

DRAFT #2 – Copies should go to the SD liaison on each DAB and to all managers.

TO: Coaches and Athletic Administrators at all OHSAA Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving High Schools
FROM: Deborah B. Moore, Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine and Swimming and Diving Administrator
RE: Mid-Season Update

Happy Holidays. The purpose of this memo is to remind you of some changes that have been made to the sport of swimming and diving and update you as we move into the second half of the season. First, to be more inclusive, we are debuting para-swimming events for boys and girls at the district tournaments this season and adding these events to the state tournaments in 2021 with the completion of major renovations to the C.T. Branin Natatorium on the campus of the Canton City School District.

PARA-SWIMMING

If you have para swimmers, coaches and athletic administrators must ensure that they complete two items by the entry deadline of February 3, 2020 at Noon.

1. Submit to this office c/o Dr. Moore via email at dmoore@ohsaa.org the OHSAA medical verification form found here <https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Swimming-Diving/ParaSwimVerificationForm.pdf?ver=2019-10-02-162057-750> which will designate the category in which the student will swim.
2. Enter the athletes into either one or both of the events – 50 yard freestyle for boys and girls and 100 yard backstroke for boys and girls – as per the usual process into the event files that are submitted at the sectional level. These athletes will not compete at the sectionals but will be advanced on to the district tournaments in each athletic district.

We are very excited about the prospect of including these students into the competition and appreciate your time to prepare their entries.

DIVING

Second, in diving, the only change is that representation has not been calculated as in the past. Once all entries are submitted on February 3, 2020, we will calculate representation to the state tournament based on those who will be participating in this year's tournament. This representation will be posted to the swimming and diving page on the OHSAA website and forwarded on to all district managers for distribution to all diving coaches.

UNIFORMS

Third, the Board of Directors has adopted a provision waiving any requirement for obtaining a waiver for a student to wear headwear or head decorations for religious reasons. Although in this sport, nearly all competitors do cover their heads with a cap, should a student wish to wear any other type of head covering, the coach simply needs to express to the referee that this item is necessary for religious reasons. **Please note, however, that this ruling refers to headwear ONLY.** A swimmer or diver must still be attired in a legal swim suit in accordance with all NFHS rules. If a student needs an accommodation for whatever reason, please seek a letter ruling from this office by contacting either Lauren Prochaska or Dr. Deborah Moore. We are happy to provide the waiver.

WAIVERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GSR 7.7.2

Fourth, we want to remind you that if you have students who qualify for national competition, which must take place prior to the individual cut off date of January 20, 2020, please seek the waiver from Lauren Prochaska as soon as possible. Please follow the guidance on pages 9-10 of the Swimming and Diving Manual here <https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Swimming-Diving/SwimManual.pdf>

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORMS

One last reminder, please be sure to check your **Emergency Contact Form** to ensure that all coaches, paid and volunteer, are listed on that form. This form is the only way that credentials to coach can be issued to coaches for the OHSAA tournaments.