

Provide Deck Space for Officials

NFHS swimming and diving officials work in swimming facilities with a wide variety of pool configurations which sometimes necessitate creative ways to officiate strokes. Schools are reminded of the importance of officials to be provided space on the deck that allows for free movement during the swimming event. It is recommended that a minimum of 3 feet be established for officials on the deck. In addition, adequate space should be provided for coaches and competitors to safely move about on deck. The referee shall determine the positioning and jurisdiction of all deck officials, which depend on the number of officials being used and the pool configuration. Officials may need to ask meet management for assistance in keeping a clear path to move up and down the sides and ends of the pool.

Diving Area Safety

Rule 9-1-1 states the diving pool may be separate from or part of the swimming pool and the following standards for clearance are recommended for one-meter diving, with the measurement from the center of board to pool side wall a distance of 10 feet. Risk minimization and athlete safety should be a high priority. Divers, by rule are required to dive in front of the diving board and judges are instructed to reduce scores accordingly when they fail to do so. In addition, it is recommended that facilities management and officials remove any obstacles that may pose a risk (lane lines, backstroke flags, other athletes, etc.) as best practices and to minimize risk.

COMMENTS ON THE 2022-23 RULES CHANGES

2-3-1, 2-4-4, 2-4 TABLE — All language addressing end wall height is now located in Rule 2-3-1. Nationally recognized standards for newly constructed or renovated facilities after January 1, 2023, provides consistency for high school swimming. Facilities constructed prior to this date will remain in compliance in accordance with current specifications and will not require prior mutual consent of the competing teams unless state association regulations determine otherwise. After January 1, 2023, pools undergoing renovation or repair that makes repainting or replacing of tile feasible, should utilize the updated pool markings. Because "old" and "new" pools will be marked differently, it is important that one aspect of warm up include becoming aware of where the markings are in relationship to the end walls so that competitors are able to turn safely.