

TISDO TRAINING  
for  
SWIMMING OFFICIALS  
2024 - 2025

**WELCOME**

This course is presented for the annual training of  
new and returning

Texas High School Swimming Officials

by the

Texas Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Officials' Board.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- ❖ TISDO is the official organization for Texas High School Swimming and Diving Officials and is the only organization for Swimming and Diving recognized by the Texas UIL.
- ❖ **All UIL Sports must use Dragonfly Max to register and conduct testing for sports officials. This company is only company endorsed by the NFHS.**
- ❖ If an official works more than one NFHS sport, it allows “cross registration.”
- ❖ Registration and Testing opens September 1, 2024 and closes at midnight, October 31, 2024. Do not wait until the last minute. If you are having trouble, contact a TISDO Board Member. Information for Board Members can be found on the TISDO Website **[www.tisdo.org](http://www.tisdo.org)**.
- ❖ Please register using the **NAME YOU WISH TO HAVE ON YOUR BADGE!** This is not a government document. If you have no middle initial, just leave it blank. Address changes – please notify Janet Cranmer.
- ❖ It is a 2-part registration: NFHS costs \$25 plus credit card fees. TISDO is \$15 this year plus credit card fees.
- ❖ The correct test is also on Dragonfly Max and consists of 50 random swimming questions. It is NOT found on the NFHS page!
- ❖ ***TISDO Board Members are your contacts for questions or concerns. Do not contact the UIL or NFHS please!***

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Rules books are available as part of an officials' yearly registration payment. Board members distribute books to members either through **clinics** or by **members contacting a board member to have a book provided. Members will also receive a digital copy of a rules book when they register through Dragon Fly.**
- ❖ Officials who register each receive a name tag ordered for them **upon the closing of registration each year.** Contact Janet Cranmer with name or address changes.
- ❖ The name tags vary in color by year. Again, please sure to use **the name you wish on your name tag in your registration information.**

## **TISDO BOARD**

- The TISDO Board is made up of 7 certified swimming officials and 1 certified diving official, the Swimming Rules Interpreter and Diving Interpreter. The Interpreter positions are appointed by the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) which governs High School Sports in Texas.
- Board elections are held each year for a two-year term with half of the Board being elected each year. This annual meeting is the Sunday following the 5A/6A State Meet in Austin, Texas.
- The TISDO Board was created by the UIL with the Mission of the Board being to provide training and communication for members providing consistency across the State of Texas.

## **Rule Changes vs Interpretations**

Rule Changes and Editorial Changes for 2024-25 by NFHS can be found each year in the Rules Book. This season, they are on page 3 of the 2024-2025 Rules Book

Points of Emphasis for 2024-2025 can be found on page 4

Interpretations for each year are provided by the UIL in areas that have proven to be “gray areas” or not clearly defined or called with consistency by officials in Texas. Gloria Schuldt provides the Swimming Interpretations for 2024-2025. Penny DiPomazio provides the Diving Interpretations for the 2024-2025.

### **Swimming Interpretations 2024-2025**

- ▶ Four Relay Officials shall be used for all Championship Meets and shall be positioned at the outside of lanes 1 and 8 and on the inside next to lanes 4 and 5. Relay take of officials may NOT stand next to each other on the outside lanes.
- ▶ Only a Relay Take Off Official or Meet Referee may DQ relay swimmers 2,3, or 4 for taking off without a foot in front of the wedge/fin. Both feet may NOT be on the wedge/fin for take offs. Rule change/clarification on page 70-71. Toes only may **now** count as being in front of the wedge.
- ▶ Watches may now be worn if they do not transmit information to the swimmer. Read page 4 Points of Emphasis Electronic Devices.

