

# RULE CHANGE SUBMISSIONS PROPOSED FOR 2025 SEASON

## RULE CHANGES (1 – 8)

### 1. ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF DIVER BEING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO DIVE IN NVSL DIVING [**Consideration pending collection of factual information to support recommended rule change**]

**Current rule 2a:** The events will be the same for Dual Meets, Division Individual Championship Meets, Three-Meter Meet, and All-Star Meet.

There will be four classes of competition for both boys and girls  
.....Seniors 15, 16, 17, and 18, with the following exception. Divers older than 18 are also eligible as Seniors as long as they are no further removed from high school graduation than fall/winter/spring in their particular year of participation.

#### **Proposed change to the current rule 2a:**

There will be four classes of competition for both boys and girls.....  
Seniors 15, 16, 17, and ~~18~~, with the following exception. Divers ~~older than 18~~ **and older** are also eligible as Seniors as long as they are no further removed from high school graduation than fall/winter/spring in their particular year of participation

**Rationale:** NVSL Dive is a developmental diving league. Since there is no professional level in the sport of diving, college divers are diving at an advanced level while benefiting from advanced coaching. As a result, they no longer require a developmental league, are benefiting from coaching that developmental divers don't normally have access to, and therefore should not be diving in the NVSL. The changes to this rule allow for children still in high school and those that have just graduated during the school year immediately preceding the summer dive season to continue diving, but restricts college athletes from competing against developing divers.

### 2. REMOVES SPECULATIVE LANGUAGE AND SUBSTITUTES FACTUAL STATEMENTS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN FAILED DIVES VS. DISQUALIFIED DIVES

**Change 3.d.(3):** If a diver ~~makes a legitimate attempt (including coach assistance) to perform a required dive and fails~~ **is assisted by a coach on a required dive, the dive is failed, but** he/she is not disqualified and may remain in the contest if otherwise eligible.

**Change 3.d.(4):** Except in the case of coach assistance as stated in 3.d(3) above, a diver who ~~in the referee's opinion, willingly fails, does not make a legitimate attempt, eliminates, or purposely chooses not to perform~~ **fails or chooses to eliminate** a required dive shall be disqualified from the contest immediately.

**Rationale:** The current rule requires the referee to read the diver's mind as to their intention. In order to be consistent and fair, it makes more sense to disqualify divers who fail a required dive, whether they intended to or not, or were trying to do the correct dive or not. By allowing an exception for coach assistance, the diver is still encouraged to attempt the dive safely. In past years, divers have done back jumps in place of back dives, and it was up to the referee to decide whether that was a true attempt or not.

### 3. MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR REFEREE TO SERVE ON THE JUDGING PANEL

**8.a:** REFEREE - to signal the judges and make decisions relative to balks, etc. Referees The referee must also ~~are highly encouraged, but not required, to serve as judges on judging panels. given advanced instruction they receive as part of their NVSL required certification.~~

**Rationale:** Since the referees receive more training and are typically the most experienced judges, they should act as judges while they referee. This allows the referees to use their scorecards to demonstrate appropriate scoring for less experienced judges.

### 4. CHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR JUDGES TO HAVE SERVED FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR AS A DIVE JUDGE VS. A DIVE JUDGE WITHIN THE NVSL FOR AS A PREREQUISITE TO CERTIFY AS A REFEREE

**8e.** All referees must have been certified by NVSL Diving within the last two years. Individual participation in the NVSL Diving Referee's Clinic constitutes certification. Individuals must have served as a judge ~~within the NVSL~~ for at least one season to be eligible to attend the referee's clinic and receive certification.”

The Division Coordinators Committee requests that the phrase “within the NVSL” be removed from Rule 8e.

