



The IHSA governs the equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and activities that enrich the educational experience.

TO: IHSA Swimming/Diving Coaches, Sectional Meet Managers and Meet Referees
FR: Ron McGraw, IHSA Assistant Executive Director
DA: 9/14/13
RE: Relay Alternates at the IHSA State Swimming/Diving Finals

After communicating with several coaches and answering questions regarding the changes made to the IHSA Terms and Conditions for this season, I have decided it would be helpful to offer this interpretation to all. Following is an explanation for the relay alternate changes that came out of the last advisory meeting and an interpretation to help coaches understand those changes.

Please read below the actual change approved by the IHSA Swimming/Diving Advisory Committee, the AD Advisory Committee, The IHSA Staff and the IHSA Board of Directors. This information may be found online in the minutes from the April 18th, 2013 meeting and in the 13-14 Swimming and Diving Terms and Conditions.

As you will read in the rationale below, these changes were motivated by a problem related to the space we have available both on deck and in the spectator area. It is not the intention of this change to reduce the number of alternates to intentionally make substituting in a relay more difficult. It is understood that this change will in certain situations make it more difficult to substitute. It is also understood that past practice reveals that such situations will be limited in number. However, for the good of those actually competing, coaching and officiating on deck, and the affect it will have in reducing the number of spectator tickets, these changes are justified. If at some time in the future a larger venue becomes available for the conduct of these championships, then the question of additional relay alternates could be reviewed.

2. Item VIII-C - Relay Alternates

Currently reads:

C. A school may enter one relay team in each relay event. In the 200-yard and the 400yard freestyle relays, a school may enter four swimmers and a maximum of two alternate swimmers (6 names maximum). In the 200-yard medley relay four (4) swimmers and four (4) alternates are allowed (8 names maximum).

Recommendation: to read as follows

C. A school may enter into the IHSA Swimming and Diving State Series one relay team in each relay event. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the 400-yard freestyle relay, and the 200-yard medley relay, all eligible schools are allowed to enter four (4) swimmers and four (4) alternates (8 names maximum). Any school qualifying at least one of these relay for the state finals will be issued one (1) additional deck pass for the alternate of the schools choice. This single deck pass is to be issued to the individual selected by the coach to represent the team as the teams designated relay alternate. The other alternates listed in the schools List of Participants at the time of entering the State Series will not be provided deck passes. No alternate listed in the List of Participants will be provided spectator tickets for any day of the state final events. As always, any athlete listed as an alternate in a specific relay(s) can be used to swim in that relay.

NOTE: For all teams, the IHSA will use the athlete's names that actually competed at the sectional meet in any relay(s) for the purpose of determining quantities of participant's deck passes and spectator tickets that will be available to qualifying individuals at the state meet.

Rationale:

The number of alternates currently allowed on deck has had a negative effect on the conduct of the state meet for many years. Deck space is limited. Almost none of the alternates listed and allowed on deck are actually called on to actually swim in competition. The non-competing alternates currently account for approximately 30% of the athletes on deck. For many years the practice has been to provide (for sale) two (2) spectator tickets to all alternates. This practice has caused concerns related to the number of spectators meet management is required to allow in the spectator area based on the practice of providing 2 tickets to all qualifiers, including non-competing alternates. In recent years due to the ever increasing number of qualifiers, we have sold out or been on the brink of over selling the venue before we ever open the doors to the venue. This is an unacceptable situation that must be corrected immediately. While the number of pre-sold tickets could be reduced by simply creating more difficult qualifying standards that would be intended to reduce the field of qualifiers, this option is unnecessary. It would seem to be a better option to drastically reduce the number of alternates allowed on deck by all schools. Doing so reduces the overcrowding on deck and reduces the number of pre-sold spectator tickets.

Accepting this recommendation would also affect T&C V-D as follows:

D. The school's On-Line List of Participants, completely filled in and accurate, must be submitted online by noon on the Tuesday prior to the Seed Meeting so the Sectional manager has the necessary information for seeding purposes prior to the Sectional Seed Meeting. The Sectional manager will download the information once the deadline has passed. Managers may tentatively seed the meet in advance. Participants must have a time recorded in order to be entered. **Changes permissible at the Sectional Seeding Meeting:**

*Any Event Times

*Names in individual and relay events. A coach may change athletes in any events at the Seed Meeting. Any such changes must be made immediately upon arrival at the Seed Meeting prior to the seeding of the meet.

NOTE: For all teams, the IHSA will use the athlete's names that actually competed at the sectional meet in any relay(s) for the purpose of determining quantities of participant's deck passes and spectator tickets that will be available to qualifying individuals at the state meet.

Motion passed 8-0

Approved

Obviously for this to work each sectional manager must accurately report to the IHSA office the names of the swimmers actually competing in each relay that has qualified for state. This has not been asked of them in the past because we did not need that information. Sectional meet

managers and Meet Referees will be contacted to explain the importance of accurately reporting these names to the IHSA.

Following are two examples that should help coaches understand the newly adopted process for determining the number of deck passes that will be issued to any school. The number of deck passes will be determined from sectionals based upon the athletes that actually competed at the sectional meet.

Example 1

MD Relay qualified

swimmer A

swimmer B

swimmer C

swimmer D

Alt swimmer E

Alt swimmer F

Alt swimmer G

Alt swimmer H

Also Swimmer A and Swimmer B qualified for individual events.

The total number of deck passes would be 5. One for each of the qualifying swimmers (A & B), one for each of the swimmers that swam in the qualifying relay that did not make it in an individual event (C & D) and one as an alternate (could be either E, F, G or H).

Example 2

MD Relay qualified

swimmer A

swimmer B

swimmer C

swimmer D

Alt swimmer E

Alt swimmer F

Alt swimmer G

Alt swimmer H

Also Swimmer A, Swimmer B, and swimmer G qualified for individual events.

The total number of deck passes would be 6. One for each of the qualifying swimmers (A, B, & G), one for each of the swimmers that swam in the qualifying relay that did not make it in an individual event (C & D) and one as an alternate (could be E, F, or H).

In both of these examples we are only issuing deck passes to the swimmers that took part in the relay and did not receive a deck pass for qualifying in an individual event. The school is issued only one additional alternates pass as a result of their school qualifying in any, or in all three of the relays. Teams will not receive one additional pass for each relay they qualify for state.