## Pay for Officials

- ▶ Swimming and Diving Officials are to be paid for meets with 4 or more teams. Meets with less than 4 teams are not recognized as actual meets by the UIL.
- ▶ Many School Districts now pay for all meets, but this is the school district's option. The current pay structure is available on [www.tisdo.org](http://www.tisdo.org). Any amount above the minimum listed is allowed if approved by the individual school district. This includes any mileage (\$.67/mile), meals, and hotels that districts wish to include.

Referee - \$75

Stroke and Turn, Starter - \$50

## Official Uniform for Officials

- Official dress for Texas is khaki pants or skirts/skortis for women with white sneakers and a white polo for dual meets or preliminaries / navy blue polos for finals at championship meets. *Meet referees may ask for a different uniform on occasion (shorts, Halloween meet dress, etc).*
- The UIL Logo may NOT be used to create shirts for officials. The TISDO logo is allowed to be used without permission by anyone wishing to create a shirt.
- Official UIL shirts are a gift of the UIL to officials who work the State Meets.
- Please wear your current official TISDO name badge for each season. Since registration does not close until October 31<sup>st</sup>, officials will not receive their 2024 badge until approximately 2-4 weeks after registration closes due to vetting 800 names and manufacturing/mailing by the company. Double check your address when you register! If you move, you run the risk of not receiving your badge.
- Tools of the trade: Rules Book, whistle, pen, pencil, duct tape to mark deck, bell for 500 free, relay ballots/slips, DQ slips, deck position work sheet.
- No phones on deck! If you must take a call, please step off the deck.
- No alcohol or tobacco

## **Role of Officials in High School Swimming**

NFHS/UIIL/TISDO Officials are certified to perform all officials' duties upon completion of registration and testing, passing by at least 80% in 5 attempts. WHY?

If high school officials had to train and test separately for each position, we would not have certified officials at our meets. You may find yourself working with 6 officials, 4 officials, 3 officials, 2 officials or all by yourself!

While it is not ideal to work short handed, in Texas, unlike other States, our meets are not used for swimmers to qualify for Post Season Meets such as State! The times they achieve are not used except for school records or pool records at their school unless it is a meet which is being "OBSERVED" for USA Swimming. These are usually at TISCA, District, Region, and State, and require at least 4 USA Officials to be present to make USA DQs. High School regular season meets are used as training opportunities for swimmers, coaches, and officials in Texas.



## Meet Conditions

### Types of Meets

Dual Meets are conducted between 2 teams

Double Dual Meets – Team A vs Team B, Team A vs Team C

Triple Dual Meet can be added to be Team A vs Team B, Team A vs Team C, Team B vs Team C

Multi Team Meets are 3 or more all competing for the same points. Not required to use championship format.

UIL rules – an actual meet that counts against the team's total has 4 teams or more! Usually these are non-championship meets or they may use championship format. Invitationals and TISCA are these types of meets. Always check format stated in meet invitation.

Referee or designee – check equipment: backstroke flags, 500 free counters, loose blocks, 15- meter markings on deck

- No backstroke flags – no backstroke or IM will take place and points go to visiting swimmers entered. Pg 15
- Not enough 500 free cards, visitors get cards. If not enough cards for the visitors, the visitors get points, but the event may be swum. Pg 15

## Entries

- 4 events total – no more than 2 individual events per swimmer
- In Non-Championship Meets, swimmer is not officially entered until they go to the block (coaches may change entries) pg 23, 3.2.4 Otherwise, missing an event counts as an event DQ
- Championship Meets – once officially entered, the swimmer must swim the event unless they scratch (the meet) or do a Declared False Start (DFS). Coaches misuse the word “scratch.” Coaches may not remove a swimmer from an event and enter them in a relay or another event after the entries are turned officially submitted.
  - ❑ If a swimmer misses their event in a championship meet, the swimmer is disqualified from further competition, but he/she may swim in events they already qualified in earlier for finals.
  - ❑ Missing an event means they are not behind the block area. If back there, but does not step up, it is a delay of meet and a DQ of the event only.
- Relays may be entered as School Name A. Names of the 4 swimmers must be submitted prior to the start of the race in all meets. Up to 8 names may be listed on the entry.
  - ❑ Any relay swimmer on the relay who does not report to the blocks in a championship meet is out of the meet and the relay team is disqualified.
  - ❑ The first swimmer is listed first on the card; if changed, the coach must notify the referee by the end of the event.
  - ❑ However, there is NO PENALTY for not listing the names in the correct order. (Timers check names and place in order.) pg 20

