



Florida High School Athletic Association  
2007-08 Swimming & Diving  
**Bulletin**

Rules, Revisions and Interpretations

Vol. 3



**2007 FHSAA STATE SERIES DATES**

Districts-Monday-Saturday, October 15-20

Regions-Thursday-Saturday, October 25-27

Finals at Central Florida YMCA Aquatic & Family Center (Orlando)

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 1-3

**SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE (UPDATED for 2007-08)**

ALL OFFICIALS MUST READ THIS MESSAGE TO CAPTAINS AND HEAD COACHES PRIOR TO GAMES/MEETS AT ALL LEVELS.

To Captains:

The Florida High School Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by athletes and coaches. Violators will be ejected. It is strongly suggested that you remind teammates and coaches of this policy.

Additionally, this is a reminder that athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry during competition.

To Coaches:

Coaches, do you certify that your athletes are properly equipped and will demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior during this contest?

Good luck and have a great contest!

**Florida High School Athletic Association**

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## 2007-08 NFHS SWIMMING & DIVING RULES CHANGES

**RULE 1-3-4:** Further defines that a race officially begins when the swimmers are called to the blocks by the referee's long whistle under both verbal and whistle commands.

**RULE 3-3-4:** Clarifies how illegal attire and jewelry shall be handled by the official and more clearly describes the wearing of a medical alert item and a religious medal. The NOTE includes the procedure the official follows when illegal attire or jewelry is observed being worn during a heat/round of competition.

**RULE 3-5-3:** Penalty 2 New c States a specific penalty of disqualification for a competitor in diving who enters the water without the diving referee's permission.

**RULE 8-1-3:** Penalties 1 and 2 Changes the current order of infractions and false starts to reflect the order in which the action would occur and revises the penalties to accurately reflect the no recall false start in non-championship and championship meets.

**RULE 8-1-6:** Penalty Dual confirmation may be used in any meet for a false start; therefore, the phrase, "In championship meets," was deleted.

**RULE 8-2-2(c):** Clarifies the dolphin kick may be executed after the initiation of the arm stroke and before the breaststroke kick.

**RULE 9-3-6:** New Penalty 1 Restricts a change in the position of a voluntary dive if the change would make the true DD total for the five voluntary dives exceed 9.0 and should the change not be detected before the next dive(s) being performed a potential of a failed dive exists.

**RULE 9-5-1:** Allows the diver to have the arms in the position of his/her choice for the forward starting position.

**RULE 9-6-3(b):** Note Eliminates the announcer displaying awards given by the diving judges and includes the option when an electronic scoreboard is used, with all judges' awards displayed, for the announcer to announce only the total Award received for the dive.

Protocol for Automatic Relay Judging Changes when the relay takeoff judge is to signal an observed violation to coincide with the requirement in 4-6-4c, "last competitor is in the water before signaling"

### GUIDELINES FOR MEET WARM-UP NFHS Rules Book (page 5)

It is recommended that schools follow the NFHS Guidelines.

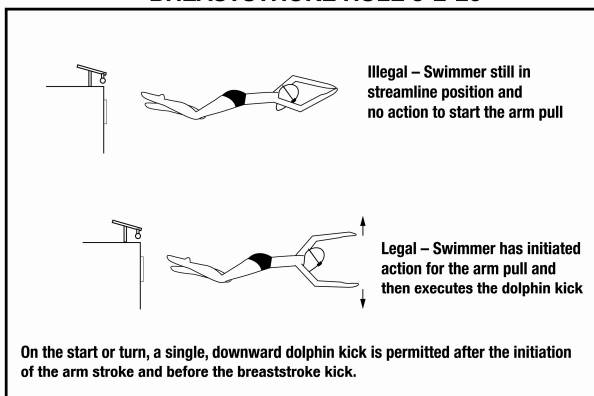
Prior to any athletes entering the water to begin warm-ups, there shall be a meeting that includes head coaches and captains from each team and officials (if available).

