

**NVSL DIVING  
REFEREES CLINIC  
JUNE 3, 14, and 27, 2026**

1. Fill out index card at clinic you attend to get credit for obtaining your current referee certification and remain at the clinic until its completion
2. Brief review of 2026 rule changes
3. Preparing for the meet:
  - Read/understand 2026 NVSL Handbook rules; review before officiating each meet (**rules 1-11**)
  - **IMPORTANT:** Only apply NVSL Diving rules; don't try to apply rules from other sources
  - Develop pre-meet instructions in advance
  - Have access to a handbook at the meet, including current World Aquatics DD table
  - Arrive early and identify yourself to the team reps, officials, and coaches
  - Be accessible to answer questions before the meet starts
  - Work with meet manager to see that equipment, materials, and facility are ready to go
  - Check or ensure someone checks dive sheets for completeness and compliance
  - Know accuracy/timeliness of sheets is responsibility of coaches/divers (**rules 10.a.(7)/b.(5)**)
  - Work with meet manager to ensure the meet starts on time (**rule 1.i. and 10.a.(6)**)
  - Understand who can stop and start meet for related circumstances (**rules 10.a.(4)/b.(4)**)
  - Understand distinctions between disqualifications and failed dives (**rule 3.d.(1) through (4)**)
  - Remain after meet to resolve any issues.
4. Instructing your judges:
  - Must give pre-meet instructions at every meet
  - Explain dive standards, score application, and deductible ranges (**rules 4/6, Judges Handout**)
  - Judge dive on overall impression and be able to explain what you saw (**rules 4./5./6.**)
    - approach and hurdle (forward) or press (standing) (**rules 4.a.through e. and 4.p. and q.**)
    - take off (**rules 4.f. and 4.n-o.**)
    - grace and technique on flight through the air (**rules 4.i. and p.**)
    - entry into water, including distance from the board (**rules 4.h., 4.j., 4.l., 4.m. and 4.n.**)
  - Judge dive from its start to complete submergence; no underwater actions judged (**rule 5**)
  - Judge dive execution, not difficulty (DD); avoid tendency to reward survival (**rule 5**)
  - Explain the jump and **front and back** entry performed by Freshmen divers (**rule 4.p.**)
  - Twisters must meet **two** conditions to be legal: (**rule 4.l.**)
    - be within +/-90 degrees of completion from the time of the first contact with the water
    - be within +/-90 degrees at all times during the entry
  - Know ranges of scores by attribute and be consistent in scoring (**rule 6**)
  - Use entire range of score card to the extent divers show a range in performance
  - Reward excellence equitably to all age groups
  - Give benefit of doubt to divers if you are not sure what you saw
  - Explain to the judges scoring deductions rendered by judges vs. referee calls (**see below**)
  - Stop meet only at the end of a round if reinstruction or judge substitutions are necessary
5. Review of actual diving situations and application of proper judgments

**REFEREE REMINDERS**

- Unofficial/exhibition divers not allowed in meets
- Only prelisted dives with preassigned DDs in World Aquatics or NVSL tables allowed
- After sheet turn-in prior to meet start, only dives can be changed; no age group changes
- One and only one optional dive change allowed
  - does not apply to required dives
  - does not apply after a position change to optional dive
  - changed dive must have equal or lower DD than original
  - cannot perform higher DD dive for original DD
  - cannot remedy second dive performed from same group with change of dive rule

## **REFEREE'S CALLS**

### Failed Dives (zero points awarded)

- Dive announced not executed
- Entries on dives twisted over or under 90 degrees
- Head or hands not contacting water first on head-first dive
- Feet not contacting water first on feet first dive
- Double jump (bound) after a clearly defined hurdle (see rule 4.f.(1))
- Take-off from one foot for forward or back approach
- Diver is assisted by another person
- Diver executes two balks
- Diver executes dive not listed or allowed in World Aquatics or NVSL DD tables
- Blank dive entry for an optional dive found after meet start
- After meet start, dive entry on form missing either dive number, position, or description

### No more than 2 points to be rewarded by judges:

- Dive clearly performed in the wrong position
- Fall-in performed when a forward/back dive is announced
- Diver does not attempt to come out of a tuck, pike, or twist
- Diver is too close to board or hits board
- Diver manifestly twists from the board

### No more than 4 ½ points to be rewarded by judges:

- One or both arms above head on feet first entry
- One or both arms below the head on head-first entry

### Balks or violation of the forward approach: (2-point deduction from each judge's score)

- Motion of approach, press, or dive stopped (balk)
- Hurdle from two feet on forward approach (violation of forward approach) (see rule 4.e)

## **JUDGE'S CALLS**

### Zero score: failed dive if referee does not make call

#### No more than 2 points awarded:

- Dive manifestly twisted from board if referee does not make call
- Dive clearly out of position if referee does not make call
- Fall-in performed when a fwd/back dive announced, if referee does not make call
- No attempt to come out of a tuck, pike, or twist, if referee does not make call
- Diver is too close to board or hits board if referee does not make call

#### No more than 4 ½ points awarded:

- One or both arms above head on feet first entry if referee does not make call
- One or both arms below the head on head-first entry if referee does not make call

#### Point deduction (1/2 to 2 points):

- Crow hop on standing dive (forward or back)
- Excessive rocking
- Unaesthetic performance of straight, pike, tuck, or free position on dive
- Arms not in correct position on the entry of dive

#### Point deduction (judge's opinion):

- Fwd approach not smooth, aesthetically pleasing, or not reaching the end of the board *before takeoff*
- Take off not bold, high, and confident
- Dive partially performed (broken) in wrong position (see rule 4.p)
- Entry is too far from or off to one side of the board
- Entry is twisted, too short or too long of vertical, or body position is not straight

#### No more than 4 ½ points to be rewarded by judges:

- One or both arms above head on feet first entry
- One or both arms below the head on head-first entry

### Balks or violation of the forward approach: (2-point deduction from each judge's score)

- Motion of approach, press, or dive stopped (balk)
- Hurdle from two feet on forward approach (violation of forward approach) (see rule 4.e)

**Note: Should there be any discrepancies between this handout and the NVSL Diving Rules, the Rules take precedence.**

**Validated May 16, 2026  
Refcln 2017/8/9/0/1/2/3/4/6  
Change 10 - 5/16/26**