

BOYS/GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 9, 2025

The IHSA Swimming/Diving Advisory Committee had a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee Members present were: Mike Hutton, Coordinator of Officials, Lake In The Hills; Justin Fernandez, Coach, Chicago (St. Ignatius); Donna Driscoll, Coach, Orland Park (Sandburg); Jeffrey Crusen, Principal, Peoria (Richwoods); Brian Bower, Coach, Charleston; Cole Stoner, Athletic Director, Pekin. Others in attendance, Forrest Wagner, Diving Coach, Lockport; Mike Jezioro, State Final Co-Meet Manager, Hinsdale (Central); Kraig Garber, IHSA Asst. Executive Director; Joe Plack, Official, Deerfield.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Item VII-B – State Swim Qualifying Standards

Recommendation: To adopt the following qualifying standards. Sectional Qualifying Standards for the Boys' and Girls' State Finals will be determined in the following manner. The Qualifying Standards for each individual swimming event will be calculated by determining the 36th place time from all sectionals. That time will then be used to obtain an average of the last FIVE years' average times in each event (a different number of years to obtain the average may be used in one or more events if deemed appropriate). In relay events the same process will be implemented but the 30th sectional place time will be used to make the calculations. Using this process, the proposed qualifying standards for the 25-26 seasons are:

Event	Girls	Boys
200 MED RELAY	1:48.95	1:36.73
200 FREE	1:56.01	1:44.59
200 IM	2:10.58	1:57.40
50 FREE	:24.41	:21.73
100 BUTTERFLY	:58.38	:51.92
100 FREE	:52.95	:47.54
500 FREE	5:13.38	4:47.23
200 FREE RELAY	1:38.84	1:27.45
100 BACK	:58.60	:52.94
100 BREAST	1:07.25	:59.26
400 FREE RELAY	3:37.24	3:13.49

Rationale: The advisory committee feels that we are on the right track by using this system. Using an objective system is easier to use, easier to defend and provides fair standards for competitors. When necessary, the system is adjustable by using a different average sectional time or a different average (i.e. 4 years). The Assistant Executive Director working with the swimming and diving advisory committee has reserved the right to make changes if it is obvious that this would be necessary in order to protect the integrity of the meet.

2. **Item VII.B – Advancement of Winners**

Recommendation: In the swimming events, if there are not enough qualifying swimmers to fill all lanes in five (5) preliminary heats in an individual swimming event or four (4) preliminary heats in a relay event at the State Final meet, then the IHSA office will conduct an at-large selection of the next fastest performing individuals and relays from all sectionals who did not qualify via earning a first place finish or achieve a qualifying time at their sectional.

Note: If all lanes are filled in at least five (5) preliminary heats in an individual event or four (4) preliminary heats in a relay event as a result of the number of qualifiers who placed first in the event or met/exceeded the qualifying standard, then no at-large selection will be conducted for that event.

Rationale: The advisory committee feels that, like diving, a guaranteed number of qualifiers is warranted. Members of the committee also noted that all lanes should be utilized in up to five (5) heats of the individual events and four (4) heats of the relay events to give all swimmers the ability to compete against a full complement of opponents in their heat(s). This proposal would also provide opportunity to more swimmers which could help grow the sport.

3. **Item IX.B – Tournament Policies – Participant Passes for the State Final**

Recommendation: Any school that qualifies a 200 Freestyle Relay and/or 400 Freestyle Relay for the State Final Meet will receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate of their choice. Schools that qualify a 200 Medley Relay will also receive one (1) additional deck pass for an alternate. Therefore, to receive two (2) alternate deck passes, a school must qualify at least one freestyle relay (200 or 400) *and* the 200 Medley Relay. All alternates must be listed on the List of Participants for the relay(s) in which they may compete.

Rationale: The committee recognizes that the 200 Medley Relay, being stroke-specific, presents unique challenges compared to freestyle relays. Each swimmer must specialize in a particular stroke (backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, or freestyle), making substitutions more complex and critical to maintaining team performance. Therefore, an additional deck pass is warranted specifically for a medley relay alternate to ensure teams have proper coverage for each specialized leg of the race. In contrast, swimmers can transition between the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with minimal impact on team performance, as all swimmers compete using the same stroke. Providing additional deck passes based on qualifying for these relays supports team flexibility while maintaining competitive integrity.

4. **Item VII.F & Note 3 – State Series Diving Panel Judge Eligibility**

Recommendation: Officials selected to serve on a sectional panel of judges for diving and any head diving coach who wishes to be considered to serve as a sectional diving panel judge must have completed the NFHS Course, Judging Springboard Diving. Additionally, it is recommended to revise Note 3 in this section to state: To be eligible for appointment to a diving panel at the state meet, the IHSA official must have viewed BOTH the annual rules presentation video AND the separate NFHS Course, Judging Springboard Diving.

Rationale: The committee understands that the NFHS Course, Judging Springboard Diving, is more comprehensive than the current IHSA Diving Rules video, and would be beneficial for all state series diving judges to complete in order to ensure that all judges are adequately trained and prepared to judge at the state series level.