Criteria to be reviewed, but not limited to:

1. Warm-up procedure
2. Swimmers entering water
3. Specify one-way spring lanes
4. Specify lanes for circle swimming
5. Specify pace lanes
6. Specify lanes for relay practice
7. Coaches position
8. Coaches meeting pool procedure
9. Jewelry restrictions

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#### DOLPHIN KICK CLARIFICATION BREASTSTROKE RULE 8-2-2c



**2007-08 NFHS SWIMMING SITUATIONS AND RULINGS**

**SITUATION 1:** Team A is the host school and has a diving board that is less than 16 feet in length. Both coaches would like to mutually agree to use the board for competition. The meet referee does not allow the event to be conducted and points are distributed under Rule 9-1 Penalty 1.

**RULING:** Correct procedure.

**COMMENT:** The length of the board is an essential equipment requirement. Mutual consent may not be used to include the event in competition. (Rule 2 Note, 2-2-2j)

**SITUATION 2:** A swimmer and her/his coach have already been notified of a jewelry or illegal attire violation and the swimmer told he/she would not be allowed to compete in another event while wearing jewelry or illegal attire. The swimmer is observed by the referee continuing to wear jewelry or illegal attire: a) after being called to the blocks for a subsequent event, but before the starting signal is sounded; b) after the starting signal is sounded to begin a subsequent race.

**RULING:** a) The referee should release all swimmers from their starting position and disqualify the swimmer committing the violation from the event and further competition. b) After the event is completed, the referee disqualifies the swimmer from the event and further competition.

**COMMENT:** This swimmer is being disqualified for unsporting conduct for not following the directive of the referee. If an unsporting conduct penalty is observed before the starting signal has been given, the swimmer should be disqualified and not allowed to compete in the event. (3-3-4, 3-5-1)

**SITUATION 3:** Team A is hosting a very large invitational meet. The competition is being conducted in a championship meet format. In pre-meet materials and at the coaches meeting, the use of dual confirmation was emphasized. The coach of Team B objects as this is not a culminating meet and not classified as a championship meet.

**RULING:** Dual confirmation may be used at any meet.

**COMMENT:** Rules 4-6-4 and 8-1-6 Penalty permit the use of dual confirmation and do not limit its use

to only championship meets. Unless state association policy states otherwise, a championship meet format can be used in other than a culminating meet. If doing so, the host school should include this information in all pre-meet materials and at the coaches meeting, and should discuss specifically with meet officials. (4-6-4, 8-1-6Penalty)

**SITUATION 4:** In the breaststroke event, the swimmer has a natural style to let his/her hands slightly drift apart while in a streamline position following the start and turns. The swimmer then initiates the arm pull, followed by a single downward butterfly kick, then a breaststroke kick. The official allows this style.

**RULING:** Correct procedure.

**COMMENT:** During, or at the end of the arm pull-down of the first stroke after the start and after each turn, a single downward butterfly kick is allowed, but not required. A single downward butterfly kick must be followed by a breaststroke kick. During the pull-down, if a downward butterfly kick is taken, it must be followed by a breaststroke kick. It is not permissible to take only a downward butterfly kick without then taking a normal breaststroke kick. The downward butterfly kick is not permissible prior to the arm pull-down. (8-2-2c)

**SITUATION 5:** The second leg of the 400 freestyle relay was in contact with the starting platform but did not have his/her foot/feet at the front edge of the block at the moment of take-off. The officials allowed competition to continue.

**RULING:** Correct procedure.

**COMMENT:** The rule requires the second, third and fourth swimmers to be in contact with the starting platform until the previous swimmer has finished. However, they do not have to have their foot/feet at the front edge of the block as the first swimmer does. If they choose to move from the back of the block to the front of the block, they can do so, but they have to be on the block to start. If they are starting from the deck, they are required to have at least one foot at the edge of the deck. (8-3-5)

**SITUATION 6:** The diver steps up on the board to perform his/her fifth voluntary dive. At the time the dive is announced, it is detected that the true degree-of-difficulty (DD) total exceeds 9.0. The diver protests the dive to the diving referee and requests a change in position, which has a lower DD. If allowed to change, the diver will be in compliance with a true DD total of 9.0 or lower for the voluntary dives. The diving referee allows the change. An opposing coach wants this to be considered a delay of meet.