**Rationale:** Volunteers with at least a year of judging experience of any kind should be allowed to attend the certification clinic and obtain league certification. Thus, whether or not they were ever used, they would have had the official training before their first year as an NVSL judge. They could be used as corroborating refs while judging at dual meets to gain experience, and those with experience could be used at exhibition meets such as the Greater Springfield or in the latter weeks of the season, when referees are scarcer, and in emergencies. The requirement that one must have judged for a season in the NVSL before sitting for referee certification serves no apparent purpose because NVSL judging is the same as judging in other jurisdictions. Serving as a judge *in the NVSL specifically* is not necessary, as judging standards and criteria are the same across the sport for leagues that contain everything from developmental to expert diving. What differs across leagues is the *rules*, not the judging--so serving as an NVSL judge is not better training to be an NVSL referee than serving as a judge in another jurisdiction, such as another summer league (e.g. MCDL, CCSDA), VHSL or any other high school league, AAU, or USA Diving.) Referee training and certification qualify someone to be a referee. Serving as an NVSL judge does not provide referee training. That is what the handbook the league handouts, and the clinics as for. The best training for an NVSL referee is to *first* attend a clinic to be briefed and *then* to gain experience serving on deck with more experienced referees. This is the reverse of the present process, in which a prospective referee must serve on a judging panel in the league (with no guarantee of an experienced referee being present), and then wait a year before even attending a referee clinic. This process delays the entry of experienced judges into the referee pool by an entire season and discourages prospective new referees, as even people who are certified referees in other jurisdictions are required to sit out a year before being certified in NVSL. Then they are not required ever to be a judge again after being certified as a referee. This rule is Draconian and does not appear to exist elsewhere in the sport, where there are no prerequisites to sitting for certification and it is made clear in the handbooks that referees are not necessarily judges.

## 5. ALLOW REQUIREMENT OF ONE SEASON OF JUDGING TO BE WAIVED BY CHIEF OFFICIAL FOR FORMER NVSL DIVERS AND COACHES

**8.e:** All referees must have been certified by NVSL Diving within the last two years. Individual participation in the NVSL Diving Referee's Clinic constitutes certification. Individuals must have served as a judge within the NVSL for at least one season to be eligible to attend the referee's clinic and receive certification. Individuals who do not meet the judging requirement but have NVSL experience as a coach or diver, may ask permission from the Chief Official to attend the Referee's Clinic and receive certification.

**Rationale:** Former coaches and divers in the league who wish to certify as referees may not need judging experience if they are already familiar with league rules and dive judging standards.

## 6. TEAM REPRESENTATIVE PLANNING FOR WEEKNIGHT MEETS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EXPECTATIONS

**Change as follows - 10.a.(2):** The host Team Representative will contact the visiting Team Representative one week in advance of the meet, to the set time of meet, ensure an understanding of the number and source of officials, and unique configurations of the diving well. Team representatives are encouraged to prepare a timeline of the meet to assist planning for ensuring the finish of meets before dark. Team representatives should select officials with sufficient experience to promote efficient meet operation to guarantee timely meet completion.

**Rationale:** This rule is intended to promote discussions between team representatives to stress the importance of communication about the meet venue, the selection of officials who can efficiently operate a meet, and the focus on timely meet completion before dark.

## 7. MANDATORY REFEREE VERIFICATION OF MEET SHEETS

**10.a.(7):** Diving entry forms will be filled out, signed by the divers for correctness and turned in to the meet secretary 30 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. The responsibility for the timely turn-in and accuracy of the diving entry form rests with the coach and the diver. The diver's coach will review the diving entry form for accuracy, completeness, and compliance with Section 3 of the Handbook's diving rules. Independently, the referee shall conduct the same review of all diving entry forms before the meet starts. The referee may delegate this responsibility to key meet officials of his/her choice. This action does not relieve coaches and divers of their responsibilities as stated above. An unsigned entry form shall not disqualify the diver from the meet or alter the status of any dives performed. If any meet official discovers an unsigned entry form, the diver should be notified as soon as possible to sign the form in acknowledgment of the dive list. Corrections to the entry form (dives only; age group status as submitted) are permissible up to the start time of the meet. No corrections shall be allowed without coordination with the meet manager or referee to ensure the changes are compliant with rule requirements. Otherwise, the diver assumes the consequences for any non-compliant changes discovered after the meet start.

