



October 14, 2026

NFHS Swimming and Diving Weekly Rule Interpretations

Re-Swims and Diving

Rules References: 4-2-2p, 5-4-4, 8-3-7, 9-6-2h, 9-6-4, 9-7-5d.

Appropriate Conditions for a Re-Swim

A re-swim is a highly unusual occurrence that cannot be resolved in other ways available to the referee. Head-to-head competition may not be appropriate in extenuating circumstances when a re-swim would benefit some and not others in a heat and a re-swim should be offered to individual swimmers if an interference affected only individual swimmers. NFHS Swimming and Diving rules include as one of its foundational precepts the notion that when points are at stake towards identifying a team winner in competition, then the athletes who are eligible to score points in that portion of the event should all be in the water at the same time competing head-to-head for those points. An athlete should succeed in obtaining points from the common group only if the accomplishment is demonstrated in the same framework as the others who are likewise hoping to gain points from that same group. For example, we segregate those who earn championship points from those who may earn consolation points with our statement that the athlete may earn no more points from their effort in consolation than the greatest amount available for the consolation heat (7-1-5). In any heats/finals format competition, officials must be familiar with the NFHS Swimming and Diving rules pertaining to Rule 4-2-2p in order to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for high school student athletes.

SITUATION 1: During the preliminary heats of the 50-yard freestyle event in the state championship meet, the backplate/wedge in Lane 6 come loose and flies off the back of the platform, severely affecting the start for that swimmer. The referee advises the coach and athlete that he will be permitted to re-swim the event and have that time inserted into the array to determine the swimmers who will advance to the finals. The coach indicates that this swimmer will be the leadoff in the team's 200-yard freestyle relay and asks that that time be used for the 50-yard freestyle re-swim. The referee allows this. **RULING:** Permissible. A re-swim is appropriate under Rule 4-2-2p; the unfairness in the original heat is obvious. Referees have considerable discretion in arranging re-swims. Since the leadoff time in a relay is an official time usable for other purposes (8-3-7), it would be permissible to utilize that time for the purposes noted. A separate heat could also be scheduled for the swimmer to achieve the necessary time. The only restriction would be that the rest period required for swim-offs be observed for the re-swim as well (Rule 5-4-4). **COMMENT:** Should other swimmers in the original heat be permitted to re-swim? Since no apparent unfairness occurred for the other swimmers, the re-swim should be confined

to the affected swimmer only. When a re-swim is offered the results from the event should be held back and not posted on any platform, until the results of the re-swim have been entered into the event.

SITUATION 2: Nearing completion of the final length of the 100-yard backstroke, the flag line nearest the starting end breaks and the flags fall into the water. Lanes 4 and 5 have already finished the race, and Lanes 3, 6 and 7 were past the flags but were able to finish the race unimpeded. Only Lanes 1, 7 and 8 became entangled in the flags. The referee determines that the swimmers in 1, 7 and 8 will be offered the opportunity to re-swim the race at a suitable time later in the preliminary session. **RULING:** Acceptable. The official should offer a re-swim to swimmers in lanes 1, 7 & 8. It would be their choice to accept or decline the re-swim. If the swimmer accepts the re-swim the results of the re-swim would be final. If the swimmer declines the re-swim the results of the original swim would be official for that swimmer. The swimmers should compete in their original lanes. Proper rest should be provided to all swimmers. The method of timing used could be similar to the swim off procedures. (5-4-4)

SITUATION 3: During the performance of 401C, someone on deck sneezes loudly as the diver is emerging from her tuck position. The noise may have caused her to alter her position, and she enters the water awkwardly. The diver approaches the referee and requests permission to repeat the dive. The referee instructs the judges to score the dive and takes no other action. **RULING:** Incorrect. Since the disturbance apparently affected the completion of the dive, the referee must determine an appropriate response to the apparent interference with the diver. **COMMENT:** Initially, the referee must differentiate between whether the noise was intended as assistance to the diver (calling her out of the tuck), or was a condition creating inadvertent interference with the diver's performance. In the former case, the dive would be failed (Rule 9-7-5d). In the latter, the diver may repeat the dive by request to the diving referee (Rule 9-6-2h). The repeating of the dive should occur prior to any further competition.

SITUATION 4: The fourth diver in the competition has just completed her dive in the second round when a gust of wind scatters dive sheets. The sheets are not reorganized accurately, and the announcer reads the second dive for diver #7. Diver #5 steps onto the board and correctly performs the dive just announced. **RULING:** Diver #5's dive should be scored and the scores recorded. This is clearly an announcer's error, governed by Rule 9-6-4 and the referee must correct matters immediately. **COMMENT:** In situations like this, the diving referee's discretion is broad. Once the dive sheets are properly rearranged, Diver #5 should perform her second dive and competition continued thereafter. If Diver #5 has the same dive on her list in a subsequent round, the referee could permit the diver to retain those scores or permit #5 to repeat the performance at the proper place on her list and use the newly achieved scores. The diver should be given options that least disrupt and least inconvenience her participation.