**RULING:** The change is allowed with no further action.

**COMMENT:** Rule 9-3-6 allows a diver to change positions of a dive by protesting to the diving referee prior to the dive. Although the ultimate responsibility for listing the correct dives and meeting the 9.0 or lower requirement for voluntary dives lies with the diver and coach, there was an error at the diving table as the DD was either overlooked at the beginning of competition or a dive was allowed to be changed that caused the true DD total to exceed 9.0. The change in position can be made provided the diver does not cause a lengthy delay. (9-3-6, 9-3-6 Penalties, 9-4-1)

**SITUATION 7:** On his/her diving sheet, a diver lists five voluntary dives with a degree-of-difficulty (DD) total of 9.0. While standing on the board to perform his/her second dive, the diver protests to the diving referee, requesting to change the position of the dive to a position that would cause true DD total to exceed 9.0 and later change the fifth dive to one of a lower DD that would bring the total DD back into compliance with Rule 9-4-1. The diving referee does not allow the requested change.

**RULING:** Correct procedure.

**COMMENT:** The diver may not change a dive to a position that would cause the true DD total to exceed 9.0 and, at the same time in advance of a subsequent dive, attempt to change the position of that dive. The intent of the rule is to prohibit any

change that at the time of the change would cause the true DD total to exceed 9.0. (9-3-6 PEN 1 & 2, 9-4-1a)

**SITUATION 8:** The diving referee mistakenly allowed a diver to change the position of a dive to a position that caused the true degree-of-difficulty (DD) total to exceed 9.0. When this is detected, the diver is: a) able to change the position of a subsequent dive to a position that would bring the true total DD back into compliance with Rule 9-4-1; b) not able to change the position of a subsequent dive to a position with a lower DD as no dive position would have a lower DD.

**RULING:** a) The diver is allowed to make the change in position so the total DD does not exceed 9.0. b) After the diver performs the fifth voluntary dive (which causes the true DD total to exceed 9.0), the diving referee will declare that dive, the last dive, a failed dive. (9-3-6 PEN 1 & 2, 9-4-1a)

**SITUATION 9:** Diving judges are using an electronic visual display system, which is visible to the crowd, to display their individual scores for each dive. The announcer is only announcing the total score for each dive performed. On one dive, a judge mistakenly enters the wrong score. The judge notifies the diving referee of the error. The diving referee directs the judge to make the change on the visual display, if possible, and directs the diving scorer to change the score and ensure that the total score for the dive is correct. The diving referee also instructs the announcer to announce the error and the correct total score.

**RULING:** Correct procedure.

**COMMENT:** Each diving judge is responsible for ensuring that his/her visual score is correct. If an error or equipment malfunction occurs, the diving referee is responsible for being sure the correction is made on the scoresheet and the error and corrected total score are announced. (9-6, 9-6-3b)





## 2007 REGION SITES

For officials who plan on working at a regional site this year, these are the dates and sites. Three regions are still not determined. Please check the FHSAA web site for the most current and up-to-date information. All registered officials (who have complied with the Jessica Lunsford Act) are eligible to work districts, regions and FHSAA Finals.

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>3A</b>	1	<u>TBA</u>		
		2	Riverview	10/27	Sarasota YMCA
		3	<u>TBA</u>		
		4	Cypress Bay	10/26	West Broward YMCA/Diving TBD
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>2A</b>	1	Leon	10/25	Trousdell Pool/FAMU Pool (diving)
		2	<u>TBA</u>		
		3	Northeast	10/27	Northshore Pool/Northeast HS (diving)
		4	Estero	10/26	Florida Gulf Coast University (Ft. Myers)
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>1A</b>	1	Arnold	10/26	Panama City Beach Aquatic Center
		2	Lake Highland Prep	10/27	on campus (Orlando)
		3	Bishop Verot	10/25	Florida Gulf Coast University (Ft. Myers)
		4	St. Andrew's	10/25	on campus (Boca Raton)

### DISQUALIFICATION PROCESS

When a coach or contestant is disqualified (ejected) from a contest, an "Unsportsmanlike Conduct Report (AT6)" must be filed by the official who disqualified (ejected) the coach or contestant.

**OFFICIALS HAVE 24 HOURS FROM THE DISQUALIFICATION (EJECTION) TO REPORT IT IN WRITING TO THE FHSAA OFFICE.**

The AT6 Form may be completed online, but must be printed and faxed in to the FHSAA Office (352.372.9086) or scanned and emailed to Senior Director of Athletics, Denarvise Thornton (dthornton@fhsaa.org). An online program is being developed at this time and will be available in the future.

