

**EMSOA ASSOCIATION 2020-2021**

**The Demands of a Swimming Official**

**Before the season starts, have you done a self-evaluation to determine if you have the physical and mental ability to meet the demands of a Swimming/Diving Official?**

Let’s start with the **administrative demands** of a swim and dive meet .

1. Do you arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start to confer with the other official and coaches?
2. Do you have a pre-meet meeting with the coaches and captains to go over meet logistics and MIAA sportsmanship rules?
3. Have a clean and non-wrinkled uniform with white EMSOA polo and blue slacks, shorts or skirt? If not, order extra from Maine Street Graphics by using the “Buy EMSOA Gear” on the page EMSOA website page “For Officials.”
4. Have knowledge of the rulebook?
5. Have the ability to manage the meet as a Referee or Starter?
6. The Referee is in charge unless there is mutual agreement between officials that the Starter will act in both capacities.
7. Have the ability to fairly judge and manage the diving event, according to the rules?
8. Have the ability to score the meet conferring frequently with the other official, scoring table and coaches so all are in agreement with the score?
9. Have the ability to work together with the other official, managing the meet as seen and unforeseen situations develop?
10. Have the ability to share jurisdictions with your partner as swimmers spread themselves out during an event?
11. Have the ability to adapt to different pool configurations so that all swimmers are judged fairly?
12. Have the ability to communicate rule infractions to coaches, swimmers and scorers?
13. Recognize that your job as an official may require you to be at a swim meet longer than the normal one to two hours? Other sports have overtimes and extra innings to settle ties and their officials are required to stay.
14. There could be late team arrivals, extra heats, senior nights etc. If you cannot be flexible with unanticipated happenings, do not accept the meet as an official.

The **physical demands** of a swimming/diving official are no different than those of a baseball/softball umpire, lacrosse umpire, basketball or football official. Our field of play is 25 yards long and usually about 13 yards wide. We must be able to cover the full field of play and be in the proper position to make a call.

1. Do you have the physical ability and stamina to walk up and down the 25-yard racecourse so you can fairly make a call? Swimmers pay the ultimate price, (disqualification) so you must be in the proper position to make your call; this requires constant and quick movement on deck.
2. Do you have correctable eyesight to watch starts, relay exchanges, and make stroke infraction calls?
3. Is your hearing correctable so that you can hear dive announcements? If necessary, move the dive announcing location close to you the official?