



Middle School Meets...Continued

League Rules are agreements between the various members of a league to conduct business in a certain manner. They are primarily administrative in nature and often address all sports in which the league members participate. If none of the league's members had a swimming and diving team it is not likely that their rules would address the sport.

In those leagues that have either men's or women's swimming and diving the league usually requests one or more of its Coaches and or Athletic Directors draft a proposed set of rules and the league, as a body, votes to accept them with or without modification. Eventually a consensus is reached, and rules established. These rules should be periodically reviewed through a similar process. Most leagues have no compliance mechanism for member non-compliance and enumerate no sanctions for an infraction. Essentially this is an agreement based on good faith.

Some examples of "League Rules": Ex.1 "Dual swimming meets will begin no earlier than 6:00pm." Ex.2 "No meet of any level will be conducted without a lifeguard on duty." Ex.3 "Entries for the league meet are due the Tuesday before the first day of League Preliminaries. They shall be submitted via Hy-Tech."

Unlike the middle school level where "League Rules" can modify competition rules (i.e. "There will be 5 Dives performed by each competitor in a dual meet" (Normal high school level competition has 6 or 11 dives by each competitor in a dual meet) or "the Butterfly shall be 50 yards" (100 yards in High school competition)). At the high school level of competition "League Rules" that modify, alter, negate

or in any fashion conflict with the adopted National Federation of High School Rules are invalid on their face. Officials certified by the Michigan High School Athletic Association are not bound in any manner by conflicting rules and there should be no expectation that MHSAA officials will enforce conflicting rules that have been adopted by a league. In those instances where "League Rules" are not in conflict with National Federation rules the official will make no attempt to interrupt any rule or offer any guidance unless he/she has in his/her hand the most recent published copy of the League Rules for the sport of swimming or diving. If the official is in possession of a proper copy of the "League Rules" he should check them for compliance with the published rules in the MHSAA issued rulebook and advise those concerned if there is compliance. No effort should be made to address the league rule. The official's decision shall conform to the current rule book whenever a conflict exists and the "League Rule" shall yield. Officials involved in such an occurrence, time permitting, may contact the MHSAA office for guidance. If time does not exist, the event should be reported in writing to the MHSAA office within no more than 72 hours.

Examples of inappropriate competition rule conflicts: Ex. 1 "Swimmers who are charged with a false start shall be permitted to swim the event for time only." Ex. 2 "Alternates shall not be listed on relay entry cards. All members of the team who will not exceed their permitted total number of events for the competition may swim as an alternate." Ex.3 "In all events the swimmers head will break the plane of the surface by the 15-meter mark."

Last Rules Review: Absent any league rule can diving be the first event in a middle school league championship? Yes 5-2-a

This Week's Rules Review: In the second paragraph above 3 examples of "League Rules" that conflict with competition rules as they appear in the current rulebook. Identify the correct rule citation for each example.