DIVING OFFICIALS’ GUIDELINES MANUAL

(August 2012)
INTRODUCTION

This manual is provided to improve the consistency of officiating high school diving. It is based on the premise that the purpose of diving judges at a meet is to ensure fair competition for all participants in accordance with the rules established by the NFHS. In order to accomplish this, officials must understand the rules and enforce all rules without regard for the outcome of the competition.

This manual is not meant to be “another rules book.” Rather, it has been designed to help all officials understand their role in conducting competition. While it should be especially useful for new and less experienced officials, it will also help the veteran official hone their organizational skills along with their mechanics of officiating.

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Officials Code of Ethics

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

Officials shall master both the rules of the contest and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

Officials shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of competition, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous and not allow warm up or competition to begin until the situation is properly corrected.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

Officials shall maintain an ethical approach while participating in forums, chat rooms and all other forms of social media.
THE DIVING REFEREE
Refer to NFHS Rules 9-6 through 9-8

The diving referee is the head diving judge and has full authority over other diving judges. The diving referee’s decision is final.

**Before diving competition, the diving referee should:**
- arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the meet to examine water depth, the diving boards, diving equipment and pool conditions.
- if necessary, be sure lane lines and backstroke flags are removed from the diving area.
- require diving scoresheets be submitted by a designated time, allowing adequate time for review of the scoresheets.
  - For dual meets:
    - The number of team entries in diving shall be the same as the number of swimmers allowed in each swimming event.
    - Diving shall count as one of the athlete’s two individual entries for the meet.
    - The divers from the visiting team have the choice of selecting the odd or even diving positions. A single diver from the visiting team may select any of the odd or even positions, i.e., 1, 3, 5, which may be different than the lanes selected for the team’s swimming lanes.
    - The diving referee, or his/her designee, should check the diving scoresheets for the following: (This is performed as a courtesy to the diver and his/her coach. The primary responsibility for accuracy of the diving scoresheet lies with the diver and coach.)
      - The diver’s name and school, diver and coach signatures, dive number and position, the order in which the dives will be performed, and that the designated DD for the voluntary dive is circled and not greater than 1.8. Remember: the dive number and position are the official description of each dive;
      - That all divers have the correct Voluntary Dive Group for the week: Week #1 – forward group; week #2 – back group; week #3 – inward group; week #4 – twisting group; week #5 – reverse group; then start again with the forward group (*unless determined otherwise by the state association.*);
• That the five optional dives come from at least four of the five dive groups, and may include any dive from the voluntary dive group other than the voluntary dive, and;
• Be sure no dive is repeated.

- For 11-dive meets:
  - The number of team entries shall be determined by meet management.
  - The order in which the divers shall perform shall be determined by the meet director and shall be by lot or by seeding based on the diver’s best competitive 11 dive score submitted. (If seeding and no 11 dive score is submitted, the diver shall be seeded by lot at the beginning of the diving order.) The same relative position shall be maintained throughout all levels of the competition.
  - The default method for determining the order of the diving competition shall be by lot for a championship meet or meet conducted under a championship format.
  - The diving referee, or his/her designee, should check the diving scoresheets for the following: (This is performed as a courtesy to the diver and his/her coach. The primary responsibility for accuracy of the diving scoresheet lies with the diver and coach.)
    • The diver’s name and school, diver and coach signatures, dive number and DD for voluntary dive(s) circled (if electronic diving entries are being used, the voluntary dives will be identified as such, but not circled), position, written description, degree of difficulty, and the order the dives will be performed. Remember: the dive number and position are the official description of each dive;
    • That all divers have eleven dives listed;
    • That the five voluntary dives (two in the preliminary round, two in the semifinal round and one in the final round) come from each of the dive groups with their assigned DD and have a sum total of 9.0, or less;
    • That the six optional dives include at least one from each of the five groups and that no more than one optional dive from the same group is performed through the semifinals (i.e., first eight rounds), and;
    • That all five groups are represented in the first eight rounds of competition and no dive is repeated.

• have a meeting with the coaches, and divers if necessary, to discuss the following:
  - the order in which the divers will perform;
  - warm-up procedures before each session of competition (immediately prior to the diving competition, each diver is allowed at least one approach, with or without a water entry at the diver’s discretion);
• responsibility for diving sheets;
• requesting declared false starts (Rule 3-2-3);
• the importance of the diver listening to each dive as it is announced and what to do if a dive is announced incorrectly;
• quieting the crowd;
• requests for performing a dive again due to a distraction;
• requests to wipe water from the diving board before assuming a starting position, and;
• any special rules which will apply to the competition.