## Uniforms

### FOR ALL MEETS! Read pg 24-29! Too many violations at Regions!! Make this known early!

- ❖ 1 suit, should not extend beyond shoulders for girls, shall not extend beyond the waist for boys, nor beyond knees for boys or girls.
- ❖ No zippers (girls' water polo uniforms have zippers), or ties except for boys at waist
- ❖ Religious suits may provide full body coverage and fasteners such as a zipper. If the suit is in doubt, let the swimmer swim and notify the UIL or Gloria Schuldt.
- ❖ Jewelry IS NOT a violation. Watches may be worn if not transmitting information to the swimmer. Tattoos are not a violation unless inappropriate.
- ❖ Suits are to be of woven, permeable material with 1 non-permeable name or logo within 9 square inches.
- ❖ Suit and cap are part of the uniform.
- ❖ Tape may be used with the appropriate letter documentation from medical Dr, chiropractor, advanced practice nurse or school trainer. Divers may wear tape. Uniform rules are different for divers.
- ❖ Suit violations can be found before start of meet. These can be found anytime during the meet, but notify the coach only, do not talk to the swimmer!
- ❖ A suit violation of a swimmer seen AFTER the long whistle results in a DQ after event is finished.
- ❖ Suit or cap may have competitor's name, school name, school nickname, or school logo. NO OTHER TEAM NAME or words AT ANY MEET!
- ❖ Single manufacturing logo 2.25 x 2.25 unstretched
- ❖ One American flag 2 x 3 inches
- ❖ Other patches or commemorative/memorial patches require UIL approval.
- ❖ World Aquatics mark is not a logo

## Conduct

**No participant, team personnel, or coach shall display unsporting conduct including any act the referee deems unsporting including but not limited to:**

- Insulting, derogatory remarks, gestures including showing disgust with officials' decisions
- Interfering with meet officials in their duties
- Deck changing before, after or during the meet
- Electronic devices used to transmit information to competitors during a race or dive
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or under the influence of a controlled substance from the arrival until departure from the competition site
- Any on site shaving before, during, or after the meet
- **PENALTY – OUT OF ALL FURTHER COMPETITION**

## **Excessive Unsportsmanlike Conduct from Team Personnel**

- Results in ejection from the meet. Referee contacts host Administrator present and stops meet until ejection is complete. This includes spectators, timers, managers, coaches.

## **Unacceptable Conduct**

- Willfully not following directions of meet official
- Use of profanity even if not directed at anyone
- Swimming in the wrong lane or heat
- Interfering with a swimmer in a lane
- Contacting the bottom of the pool and advancing (walking/hopping)
- Not leaving the pool promptly when instructed to do so

Examples: pg 32/33

## **Unacceptable Conduct pg. 32-33**

- Out of the meet - Entering the pool by a non-participating team member, that person is out of the meet, rest of team in that heat is disqualified. (diving in late to block, jumping in to retrieve 500 free card)
- Disqualified from event – entering the water BEFORE a race without the referee's permission
- Re-entering the water during a race without permission (sitting with weight on deck and getting back in while others are still swimming)
- Re-entering during a race, the competitor is Dqed from that event
- Re-entering after the race is completed (all at wall) they are out of their next event.
- EXAMPLE- Relay swimmers jumping in to congratulate team. However, if event is over and it is the last event, remember there is no is next event

