

**To: All Dive Team Representatives**  
**From: NVSL Diving Rules Committee Chair**

The Committee receives a number of inquiries from individuals and team representatives about the requirements for waivers and questions about divers from other NVSL-affiliated pools being able to participate at other pools. The following summary provides a question and answer format to the most frequently discussed issues and topics. We hope this clarifies many of the questions that might arise about waivers. If there are other questions not answered here or you need guidance regarding compliance with waiver requirements, please contact the Chairperson of the NVSL Diving Rules Committee, Mike Schaeffer, at (703) 593-5075 or by email to: [mikejudy@cox.net](mailto:mikejudy@cox.net).

**1. What is a waiver?** A waiver is a process for NVSL to grant approval to a diver, whose family already has membership in one NVSL-affiliated pool, to dive for another NVSL-affiliated pool's team if there are supporting unusual circumstances. The waiver is **not** for relieving the requirement to purchase a membership at the other pool. (See question 4 below).

**2. How do I know that a waiver has to be submitted?** A waiver must be submitted to NVSL Diving for review whenever a diver who intends to dive for your team belongs to another NVSL-affiliated pool. In short, anytime you have a diver who wants to be on your team, you need to ask whether the diver's family has a membership in another NVSL-affiliated pool and intends to obtain membership in your pool.

**3. Does it make a difference whether the membership in the other pool is inactive?** No, a waiver may still be required no matter whether the membership in the first pool is active or inactive.

**4. Can divers from another NVSL-affiliated pool be on my dive team without having to be members of my pool?** No, **all** divers on your team must have a NVSL Bylaw-compliant membership in your pool in order to participate on your team. There are no exceptions. Additionally, in the case of divers from another NVSL-affiliated pool, three conditions must be met:

- a. The family, not diver, must have a temporary membership or own a membership share in your pool,
- b. The family must pay an annual fee which equals or exceeds the amount a regular share owner pays at your pool, and
- c. NVSL permission is required and must be supported by an explanation of the unusual circumstances for the diver wishing to dive for your pool. (See paragraph 1.a of the Diving Rules in the current year's Handbook).

**5. Can you tell me what the supporting unusual circumstances are for getting a waiver approved?** While we cannot give you an exhaustive list of the unusual circumstances, the one circumstance that generally results in an approval is the case where the original NVSL-affiliated pool that the diver's family belongs to does not have a dive team. Keep in mind that a waiver submission and NVSL approval is still be required for the above-stated circumstance.

**6. Can't I get a waiver to conditions a. and b. (as specified in the answer to question 4 above) for divers from a neighboring NVSL-affiliated pool for unusual circumstances?**

No, waivers to conditions a. and b. are not granted under any circumstances. Divers from another NVSL pool must meet conditions a. and b. as follows:

- a. The family, not diver, must have a temporary membership or own a membership share in your pool,

- b. The family must pay an annual fee which equals or exceeds the amount a regular share owner pays at your pool, and

also get an NVSL-approved waiver for unusual circumstances before they can participate on your team.

**7. What do I do if I have a coach who belongs to another NVSL-affiliated pool and is still age-eligible and wants to dive for my team?** See question 4 for membership requirements. Additionally, you must submit a waiver for NVSL approval just as you would for any other diver under the same circumstance. It's uncertain that such a waiver will be approved unless the other NVSL-affiliated pool does not have a dive team. Being the coach of your team, while the coach's family belongs to another NVSL pool, is generally not considered an unusual circumstance for which NVSL will grant a waiver.

**8. How far in advance do I need to submit waivers to get a decision for the first meet and where do I send them?** You must have them in the hands of the NVSL Diving Rules Chairperson, listed in the 2014 NVSL Handbook, 10 days in advance of the first meet. There are no exceptions to this lead time. You can also submit waivers after the first meet starts, but there could be up to a 10-day lead time for rendering a decision.

**9. If I have the unusual circumstance that will likely be approved by NVSL and submit my waiver request a few days before the first meet, can I put my new diver in the first meet knowing the waiver will eventually get approved?** No, divers without approved waivers are not allowed to dive for your team until you receive the NVSL decision.

**10. Do I have to submit a waiver for a diver even though I got a waiver for the same diver last year?** A new waiver has to be submitted every year for review even if you had an approved waiver for the same diver the year before. If NVSL Diving required you to submit a waiver for a diver last year and his/her circumstances are unchanged from 2013, please submit a new waiver.

**11. What happens if a diver dives for my team and it turns out later that a waiver approval was needed?** Generally, the diver is disqualified from your meet, the score and place earned by that diver is removed from the meet results, and the meet results are then recalculated.

**In closing, if you have any questions about waivers or waiver requirements, please contact the Rules Committee Chairperson to discuss before submitting your waiver requests for review and final decision.**

Mike Schaeffer  
Chairperson  
NVSL Diving Rules Committee  
On Behalf of the Committee