The AT6 Form can be found under "Forms" and then "Contest Officials Forms" and downloaded from the FHSAA website.

### WHAT IS UNSPORTING CONDUCT?

An act of flagrant and/or unsporting nature, or other such act specifically stated in the NFHS Rules Book (3-5) that warrants disqualification (ejection) or a coach or contestant.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- 1) Making insulting or derogatory remarks, gestures or acts including taunting.
- 2) Trying to influence or showing disgust with officials' decisions.
- 3) Interfering with meet officials in the performance of their duties.
- 4) Use of any tobacco products at the site of the competition.
- 5) On-site shaving at any time.

Gross Unsporting Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- 1) Cursing, spitting, striking or threatening, directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs at an opponent or contest official.

**NFHS AND FLORIDA**  
**NO RECALL STARTING PROTOCOL**

**FOR TWO OFFICIALS - DUAL CONFIRMATION OF THE FALSE START**

The referee shall –

1. Upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
2. Compare written records with the starter and, upon confirming that both have observed the same violation, will disqualify the swimmer(s). S/he will also notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the violation.

The starter shall –

1. Upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
2. Compare written records with the referee to confirm/not confirm the potential violation(s).

**FOR ONE OFFICIAL**

The official shall -

1. Upon observing a false start, raise a hand with open palm as soon as possible after the start, but before the swimmers have completed their first length, indicating the violation.
2. At the completion of the race, s/he shall notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the disqualification(s).

**RECALLING THE ENTIRE HEAT**

The **STARTER/REFEREE** may recall the **ENTIRE HEAT** -

1. When the start is such that the starter/referee is not satisfied that the race was properly begun, it is always permissible for the starter/referee to recall the entire heat.
2. It is not necessary to charge any swimmer with a false start under these conditions, although that may also occur.
  - Things that negatively affect the start – such as a loud noise just as the starting signal is given that affects one or more swimmers – should be part of any starter’s awareness when commencing a race.

**REQUIRED UNIFORM FOR FHSAA SWIMMING & DIVING OFFICIALS**

- 1) The FHSAA Insignia must be worn. The Insignia may be placed so that it is visible in a clear pocket sleeve on a lanyard or on the left chest or shirt pocket when officiating FHSAA sponsored meets.
- 2) All FHSAA registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest/meet.
- 3) Required uniform for swimming & diving officials included:
  - a. Solid white shirt (polo preferred)
  - b. Navy or khaki pants, shorts, skirt or Capris
  - c. Solid white socks and shoes
  - d. White hat, sweater or jacket (if needed)
- 4) Officials are prohibited from wearing jewelry while officiating a contest. The only exceptions to this policy are a wedding band, game timing device and/or a medical alert bracelet. *FHSAA Officials Guidebook* section 702.01
- 5) The uniform for FHSAA Finals will be announced at a later date for those officials who are eligible.
- 6)

## **FLORIDA UTILIZES WHISTLE COMMANDS IN ALL MEETS**

### **NFHS SUGGESTED PROTOCOL FOR FORWARD STARTS USING WHISTLE COMMANDS**

- To provide support and consistency regarding protocols for forward and backstroke starts; the NFHS rules committee has developed, with the assistance of national experts, commands for whistle starts.
- For forward starts using whistle commands:
  - Starter/referee signals the swimmers with a series of short whistles (no fewer than 4) to approach the blocks and prepare to swim, followed by the announcer or starter/referee announcing the event/distance/heat.
  - When all swimmers have approached the blocks, starter/referee blows a long whistle for the heat to step onto the block and take their preparatory position.
  - Once all swimmers are on the blocks, the referee immediately turns the heat over to the starter.
  - When the swimmers are prepared, the starter says, "Take your mark."
  - When swimmers have assumed the correct starting position and are motionless, starter activates the starting signal.
- These guidelines can be found in the rules book on page 74.

### **PROTOCOL FOR BACKSTROKE STARTS USING WHISTLE COMMANDS**

- For backstroke starts using whistle commands:
  - Starter/referee signals the swimmers with a series of short whistles (no fewer than 4) to approach the blocks and prepare to swim, followed by the announcer or starter/referee announcing the event/distance/heat.
  - When all swimmers are at the side of the blocks, starter/referee blows a long whistle for the heat to immediately step into the water. When all swimmers have surfaced, starter/referee blows a second long whistle to have swimmers return to the wall and immediately assume their starting positions.
  - The procedure is then the same as in steps 3, 4 and 5 in the FORWARD START section.
- These guidelines can be found in the rules book on page 74.