## **Officials' Duties**

### **Referee pg 38-39**

- ❖ 30 minutes BEFORE Meet – check equipment and markings.
- ❖ Conduct pre-meet officials' meeting to clarify duties and jurisdiction.
- ❖ Pre-meet coaches' meeting with starter, captains/co-captains, and coaches
  - Review rule changes/interpretations for season
  - Meet procedures- type of meet
  - Any special circumstances or suit issues/religious suits being worn
  - Letters for tape
- ❖ Order a race re-swum if there is an unfair condition at start
- ❖ Resolve disagreement – referee's decision is final
- ❖ Within 1 hour after meet, sign the score sheet; correct errors within 48 hours

## Starter pg 40-41

- Follow rules for fair starts, whistle preparatory commands pg 102, note second whistle for backstroke
- Ring bell over lead swimmer with one lap / 2 lengths plus 5 yards (start at the backstroke flags and ring until leaving backstroke flags) remaining in 500 free
- Note: protocol allows for starter to count laps, BUT in NFHS, one timer in each lane is responsible for counting laps. May use heat sheet, but the counting cards are NOT official.

## Stroke Judges pg 41

- Positioned on each side of the pool to walk stroke with jurisdiction from end wall to end wall
- Hand must be raised to signal all DQs – notify referee

## Turn Judges / Finish Judges pg 42, 43

- View of end wall (between lanes on technical strokes, outside corners on freestyle)
- Jurisdiction begins with last stroke before turn and first stroke out after turn
- Duties may be combined at discretion for referee



## Relay Take Off Officials pg 42- 43

- Positioned at starting end on outside of lanes to view feet then drop eyes to hand of incoming swimmer. These officials must also observe that at least one foot is in contact with the platform/block surface in front of the wedge/fin for take offs from swimmers 2,3,4. Hand is to be raised. Toes only are not the foot.
- Dual confirmation is recommended for all meets. Dual confirmation **MUST** be used at Championship meets with 4 relay take off officials positioned on the outside of lanes 1 and 8 and one each at lane 4 and 5. These work “inside / out” with written relay slips only. These should be collected by the referee or “an appointed chief judge” if used. Only the SIDE judge raises his/her hand upon the entry of the last swimmer in the heat in the water. (If directed to do so, the referee may ask all relay take off judges raise their hands especially when RTO Machines are in use. If relay slips match, there is a DQ of the relay. Sign your slip. Mark correct lane and swimmer.
- For Non Championship Meets – 1 official may look at 4 lanes and 1 may look at the other 4 OR they may do dual confirmation across all lanes.

## **Meet Management pg 44 – 47**

- Order of events – Diving may be moved to first, after 50 free, or at end of meet.
- The 15-minute break after the 50 free may be shortened but not eliminated with at least 10 minutes in the water for short warm up even if there is no diving.

## **Seeding / Lane Assignments pg. 47-50**

## **Qualifying Procedures pg. 50-52**

## **Timing and Judging pg. 53-57**

## **Scoring pg. 57-59**

## Swimming Events

### Starts

- ✓ Forward starts foot/feet at front of the block with stationary position at “Take your mark.”
- ✓ In water starts are allowed with permission of referee/starter with one hand on the wall or platform.
- ✓ Backstroke starts – enter feet first with both hands in contact with the end wall or starting block. Feet may not be above or curled over the end of the pool / gutter. Starter and deck ref usually check for this. Referee may designate turn judges to check this then step back.
- ✓ False Start occurs when:
  - ❑ Delay reporting to the start or starting position
  - ❑ Not stepping in feet first in backstroke
  - ❑ Not remaining stationary at start – Starter may release with command to “stand.” If swimmers fall into the pool, only the swimmer who was not stationary is assigned the false start.
  - ❑ Leaving the block prior to the signal
  - ❑ Championship meet requires the false start to be in writing between referee and starter.
  - ❑ Heat MAY be recalled if the start is disrupted or unfair.