**Rationale:** The purpose of this independent review is to minimize meet flow being disrupted after the meet starts by mistakes and inadvertent oversights that must be dealt with by the referee on the spot. These situations may present to divers adverse consequences because they are not allowed to be adjudicated per the rules once the meet starts. Anytime this happens, the meet stops for the referee to provide guidance to meet officials and potentially explanations to divers and coaches. Pre-meet referee reviews maximize the potential for referees to remediate problem situations before meet start when corrections are still allowed.

Disruptions of meets can be crucial to being able to complete a meet before impending darkness, especially for team rosters approaching the maximum number of allowed divers.

## **8. MANDATORY REFERRAL OF PROTESTS TO RULES COMMITTEE IF DIVISION COORDINATOR UNABLE TO RESOLVE**

**11. Protests:** Protests will be presented by the team representative to the Division Coordinator no later than 48 hours after the end of the meet. Should the Division Coordinator be unavailable at the time, or have a conflict of interest, or be otherwise unable to resolve the protest, the dispute ~~may~~ **shall** be referred to the Diving Rules Committee for resolution. Decisions rendered by the Diving Rules Committee shall be final and binding upon all parties involved.

**Rationale:** This change provides clarity for conflict of interest situations and matches the language in the revised Operating Instructions document. It's mostly an edit, except that the change of "may" to "shall" is significant.

## **EDITORIAL RULE CHANGES (9 – 16)**

### **9. CLARIFIES THAT THE ONE AND ONLY ONE OPTIONAL RULE CANNOT BE USED TO CORRECT A NON-CONFORMING DIVE SHEET**

**Change 3.f:** Note: after the start of the meet, ~~the subsequent dive~~ the **non-conforming dive sheet** cannot be remediated as a change of the one and only one optional dive specified in rules 10.a.(9) and 10.b.(7).

**Rationale:** When this rule was added last season, the language left open the possibility of remediating the dive sheet after the start of the meet by changing the first of the problematic dives. This language closes that apparent loophole.

### **10. EDITORIAL TO PARAGRAPH ON DIVE POSITIONS AND TWISTERS**

**4.i.(4)** Free Position: the free position may incorporate any or all of the straight (lay-out), pike, and tuck positions within the performance of a single dive. In the free position, the body position is optional, but the legs shall be together and toes pointed. In dives with twists, the twisting shall not manifestly be done from the board or the judges may deduct according to their opinions **or as instructed by the referee** (see paragraph 4.j **k**. below). In the pike or tuck dives with twists, the pike or tuck position must be clearly shown. Should the respective position(s) not be shown, judges shall deduct ½ to 2 points, according to their individual opinions. In somersault twisting dives, the twist may be performed at any time during the dive.

**Rationale:** Correct paragraph tracking error. Recognition that referee has authority make preemptive calls on failing twister dives that are manifestly twisted from the board.

### **11. EXTRANEOUS LANGUAGE WAS NOT REMOVED IN A FORMER CHANGE**

**4.i(4):** ...In dives with twists, the twisting shall not manifestly be done from the board ~~or the judges may deduct according to their individual opinions (see paragraph 4.j below).~~ **The referee shall declare an unsatisfactory dive (see paragraph 4.k below).**

**Rationale:** To bring into agreement with rule 4.k.

## **12. CONSULTATION WITH DCCC FOR MAKE UP MEETS THAT DIVISION COORDINATORS ARE UNABLE TO RESCHEDULE OR MEETS WHERE THE DIVISION COORDINATOR HAS A CONFLICT**

**10.a(10) last paragraph of section:** The make-up meet at a time later than specified above shall be scheduled with concurrence of the Division Coordinator and consultation with the ~~VP (Diving) or his/her designee if the Division Coordinator is so inclined~~ **Division Coordinator Committee Chair (DCCC)**. If the Division Coordinator is a Team Representative of a team involved in the meet rescheduling, concurrence by ~~VP (Diving) or his/her designee~~ **the DCCC** shall be required. The mandatory provision to complete meets may only be waived by mutual agreement of the Team Representatives with the approval of the ~~VP (Diving) or his/her designee~~. **DCCC**.

