**2021 Diving Board and Equipment Safety and Maintenance Memorandum to Dive Team Representatives**

As the NVSL Safety Coordinator, I'm sending out my annual message about diving boards and diving equipment to facilitate meeting safety, installation, and maintenance standards. First off, please read paragraph 1.h. contained in the Dive Rules section and of the 2021 NVSL Handbook. Also review the Recommended Safety Reminders for NVSL Dive Teams in the Handbook right after the 1-meter DD Table. Paragraph 1.h. indicates that pool organizations are responsible for setting standards of care regarding safety at pools where dive meets are held. Second, become familiar with the Duraflex International website https://duraflexinternational.com/ for maintenance, refurbishment, and installation procedures and performance standards for Duraflex products (diving boards and stands).

**Safety and Maintenance Emphasis Items:**

**Cleaning Slippery Diving Boards:**

The number one emphasis item encountered past several season concerned reports that divers slipping on diving boards with surfaces that were coated with dark discolored algae, mold and mildew. Weather in the last several seasons was unprecedented with many hot days and rain along with high humidity. These created environments that were ripe for making board surfaces slippery. It also identified the need that frequent cleaning of diving boards is essential to remedy the situation and to ensure safe conditions are being maintained for divers as well as members and guests at your pool. Consult the Duraflex International website above for simple and easy maintenance procedures for remediating slippery board conditions. The procedures specify daily maintenance to hose down boards with fresh water. Additionally, monthly (or more often if needed), scrub boards with detergent or chlorine, hot water and soft bristle brushes. Muriatic acid may be used to treat hard-to-remove algae or stains. IMPORTANT: Do not use power washers to clean boards or board surfaces will be damaged. Inspect diving board surfaces afterwards to ensure the surface is not worn out.

**Taking Care of Worn-out Board Surfaces:**

When your boards are taken out of storage and cleaned for installation and surfaces are found to be slippery, take them out of service immediately. Avoid the notion that you can get by for one more season before taking corrective action. Either purchase an exact model new diving board or make arrangements to return the old board to Duraflex for resurfacing. Please check the Duraflex website for instructions on returning boards for resurfacing, especially the inspection criteria for old boards. If the old board doesn't meet these criteria, then it is necessary to purchase of a new replacement board. Only Duraflex resurfacing is acceptable. Resurfacing by another vendor or self-resurfacing by the pool organization or the pool management company must be avoided. Otherwise, the board will become unacceptably slippery again in a short time and in some cases the board surface will prematurely experience delamination (peeling).

**Tightening Nuts/Bolts on Diving Boards during Installation:**

On-site consultations are conducted on at least ¼ of NVSL diving pools during a given season. Most diving facilities had insufficiently tightened bolts attaching the boards to the stands. Those facilities maintained by professional diving equipment specialists were found to have acceptably tightened bolts. In a few cases, the bolts were able to be loosened by hand. This is an easy problem to remedy. Pool organizations and companies should be instructed to review and follow board installation procedures found on the Duraflex International website. Investment in a torque

wrench is highly recommended. All that has to be done is to set the wrench to 110 foot-pounds, see that the board is centered on the stand, and tighten the bolts to the setting on the wrench. Many facilities' nuts/bolts exhibited claw marks. Pls don't use vise grips, plyers, or channel locks, or similar tools to tighten nuts/bolts. It's not possible to get the proper tightness with these tools – and the nuts/bolts will be damaged by these tools.

**Storage of Diving Boards:**

To get the best lifetime out of diving boards, avoid storing them in the pump room on their sides. Pump rooms, even after seasonal use, continue to retain a residual caustic chemical environment even if chemicals are not stored there. It could result in premature failure of the board surface. Storing of the boards on their sides promotes warpage across the width of the board. If severe enough, it could affect whether the board is an acceptable candidate for resurfacing. Boards should be stored bottom-side up supported at two points, for example on saw horses, table surfaces, etc. They can be stored inside in a chemical free environment or outside as long as the boards are kept out of the rain, freezing rain, and snow.

**Information:**

Diving boards do not last forever and require periodic upkeep depending on how much your boards are used. The surfaces of boards at pools with average dive team activity last an average of 6 to 7 years. Very active dive team pools could experience a 3 to 4 year board surface lifetime; less active pools 7 to 10 years or more.

**Other Things to Pay Attention to:**

- Metal contact between board and roller can damage diving equipment; replace shredded rubber runners to prevent damage
- Creaking noises when the board is flexed can indicate structural damage meaning board replacement
- Corroded channel at mounting end of the board might mean the board requires replacement
- Exact model new board replacements are necessary to remain compliant with County Health Department codes

**Other Helpful Information:** Other useful services for dive stand maintenance, board installation, or stand installation are available from Bill York by calling 703-887-9762 or by contacting Larry May (609-828-9250) or at: http://www.thefulcrumguy.com/.

**Please call me or email me if you have questions, 703-593-5075 or mikejudy@cox.net. Remember that safety comes first.**

**Mike Schaeffer, NVSL Diving Safety Coordinator**

Information validated Apr 2021