of the divers signed up the start of the meet and prevents adding a diver during the interruption. The problem is that by discombobulating the triplicate forms, it is extremely difficult to properly realign them for carbon paper transfer and the third copy becomes illegible with misaligned scores. Recommend allowing the use of cell phone pictures as a “copy” so that the triplicate forms would remain intact. This will improve readability of the form and still provide a means of checking that no divers have been added during the weather break.

**6. Summary:** Specify the correct basis document that has been actually used for an extended period in NVSL Diving.

## **9. FOR RULES OR PROCEDURES NOT COVERED HEREIN:**

Refer to FINA Dive Official USD Rules book

**10.c. 3-Meter and All-Star Meet:** It will be conducted by the NVSL Diving Executive Committee in Accordance with the U.S. Diving FINA Dive Rules, as modified by the NVSL Handbook.

**Rationale:** NVSL Rules Committee has used the FINA dive rules as the basis document for more than the past 10

years, but the Handbook reference has not been modified to reflect this practice. USA Dive, as an organization, also follows the FINA rules as its basis rule document for diver performance and dive evaluation standards.

**7. Summary:** Emphasize the subject matter contained within certain rule paragraphs to minimize confusion.

**10.a.(8)/10.b.(6): Change of Position only:** Entry forms may not be changed after the start of the meet except that a diver may change the position in which a dive is performed up to the time of its execution, so long as this change is clearly announced to the judges and the scoring table prior to the execution of the dive. *The degree of difficulty on the score sheet shall be changed to reflect the position selected for the dive.*

**10.a.(9)/10.b.(7): Change of Dive only:** A diver cannot change a required dive under any circumstances except for position. For example, a back dive cannot be changed to a back entry. However, a diver may change one and only one optional dive, provided that the new dive is of equal or lesser degree of difficulty, does not repeat a dive group of other optional dives already listed..... It is not permissible to change to a more difficult dive while retaining the original dive's degree of difficulty.

**Rationale:** Editorial changes are recommended to make it obvious and clear what paragraph specifically deals with the annotated subject matter. Some certified referees are not consistently applying these rules due to confusion over what rule governs a change of dive and what rule governs a change in position. This change is intended to make sure that the subject matters are separately treated in two stand-alone rules with clearly-labeled paragraphs.

## **B. Rule Changes for Consideration:**

**1. Summary:** Adjust handbook to place responsibility for determining dives and procedures for the Wally Martin Meet with the NVSL Diving EXCOM; similar to and consistent with what is in place for the Cracker Jack Meet. Additionally, make it clear that this is “traditionally” a three-meter competition.

**1.m: “m. Wally Martin Invitational Three-Meter Meet: Dives and procedures for the Wally Martin Invitational Meet will be determined by the NVSL Diving Executive Committee (EXCOM). All League pool members, conforming to Article IV of the League Bylaws, are eligible to compete in ~~this three-meter meet~~ which is traditionally a three-meter competition. The meet manager shall decide the acceptance of potential meet entrants for participation in the Wally Martin Meet.”**

**3.a:** All dives will be performed on the low board (one-meter) except for dives in the Wally Martin Invitational Meet if it is a three-meter competition. Note that there are two separate degree of difficulty tables corresponding to one and three meter dives.

**10.b./10.c:** Delete “, 3-Meter,”.

**10.c.** Delete “3-Meter and”.

**Rationale:** The Wally Martin meet is one of two stand-alone meets that are administered and operated by the NVSL Dive EXCOM. However, rules governing dives and procedures for this meet are currently written into the handbook vice being the responsibility of the EXCOM. The Cracker Jack meet is the other. In general, the Wally Martin dives and procedures are essentially the same as for a one-meter NVSL competition except they are applied to a three-meter venue using a separate DD table. This change would provide consistency on how the rules and procedures are determined and would allow flexibility for both Team Representatives as well as EXCOM members to recommend changes and gain approval without the need to go through the formal rule change process and extended in-meeting discussions. Consideration should be given to re-vamping the required/optional dive criteria to promote more participation, particularly when this is a three-meter event. One example would be to allow jumps, entries, line-ups for all age groups. This would not keep the proficient three-meter divers out of the competition, but would make participation by beginner/novice divers more realistic; what should be a League goal. Another example would be to alternate the three-meter event with a synchro event in

some years. This might allow other NVSL pools to volunteer as a venue and would certainly expose NVSL divers to another variant of dive competition. The EXCOM is best suited to adjust the procedures on an annual basis and considers input from team representatives on an ad hoc basis as has been the EXCOM practice for the Cracker Jack meet.

**2. Summary:** Modify the upper age limit for divers [as described in rule 2.c.(2)] to remove the requirement that high school graduation must occur in the spring vs. sometime earlier within the same school year.

**2.c.(2):** The eligibility of a competitor to compete in a particular age group shall be determined by his or her age on the first of June of that year. Competitors of any age are eligible as long as they are no further removed from high school than fall/winter/spring graduation completion.

**Rationale:** The upper bound of eligibility for senior divers allows divers to compete in the summer following their high school graduation. As written, it supports divers who complete high school in the typical manner, graduating in the spring. According to the Virginia Dept of Education in 2011-2012 there were over 500 high school students being home schooled and that number was steadily increasing over the last 3 years. Home schooled students do not graduate with the FCPS high school seniors; they may take the GED exam anytime during the year, as long as they've completed their program of studies and are at least 16 years old. Students with other circumstances may also take the GED exam at various times. These students are only eligible to compete during the summer following their graduation, if they take the GED exam in the spring. Recommend modifying the upper age limit for divers [as described in rule 2.c.(2)] to remove the requirement that high school graduation must occur in the spring. A limited number of divers would be impacted, but it will allow those who complete high school a few months ahead of their peers to be eligible.

**3. Summary:** Implement some simple changes to reduce some of the pressure that can be placed on the Meet Secretary and the scoring table just prior to the start of a meet. This would include earlier turn in (30 min v. current 15 min) of dive sheets along with a consolidated list of divers (with age group). This could also ensure proper spelling of names since some dive sheets are difficult to read in practice.

**10.a.(7):** Change first sentence to read: Diving entry forms will be filled out, signed by the divers for correctness and turned in to the meet secretary ~~30-45~~ minutes before the meet begins. The NVSL diving meet participants form with names and events entered shall be completed as soon as practical after receipt of the entry forms.

**10.a.(13):** Revise end of third sentence to "the names correspond with those on all of the submitted meet participants and diving entry forms.

**Rationale:** Meet Secretary and scoring table will have an additional 15 minutes to prepare to start the meet. This time is critical to checking sheets and preparing for an on-time start as well as prep for finishing ribbon stickers at the conclusion of events. It also makes the sheets available earlier for the referee to review. Finally, a neat consolidated list of each team's divers helps ensure correct spelling on the meet sheets that will be turned in to the Division Coordinators.

**4. Summary:** Adjust the wording to encourage earlier dual meet start times.

**1.i.:** Change as follows: Dual Meets: The NVSL Diving Executive..... These meets will be conducted on Tuesday evenings, starting no ~~earlier than 5:30 PM nor~~ later than 6:00 PM, or at another time as mutually agreed.

**Rationale:** Provides a bigger window for Team Representatives to consider when scheduling their meets. If intermittent weather is a factor, the starting earlier, as agreed by the Reps, could be the difference between completing a meet or not. Also could encourage use of an earlier time window at the end of the season when sometimes more divers are competing and the sunset is almost 20 minutes earlier than at the beginning of the season.