### **\*\*\*ALTERNATE QUALIFIERS PERMITTED\*\*\***

Starting this year, the FHSAA Board of Directors has permitted the use of alternate qualifiers in state series meets. According to NFHS Rule 5-4-5, the next two highest nonqualifiers will be named in order to guarantee a full compliment of finalists. Alternate qualifiers shall be used provided there is no delay in the meet.

**PROCEDURE:** An alternate qualifier who wishes to be considered for an open lane during finals must report to the referee dressed and ready to swim prior to the event. These athletes should remain in the referee/starter's area and be prepared to respond to a call for an alternate swimmer. No swimmers will be called from the stands.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Should a lane vacancy occur, the referee will instruct the announcer or starter to call for the first alternate. If the first alternate is not in the referee/starter's area and prepared to swim, the referee will instruct the announcer to call for the second alternate. If the second alternate is not in the referee/starter's area and prepared to swim, the referee will order the race started with vacant lanes.

**Note:** Alternates are not considered for advancement between levels of the state series.

**FHSAA ADOPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

**RULES 1-3-14 & 3-2-3:** During state series events, no declared false starts are permitted.

**RULES 2-3-1 & 2-7-2:** In pools with a water depth at the starting end of less than five (5) feet, the start for all swimming events for all contestants must begin in the water. There will be no variances. In pools with a water depth of five (5) feet or more, starting platforms may be used in accordance with NFHS rules.

**RULE 3-1-2:** Each team will be allowed a maximum of two entries per individual event and relay event in a pool with five lanes or less; a maximum of three entries per individual event and relay event in a pool with six or seven lanes; and a maximum of four entries per individual event and relay event in a pool with eight lanes or more. Only two relay teams may score for each team in each relay event.

**RULE 3-2-1:** A competitor will be permitted to enter a maximum of four (4) events, no more than two (2) of which may be individual events. Prelims and finals are considered the same event. If, however, a swimmer competes in only three (3) events in prelims, he/she could compete in those three events as well as an additional relay in finals provided he/she was designated on that relay entry card.

**RULE 3-2-1(a):** Exhibition swimming & diving and/or practice diving during a meet is strictly prohibited. Only those students who are properly entered may participate in swimming and/or diving events. Extra lanes may not be used by students who are not entered in an event.

**RULE 3-2-3:** Coaches may list up to eight competitors' names on the relay entry card and participation in that relay will be limited only to those individuals. Names may not be added after preliminary heats have been completed.

**RULE 3-3-1:** Any uniform that is used by a swimmer must cover ALL of the buttocks (and breasts for girls) and must be made of a material that does not become transparent when wet. Any competitor in violation of this rule will not be allowed to enter competition until the offending attire is replaced. If a competitor is found in violation of this rule after entering an event, the competitor will be disqualified from that event and will not be allowed to participate further until the offending attire is replaced.

**RULE 5-4-5:** The next two highest non-qualifiers shall be named in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. Alternate qualifiers shall be used provided there is no delay in the meet. During the state series, these alternates may be moved into the consolation finals. The final heats may be reseeded if the meet referee is notified prior to a lane vacancy and if time permits. Alternate qualifiers are not considered for advancement between different levels of the state series.

**RULES 8-1-1,2,3,4,5,and 6:** The referee must permit a coach or teammate of a hearing impaired swimmer to give an appropriate hand signal simultaneously with the starting signal. The coach or teammate may stand on the starting blocks or at any vantage point to be determined by the referee.

**RULE 9-4-6:** The voluntary dive groups and the corresponding calendar weeks for the regular season are:

- Week 1: Forward, August 20-25
- Week 2: Back, August 27-September 1
- Week 3: Inward, September 3-8
- Week 4: Twisting, September 10-15
- Week 5: Reverse, September 17-22

In the case of a regular season meet that is postponed and subsequently rescheduled, the voluntary dive group that is required for the calendar week that the meet is rescheduled will be used.