**Rationale:** When this rule originated, NVSL Dive did not have a Division Coordination Committee with a DCC Chair. The Chair of this committee is well-positioned to step in for DC's who have a conflict of interest due to also being team reps. It is now unnecessary for scheduling issues to rise to the level of VP in order to be resolved.

## **13. EDITORIAL UPDATES FOR DIVING REGISTRATION USING THE AUTOMATED REGISTRATION SYSTEM**

**10.b(5):** Diving registrations (~~dive meets~~ **divemeets.com**) or dive entry forms (paper meets) for Divisionals, Wally Martin, and All-Stars meets ~~will~~ **shall** be submitted or be filled out, ~~signed by the diver,~~ and turned in no later than 2 days before the meet.....(rest of paragraph unchanged)

**Rationale:** "Dive meets" is changed to "divemeets.com" for clarity. Dive sheets are not actually signed by the diver for these meets until check-in on meet day. The remaining deletions are for redundancy.

## **14. EDITORIAL TO SUBSTITUTE WORLD AQUATICS FOR OLD NAME OF FINA**

**10.c:** The Wally Martin and All-Star Meet: ~~it~~ **they** will be conducted by the NVSL Diving Executive Committee in accordance with the ~~FINA~~ **World Aquatics** Dive Rules, as modified by the **current** NVSL handbook.

Rationale: Edit for subject-verb agreement and the FINA name change.

## **15. AWARENESS ITEM ON NOT TRUSTING PRE-PRINTED MACHINE GENERATED MEET SHEETS AT DIVISIONALS HAVE BEEN PRE-CHECKED**

**10.b(5):** **NOTE: Machine-generated meet entry forms for Divisionals are NOT automatically pre-checked for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with Section 3 of the current handbook dive rules.** Diving registrations..... diving entry form for accuracy, completeness, and compliance with Section 3 of the Handbook's Diving Rules. An unsigned entry form shall not disqualify the diver from the meet or alter the status of any dives performed. If any meet official discovers an unsigned entry form, the diver should be notified as soon as possible to sign the form in acknowledgment of the dive list. Corrections to turned-in entry forms are permissible up to the time of the event.

**Rationale:** This editorial change is to stress to coaches, divers, and meet officials that machine-generated dive entry forms for Divisionals are not automatically pre-checked for completeness and accuracy. This note is intended to emphasize machine-generated forms still need to be checked for completeness and accuracy by coaches and divers and before divers sign them.

## 16. ADMINSTRATIVE CHANGES EDITORIAL TO PARAGRAPHS TO IMPROVE READABILITY

**1.j:** Dives and ~~All~~ **all** aspects of the Cracker Jack Invitational Meet shall be governed by the operation and administration ruleset procedures for the Cracker Jack Meet invitational will be ~~determined~~ approved.....

**3.d.(5):** A diver failing two dives, without regard to the dives being required or optional, shall be designated on the meet results as disqualified (DQ), but is allowed to ~~may~~ continue ~~participate~~ **participating** and complete his/her event. The diver, however, cannot register placement points for the team.

**10.a.(11)(b):** Within events, host and visiting divers will ~~al-ternate~~ **alternate** with host divers diving the odd numbered positions.

**10.b.(4):** The pool manager, licensed by the local jurisdiction, decides whether the pool is open for the ~~diving~~ **venue** ~~dive meet~~ to be conducted.

**Rationale:** These paragraphs were in need of editing.