



October 8, 2025

SITUATION ONE: For diver A, the announcer incorrectly announces the 3rd round dive in the second round. The diver performs the announced dive. The diving referee records the scores and advises the announcer and desk, as well as the diver and his coach, that the diver will perform his 2nd round dive during Round 3. **RULING:** Acceptable procedure. See 9-6-4b.

Coaches: Coaches (and officials) should instruct divers to listen closely to what is announced. If the announcement is inaccurate, the diver and/or coach should immediately request the diving referee or announcer to correct the error.

Officials: Officials have several options in the case of an announcer error of this sort. Rule 9-6-4 provides those options; officials should endeavor to correct the situation in the least disruptive manner possible, without penalizing the diver. The diver should have the choice of keeping the score for the announced or performing the correct second dive.

SITUATION TWO: Two of the three judges on the panel are scoring all dives in the 4 ½ to 5 ½ range, regardless of the skill of the individual diver being scored. The diving referee temporarily suspends the competition and instructs the judges regarding the scale of points (see 9-7-2) and how it is to be applied to the dives performed. **RULING:** Appropriate action. Rule 9-6-2b requires the diving referee to review the basis and scale for awarding points. This should be done prior to the start of the diving competition but can certainly be repeated as necessary during the competition.

State Association: State associations should provide information to their schools about resources available to train diving judges. This information should also be made available to officials' organizations for their use in training the officials who will oversee diving competition.

Coaches: Coaches should recognize that successful diving programs require not only skilled athletes and capable coaches but also a cadre of trained judges who will participate in the adjudication of their competition. Coaches should recruit parents and/or school staff and direct them to their state association who can provide information and opportunity to learn and improve their judging skills.

Officials: Officials' organizations must offer adequate training to their members, who will most likely function as diving referees during competition. Utilization of NFHS education resources can provide initial information, and officials' groups must tap into actual diving competition to create on-the-job training opportunities.

SITUATION THREE: With the (obviously inappropriate and horribly misguided) motivation of rewarding divers for their preparation and effort, one of the judges is scoring all dives as 9 ½ or 10. The Diving Referee provides information to the judge regarding the point scale for diving. However, the judge continues awarding inflated scores. Therefore, the Diving Referee replaces the judge on the panel (at the end of the round) for the duration of the competition. **RULING:** Correct action. The Diving Referee has general supervisory duties and may take such action deemed necessary to assure a proper competition.

State Association: See #2 above.

Coaches: See #2 above.

Officials: See #2 above.

SITUATION FOUR: The diver performs Dive #103B subsequent to the announcer's declaration that the diver will be performing #103C. The referee declares the dive failed. **RULING:** Incorrect. A dive performed in an incorrect POSITION shall be considered unsatisfactory and awarded a maximum of 2 points.

Coaches: Before signing the athlete's dive list, coaches should carefully verify that the dives listed are not only within the competence of the diver but correctly reflect the manner in which the diver will perform each dive.

Officials: Officials must differentiate carefully between incidents where a diver performs a dive of a different NUMBER than listed/announced, and a dive performed in a different POSITION. The letter which follows the dive number indicates position (see 9-5-6). The official description for the dive consists of the dive number and position letter (see 9-3-5).

Resources

Judging Springboard Diving: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses?role=official>

Swimming and Diving Points of Emphasis: <https://nfhs.org/sports/swimming-diving/resources>

NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Book