• meet with the other diving judges to review calls by the referee, individual judges’ responsibilities, the scale for awarding points, their locations while judging diving and discuss any other unique circumstances related to diving.
• The following areas should be covered:
  • judges should NOT discuss or make comments regarding dives with other judges until after the scores are given;
  • if a judge is also a coach, it is only appropriate for them to talk to their own divers;
  • mandatory deduction for a balk or violation of the forward approach as determined by the diving referee, and;
  • not showing their score until it is called for and not delaying showing the score once called for.

**During the diving competition, the diving referee should:**

• determine disqualifications as per the NFHS rules and notify the competitor and/or his/her coach.

• determine and announce failed dives, including declared false starts, as per the NFHS rules (Rule 3-2-3).

• allow divers to withdraw from competition and treat this the same as a ‘declared false start’ taken by swimmers.

• deduct 2 points from each judge’s award for a violation of the forward approach or a balk as per the NFHS rules.

• declare an unsatisfactory dive when:
  • the dive is clearly done in a position other than what is written on the scoresheet;
  • the diver hits the board;
  • the diver does not attempt to come out of a tuck or pike position, or;
  • the diver does not attempt to come out of a twist.

• not invoke a penalty unless he/she is absolutely certain it is warranted. The diving referee may confer with another judge only regarding the determination of a failed dive.
Following the diving competition, the diving referee should:

- review, or designate other diving officials to review the scoresheets for accuracy, establish the order of finish and have the scores announced.

- sign the diving scoresheet.

DIVING JUDGES
Refer to NFHS Rules 9-7 and 9-8

While there are many aspects to being a good diving judge, knowledge of the rules is a must. Knowing the rules regarding the five elements of dives (starting position, approach, takeoff, flight and positions, and entry into the water) is essential to being a competent diving judge. It is important for diving judges to review the diving guidelines and/or silhouettes frequently.

Diving judges should:

- be sure to consider all five elements of a dive when scoring. Judge the entire dive independently, selecting a score promptly upon completion of the dive.

- be consistent and fair to all the divers. Score all divers on the same basis.

- remember the specific rules requiring deductions by a diving judge.

- trust their instincts, judge what is observed and use the entire range of numbers 10-0. Do not allow outside factors such as other officials, spectators, coaches and/or team members to enter into the judging process. Individual judges do not have to agree with the rest of the panel; the score in the middle isn’t always the correct one.

- if in doubt, give the benefit to the diver.

- not show the score for a dive until it has been called for and not delay once their score has been called for.

It is important to hear the announcer read the dive and dive description in order to develop a mental picture of the dive to be completed. Begin judging the dive when the starting position has been established and do not stop judging the dive until the diver has passed below the surface of the water. Once the dive is completed, select a score quickly without consulting another diving judge. If there is an error in a score read by the announcer, bring it to the attention of the diving referee immediately.

Diving judges, who are also coaches, may converse with their divers at times determined by the diving referee, but may not do so when it will distract them from a dive being performed by another diver. (Note: Coaches may only officiate if it is allowed by their state association.)
THE DIVING ANNOUNCER
Refer to NFHS Rule 9-6

The diving announcer should:
- be familiar with diving and review the dive sheets prior to competition in order to clarify any questions. This is a good opportunity to review for correct pronunciation of names.
- make any announcements directed by the diving referee, i.e., no flash photography, quiet during competition, etc.
- announce the order in which the divers will perform.
- announce each dive in the following manner: “Name of the diver, dive number, position, dive description, and degree of difficulty.” Making this announcement slowly and clearly is a must for the competitors and diving judges.
- announce the judges’ scores in the same order every time, as has been determined by the diving referee.
- under championship format, announce the names and places, or names and scores, of the divers at the completion of the preliminary and semifinal rounds for those advancing to the next round of competition.
- announce the final individual and team scores.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING DIVING

Starting Position
- Forward – Diver should demonstrate good posture with arms in a position of the diver’s choice.
- Backward/inward – Diver should demonstrate good posture, with the head upright, arms in a position of the diver’s choice. A diver may move the arms to a variety of preparatory positions provided there is no attempt to start the dive.