## Individual Events

### **Backstroke pg 63-64**

The swimmers should enter the water on the LONG whistle. They must enter the water feet first. If they enter by diving into the pool, the DQ is a false start. We DO not measure how far out the step/jump into the pool.

The referee blows a second whistle when the last swimmer's head surfaces. It is not a call necessarily to the side but rather that everyone has surfaced.

Any arms or legs stroke may be used, but swimmer must remain on his/her back with shoulders not past the vertical (180 / perpendicular) except during the turn.

Head up by the 15-meter mark

Backstroke flip turn is not required

Once past the flags, the swimmer may kick or glide into the wall with or without turning over on their stomach, touch the wall, and leave on their back/ not past vertical.

If the swimmer rotates past the vertical onto their breast for their turn, it may be accompanied by a single arm pull or double arm pull but not free style strokes.

The finish requires the stated distance with contact with the end wall or touch pad. Once past the backstroke flags at the finish, the swimmer may be completely resubmerged.

On the IM, the finish rules for the backstroke are in place prior to beginning the breaststroke. See Gretchen Walsh's DQ during the 200 IM at the Olympics!

## Breaststroke pg 64-65

- The swimmers step up on the long whistle. (Good to get them used to this early in the season.)
- The swimmer remains on the breast except during the turn.
- At the start and after the turn, the swimmer may take one full pullout stroke to finish at the side/hipline, followed by one kick while the swimmer is under water. This may be one dolphin kick done any time prior to the second stroke.
- What is UNDULATION? If the wave of the water carries the swimmer's feet/legs with the water, it is not a second dolphin kick. You should see a bending of the legs/feet snapping as a dolphin kick to be a second kick. On a turn this is also true.
- The feet can get tangled at the turn and in untangling, they could do something that looks like a dolphin or flutter kick. That is a kick! As with all calls....if you see it, call it! From the first meet to the last. Be consistent with calling so swimmers know before high stakes meets. There is no "learning period" where you ignore calls.

## Breaststroke (continued)

- There is NO 15 METER MARK IN BREASTSTROKE! For this reason, the side judges should start at the starting end of the pool, not at the 15-meter mark. Remember, the side judges get end wall to end wall jurisdiction. The Rules Book does not automatically give the first stroke out to the finish judge. This is usually due to the finish judges standing back beside the timers and they may not see the first stroke or kick! However, the referee MAY give the first stroke out jurisdiction to the finish judges. This should be discussed prior to the meet.
- The head must break the surface of the water at some time during the stroke cycle. It may be just the top.
- The elbows must remain under water with arms moving simultaneously.
- No scissor kicks, flutter kick or downward butterfly kick may happen during the stroke cycle (arms followed by leg kick).
- The finish and turn involves a two hand, simultaneous touch, above or below the water, not necessarily in the same plane.
- At the starts and at the turns, the swimmer shall be (on side)at or past the vertical towards the breast when the feet leave the wall.

## Butterfly pg. 65

- The forward start is used.
- The body must remain on the breast (or at the perpendicular) at the start and after each turn. The head must be above water at the 15-meter mark at the start and following each turn.
- Only one arm stroke is allowed at the start and after each turn under water, but multiple kicks are allowed.
- The stroke requires arms move over the water simultaneously; the kick involves feet and legs to move up and down simultaneously in the vertical plane (not horizontal plane.)
- The swimmer must have their head up at the 15 meter mark at the start and after each turn.
- The finish and turn touch requires a two-hand simultaneous, separated touch, at, above or below water.
- What is an underwater recovery? Once the arms begin to pull back, the swimmer must complete the full arm stroke over the top of the water. They may not begin to pull back then thrust their arms forward.