5. **Item VIII.K.M.N – Sectional Meet Scoring**

Recommendation:

K) In the swimming events at the sectional meets, points shall be awarded to the swimmers achieving the ~~twelve (12)~~ sixteen (16) fastest times in each event.

M) Diving: At the sectional meets, points for the first through ~~twelfth (12th)~~ sixteenth (16th) places shall be awarded solely on finish in the championship finals.

N) In the scoring of the sectional meets, points shall be awarded for the first ~~twelve (12)~~ sixteen (16) places as follows:

1) Relay Events – 32-26-24-22-20-18-14-10-8-6-4-2	<u>40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-</u>
<u>14-12-10-8-6-4-2</u>	
2) Individual Events – 16-13-12-11-10-9-7-5-4-3-2-1	<u>20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11- 9-7-</u>
<u>6-5-4-3-2-1</u>	

Rationale: The committee agrees that in large championship meets like the IHSA Sectional and State Final, it is common to score events to sixteen (16) places. Now that the State Final has been adjusted to score sixteen (16) places, it makes sense to establish consistency between the two meets and allow sectional meets to score sixteen (16) places as well. Even though there are sectional meets conducted in six lane pools, scoring sixteen (16) in swimming events is not a factor since all events are conducted as timed finals.

6. **VIII.K (New)**

Recommendation:

By state association adoption, backstroke ledges may be used during the regular season and IHSA State Series. If a host school opts to use backstroke ledges, then it shall be done in accordance with NFHS Rule 2-7-3.

Rationale: Following the April 9 IHSA Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee Meeting, the NFHS approved a rule that allows state associations to adopt rule 2-7-3 permitting the use of backstroke ledges in interscholastic competition. Therefore, on April 28 at 2pm, the Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee reconvened and decided to move this recommendation forward. The committee deemed that this change is warranted because they feel that the use of the backstroke ledges in high school swimming is inevitable. Backstroke ledges are commonly permitted by other rule making bodies, and the use of the ledges are widespread outside of high school swimming. Schools that host swimming and diving meets will not be required to purchase backstroke ledges. Per the rule, if a school wishes to purchase backstroke ledges to be used at their home meets, then the minimum water depth of the start end of their pool must be no less than 6 feet deep and that depth must extend out at least 5 meters (16 feet, 5 inches) from the end wall. Additionally, hosts that will purchase ledges for use at their home meets must offer identical ledges to all lanes, and the swimmer has the option to use it or not. There are other provisions of the rule that must be adhered to as well.

Administrative Recommendations

6. **Recommendation:** For the State Final Meets, move the awards podium from the bulkhead to the end of the pool under the Omega Board to conduct the event awards.

Rationale: The committee agrees that this makes the awards more accessible to Athletes with Disabilities as they do not have to navigate getting onto the bulkhead, and the podium/recognition area will be at deck level. Additionally, there are options to make this area more photo friendly for fans/spectators, media, and the IHSA Official Photographers.

7. **Recommendation:** Extend the two fifteen (15) minute breaks (after the completion of the 50yd Freestyle and after the 200yd Freestyle Relay) to twenty-five (25) minute breaks and conduct all event awards from prior to that break during that time. Additionally, the secondary pool directly in front of the awards podium will be closed during this time, but the competition pool will be open to athletes during these twenty-five (25) minute breaks.

Rationale: Extending the breaks and conducting the awards during this time allows for finals events to flow from one to the other without interruption. The committee agrees that this is what the athletes are accustomed to throughout the swimming and diving season, and that it would be best for the athletes. It could also make the awards presentation for each event more efficient as doing it in blocks of time could cut down on the time it takes to conduct them. Meet Management and IHSA personnel will coordinate and communicate a detailed plan through qualifier information provided to schools on how and where event award recipients will be corralled, draped with a medal, and recognized.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

The following items were submitted to the advisory committee and discussed with no action or recommendation to move the proposal forward.

1. The committee discussed a proposal to move the last 15 minute break to occur between the 500 Free and 200 Free Relay.
2. The committee discussed a proposal that would allow Sectional hosts to determine if they will score diving using the IHSA triplicate sheets or by using an electronic computer scoring program.
3. The committee discussed the possibility to allow the notation for position of dives to be either ABCD or TPSF.
4. The committee discussed a proposal adjusting past practice on the warm-up period between diving preliminaries and semi-finals and prior to Finals on Saturday.
5. The committee discussed a proposal to adjust the time when the diving boards close and the schedule that follows that prior to the start of diving competition throughout the state series.
6. The IHSA Assistant Executive Director for Swimming and Diving notified the committee about a proposal made by the Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee concerning records set in the Athletes with Physical and Visual Disabilities Division at the Swimming and Diving State Finals.
7. The IHSA Assistant Executive Director for Swimming and Diving provided the committee with an update on the research initiated by the NFHS on backstroke ledges and pool depths. The NFHS Rules Committee is expected to review and consider this information regarding the potential for backstroke ledges in high school swimming.