Approach
- Forward – The approach shall begin with not less than three steps and finish with a hurdle, defined as a jump off one foot to a landing on both feet at the end of the board. The diver may use additional steps, hops, leaps and/or jumps during the initial steps and before the culminating hurdle. The forward takeoff shall be from both feet simultaneously to an adequate height to perform the dive.

Hurdle
- The last step in the forward approach, called the hurdle, consists of the diver lifting the leg (diver’s choice of which leg) to a right angle at the hip and knee.
The other leg pushes down on the board and helps the diver jump to the end of the board where he/she lands on two feet. The hurdle is the foundation for the rest of the dive, thus an important element for judges to observe.

**Takeoff**
- Back/inward – The diver shall stop oscillating the board just before or after assuming the starting position. Once the diver assumes the starting position, the board can be oscillated up to four times prior to moving the arms from the starting position. The oscillations shall not be so large as to disrupt the tempo or smoothness of the dive. After moving the arms from the starting position, the diver may continue to oscillate the board until the takeoff occurs. At NO time should the balls of the feet/foot lose contact with the board. If the feet/foot leave the board or excessive oscillation occurs (more than 4) prior to the arm movement, the judge should deduct ½ - 2 points for each violation.

- Balance on the balls of the feet should be maintained as the arms move in time with the leg push to assist lift from the board. Too much lean forward or backward will affect the success of the dive.

**Flight**
- Once in the air, the diver should demonstrate control of the dive. Contributing to control is the diver’s height and power along with grace, beauty and accuracy. The dive position (tuck, pike or straight) should be clearly defined. Good form should be displayed by means of body tightness and toe point which is maintained throughout the entire dive flight. The arms may be in the position of the diver’s choice just prior to the entry into the water they should be brought together and extended beyond the head in line with the body for head-first entry or against the sides of the body with straight elbows for feet-first entry.

- Straight position (A) – the body shall not be bent either at the knees or hips, knees and feet together, toes pointed.

- Pike position (B) – the body shall be bent at the hips, legs straight and together, toes pointed.

- Tuck position (C) – the body shall be bent at the hips and knees, knees at or inside the shoulders, toes pointed.

- Free position (D) – a combination of positions may be used to perform certain twisting dives.

  **NOTE:** Flying somersaults require the straight position be maintained from the takeoff until the body is horizontal to the surface of the water.

**Entry**
- The entry into the water should be as vertical as possible with the body straight and toes pointed. The diver’s line into the water is only one segment of the total
dive and should not be over judged. Splashless entries (known as “rip” entries) are impressive and are a critical part of the total dive. However, since the entry is the last part of the dive seen, it is easy to judge the entry, forgetting mistakes in takeoff and/or flight. Avoid this common trap. Conversely, a good dive with a rip entry is automatically a better dive and deserves a higher score.

- The dive is completed and scored when the body passes below the surface of the water.

Properly executed dives should be performed a safe distance from the board and walls.

**DIVING POINT AWARDS**

9 – 10 Exceptional – No visible flaws – Approach, hurdle, height, distance, execution and entry are all exceptional.

7½ – 8½ Excellent – Approach, hurdle, height and distance slightly affected. Execution well defined.

6 – 7 Good – Approach and hurdle unaffected. Height and distance acceptable. Execution defined, entry controlled, but slightly affected.

4½ – 5½ Satisfactory – Approach and hurdle acceptable. Height and distance adequate. Execution complete and entry slightly over or under.

2½ – 4 Deficient – Approach and hurdle affected. Height and distance inadequate. Execution affected and entry over or under.

½ – 2 Unsatisfactory – Approach and hurdle affected. Height and distance inadequate. Execution not complete or broken position. Entry significantly affected.

0 Failed dive.

*Diving judge’s deductions:*
- Deficient dives:
  - the diver partially alters the position of the dive during flight;
  - a diver enters the water with one or both hands above the shoulders on a dive requiring a feet-first entry, or with one or both hands below the shoulders on a dive requiring a head-first entry.