## Freestyle pg. 65-66

- The forward start must be used. Swimmers step up on the blocks at the long whistle. New swimmers may ask to go off the side or start in the water!
- Any body position or stroke or kick may be used. (On 100 freestyle, you may see butterfly, etc). This is legal UNLESS it is the final stroke of the Individual Medley or Medley Relay.
- The swimmer must touch the wall on the turns with some part of their body, On the 200 Individual Medley or Medley relay, the turn requires the swimmer to be on their breast or past the vertical prior to any propulsion motion by arms or legs. Thus, if the swimmer leaves the wall on their back, they may not kick or stroke (propulsion) until on their breast. (Lochte Turn)
- The swimmer must have their head up at the 15-meter mark at the start and each turn and remain above the water except at turns and finishes.
- Swimmers may stop and start in freestyle only. They may also push off the bottom without walking forward and be legal. Pg 66 Situation 8.2



## Individual Medley pg. 66 Art 5

- ▶ The Individual Medley begins with the forward start.
- ▶ Competitors swim 50 yards/meters of each stroke starting with butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, then freestyle.
- ▶ Each finish is a legal finish for the stroke being swum (finish on their back not past vertical, then turn for breaststroke, etc.) *Rules apply for 100 IM for other meet formats such as jr high.*
- ▶ Freestyle leg may not be a repetition of any of the other 3 strokes done LEGALLY (example: breaststroke arms with butterfly legs is legal).

## Medley Relay pg. 69 - 70

- Medley relay involves each swimmer completing 50 yards/meters of each stroke starting with backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle. Finish rules for the strokes apply.
- ▶ Look at the take off swimmer's feet, then drop eyes to hand for touch if you are a relay take off swimmer. Remember, side judges have end wall to end wall and can call the finish touches for each stroke.
- ▶ For ALL relays, the 2,3,4<sup>th</sup> swimmers must have one foot, not toes only, in front of the wedge/fin on the block.

# TISDO.org

## Things to remember/protocols

TISDO exists to be sure we have consistency across the State of Texas!

If in doubt, go home from the meet, call / email a TISDO Board Member or Interpreter.

A mistake at a meet, while unfortunate, it is not the end of anyone's season! It is a learning opportunity to get it right next time!

Find a mentor if you are new!

Review your Rules Book prior to every meet! Experience is great, review is necessary! Read the Situations carefully!

New Rule from UIL: We must have enough officials at Championship Meets to have 4 Relay Take Off Officials!

The TOES are NOW considered the FOOT for relay take offs and must be in front of the wedge.

**WE NEED YOU!!! COME VOLUNTEER TO GET EXPERIENCE!**

Meets have 4 teams regardless of how the meet is scored. We are paid when 4 teams are present!

Try to work a Championship Meet (TISCA).

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## **In conclusion:**

- ❖ Remember: You have from September 1 through October 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight to complete your registration and test. No exceptions!
- ❖ If you have trouble with registration or testing, contact your nearest Board Member. Go to Dragonfly Max. Enter your information. Use the name spelled how you want it on your badge! If you are new, you will go to TIER 1 for NFHS and add your sport (swimming). It costs \$25 plus credit card fee. UNCLICK the \$10 fee for their magazine! TIER 2 organization is TISDO! It costs \$15 plus credit card fee. Total is \$46.22 Or so....
- ❖ Access your test on Dragonfly Max. It is swimming only. We are the only State with no diving certification mandatory and who allows 5 attempts to pass thanks to the TISDO Board!
- ❖ If you have questions or concerns, contact your nearest Board Member, not the UIL or NFHS!
- ❖ As a certified official, you are a member of TISDO, not TISCA, which is for coaches.

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## TISDO Board

Jim Holcomb as Chair - jmsd12@gmail

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- If you have trouble with registration or testing, contact your nearest Board Member.
- If you have questions or concerns, contact your nearest Board Member, not the UIL.
- As a certified official, you are a member of TISDO, not TISCA, which is for coaches.
- You may use this TISDO logo for shirts! You may not use the UIL Logo.

## ► **Questions?**