### **HY-TEK INFORMATION**

**OVERVIEW:** Due to the structure of State Finals, meet manager events will be built using divisions. The District and Region meets will have events assigned to a division appropriate to the classification of the meet. **Example:** All Class 1A meets will have events assigned a division of 1A, etc. These divisions will be pre-set when the District and Region databases are distributed. The important point is that operators **MUST** use the databases issued by the FHSAA.

**DISTRICTS:** District databases will be available for download from the FHSAA web site by Wednesday, October 3. These databases will be preloaded with each school assigned to the district.

**VERY IMPORTANT** – Load **EVERY** student listed on the **“Official Entry List”** into the database. District hosts are responsible for checking the entry list against the eligibility list to verify an athlete is eligible. Students who do not have individual event entries should still be entered into the database. These athletes become a pool of **“Relay-Only”** athletes. Every swimmer entered will be transferred to the Region databases and then to the State Finals database.

**Relays:** During the meet, load all relay participants (including alternates as listed) into both preliminary and final events.

**Diving:** Diving is set up as a timed final (single round) event. Load only the final point scores for each diver participating.

Send a complete meet backup (File, Backup) to [swimming@fhsaa.org](mailto:swimming@fhsaa.org) **IMMEDIATELY** after the meet.

**REGIONALS:** Region databases will be available by Wednesday, October 24. They will be emailed to the Hy-tek operator identified by the meet host. All teams and athletes are preloaded. The events will be seeded and ready to run. New athletes may not be added to the database without authorization of the FHSAA.

**Relays:** During the meet, load all relay participants (including alternates as listed) into both preliminary and final events.

**Diving:** Diving is set up as a timed final (single round) event. Load only the final point scores for each diver.

Send a complete meet backup (File, Backup) to [swimming@fhsaa.org](mailto:swimming@fhsaa.org) **IMMEDIATELY** after the meet.

Please contact Tamara Forrester (352/372-9551 ext. 390) at the FHSAA office with any questions.

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### **REMINDER**

It is **MANDATORY** to include **ALL** head, assistant and diving coach names with contact information into the Hy-Tek database at the **DISTRICT** level.

This process will help to streamline the administration process at subsequent levels of competition.

**FAILURE** to include the information required may subject the host school/district to financial penalties.

## **2007 FHSAA REGISTERED OFFICIALS REFERENCE SHEET**

1. Schools are responsible for negotiating fees and securing officials. The maximum fee for registered officials is noted below. All fees are based on event duties.
  - Districts-recommended to be registered - The maximum will be \$55 based on a 10-hour day.
  - Regions-required to be registered - The maximum will be \$55 based on a 10-hour day.
  - States-required to be registered - The maximum will be \$55 based on a 10-hour day.
2. The Jessica Lunsford Act (JLA) went into effect on September 1, 2005. Please contact your local school board office to inquire about compliance with their policies. A FAQ web page is on the FHSAA web site to assist you in the basic questions about the JLA [http://officials.fhsaa.org/resources/faq\\_JLA.doc](http://officials.fhsaa.org/resources/faq_JLA.doc)
3. Please comply with the FHSAA requirements to avoid and financial penalties. Possible ways to be fined as an official (see page 56 of the *FHSAA Officials Guidebook* or <http://www.fhsaa.org/rules/officials/>)
  - Failure to complete online rules meeting or exam.
  - Failure to report disqualifications (ejections).
  - Use of profanity, gutter language or acts of disrespect directed at contestants, coaches, school administrators or spectators.
4. Where can I learn more about my NFHS insurance benefit for being a member of the NFOA? The insurance is through the NFHS. It is updated yearly, but you can see what the current policy is by going to <http://www.bollingernfhs.com/03-10-03/html/nfoa1.html>
5. Only the changes listed in this bulletin have been adopted by the NFHS. No other governing body changes are to be implemented in any of your meets.
6. Policy 28 (6) will be waived for this year (and reviewed annually). This policy addresses when an official has a child that attends the school in which they are officiating. In any cases where this may occur, we recommend that all schools involved consent before use.
7. If there are any questions, please contact [tforrester@fhsaa.org](mailto:tforrester@fhsaa.org) for a response. There will be a FAQ page on the FHSAA web site with all questions that come into the FHSAA Office, please check this area prior to submitting your question.

*Have a great season!*