



Thoughts on Judging Diving: a Starting Point for Discussion

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- ✓ There is a great deal of subjectivity in awarding scores.
 - ✓ There are guidelines in the rules that you must follow to focus that subjectivity. RULE # 9
 - ✓ Start, Approach, Take-off, Flight, Position, Entry are what you're judging, that's a lot...that's enough, no need to go looking for, or being distracted by anything else.
 - ✓ Be VERY aware that when you award 3 points or higher on a dive that dive is now eligible to be included in Massachusetts Regional and State Tournaments.
- A. Listen to the announced dive
Prepare yourself by imaging the dive.
Entry will be: Hand/Feet first.
Entry will be: Face to Board/ Back to Board
- B. The dive number and position are the official description of the dive.
- C. Diving is inherently dangerous. Don't add to the nervousness and anxiety of the diver by your word or action. The diving referee has the authority to set aside a rule when there is obvious unfairness. (4.1.2)
- D. Awarding points from 0 to 10. Be discriminating. Guidelines: page 73, 74. If the dive is "exceptional" except for a 'slight knee spread', or '5 oscillations' on the board, (either would require a judge's deduction of no more than 2 points) don't give a score below 8. If you think the high school diver performs an "Exceptional" dive, award a 10, the diver has earned it.
- E. Reviewing the dive sheet is a courtesy to the diver; it does not remove responsibility for accuracy from the diver or coach.
- F. A twisting dive, though legal at impact with the water, may still be twisting "long" or "short" until the body is completely under water. It may also be "long" or "short" as well on the head/feet entry. Consider the "degree" of the flaw(s), if any. The Referee determines if it is legal or not, you then determine the appearance of the dive based on "Start, Approach..." etc.
- G. If you are a "tough" judge, and refuse to award more than a 5.5 because nothing you've seen in your life is better than satisfactory in your subjective opinion; make sure that you discriminate all dives with satisfactory, deficient, unsatisfactory and failed scores. And then re-read page 73.
- H. Refer to pages 73, 74 and 75 for NISCA Guidelines.

Maintain your Standards, Be Consistent, Be Fair. (Don't let the crowd or diver disrupt you)

Let the divers' skill, ability, and talent place them at the conclusion of the contest.