- Mandatory ½ – 2 point deduction:
  - not stopping the oscillations of the board just before or after the starting position is assumed in a back/inward takeoff;
  - excessive oscillation during a back/inward takeoff;
feet/foot leaving the board prior to a back/inward takeoff;
- obviously spreading knees in the tuck position outside the shoulders;
- when executing flying somersaults, does not hold the straight position until
  the body is horizontal to the surface of the water;
- entering the water to the side of the board, and;
- twisting manifestly from the board.

**Diving referee’s deductions:**

- **2 point deduction from each judge’s score for:**
  - violations of the forward approach
  - balks (Declared before the diving judges have scored the dive)
    - It is a balk if the diving referee believes the diver interrupts the
      continuous execution of the dive after assuming starting position.

- **Unsatisfactory dive (maximum score of 2 points):**
  - a dive clearly done in a position other than that described on the diving
    scoresheet;
  - a diver hitting the board;
  - a diver not attempting to come out of the tuck or pike position, and;
  - a diver does not attempt to come out of the twist.

- **Failed dive (0 points awarded):**
  - executing a dive other than that given on the diving scoresheet;
  - not assuming a starting position;
  - falling into the water;
  - being assisted by another person;
  - not executing the pike before the twist for dives #5111B and 5211B;
  - does not contact the water with the head or hands first on a head-first dive
    or with the feet first on a feet-first dive;
  - executes a twist, as determined by the diver’s shoulder position, more or
    less than 90 degrees indicated on the diving scoresheet when the diver’s
    feet/hands contact the water;
  - in a twisting dive, twist the shoulders past 90 degrees before the feet
    leave the board;
  - repeats a dive;
  - steps off the board (without permission) after assuming the starting
    position;
  - performs a dive requiring a forward approach from the standing forward
    position;
  - does not record the official description of the dive (dive number and
    position) on the diving scoresheet;
  - commits two balks on the same dive;
  - in a dual meet, does not perform the voluntary dive first;
  - in a championship meet, does not perform the voluntary and optional
    dives as specified;
  - performs a dive not listed on the diving table, or;
• twists the shoulders more than 90 degrees before the feet leave the board.

• **Disqualifications by the diving referee:**
  - diver does not make a sincere attempt to perform the dive;
  - it becomes obvious the dives listed on the diver’s scoresheet are too difficult for the diver;
  - diver unnecessarily delays in the performance of a dive;
  - diver behaves in an unsporting manner, or;
  - diver fails two dives for any reason.

**SIMPLIFYING THE DIVE NUMBERS**

*The meaning of the dive numbers:*

- It is important for a diving judge to know the meaning of the dive numbers so they can begin to prepare to judge the dive at the time it is announced by the diving announcer. The dive number and position define the dive to be performed.
  - 100’s = forward dives
  - 200’s = back dives
  - 300’s = reverse dives
  - 400’s = inward dives
  - 5000’s = twisting dives

- **Position designations:**
  - Straight or layout position = “A”
  - Pike position = “B”
  - Tuck position = “C”
  - Free position = “D”

- **For forward, back, inward and reverse dives:**
  - the first number indicates the direction of travel;
  - the third number indicates the number of half somersaults;
    - 2 = 1 somersault
    - 3 = 1½ somersaults
    - 4 = 2 somersaults, etc.
  - 1, 2 or 3 somersaults = a feet-first entry;
  - 1½, 2½ or 3½ = a head-first entry;
  - dives with an odd third number should always enter the water head-first;
  - dives with an even third number should always enter the water feet-first,
• non-twisting dives with the second number of “1” indicates a “flying” dive.

• For twisting dives:
  o the second number indicates the direction of travel;
  o the third number indicates the number of half somersaults;
  o the fourth number indicates the number of half twists to be performed.
    ▪ 1 = ½ twist
    ▪ 2 = 1 full twist
    ▪ 3 = 1½ twists
    ▪ 4 = 2 full twists
    ▪ 5 = 2½ twists
    ▪ 6 = 3 full twists

See the chart below for examples of what the four numbers in a twisting dive mean.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Somersaults</th>
<th>Twists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Twisting</td>
<td># of ½ SS</td>
<td># of half Twists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Twisting dives with a head-first entry
  Dive Group: 0, 1, 2, 3 Twists  ½, 1½, 2½ Twists
  Forward: Facing the board  Looking away
  Back: Looking away  Facing the board
  Reverse: Facing the board  Looking away
  Inward: Looking away  Facing the board

• Twisting dives with a feet-first entry
  Dive Group: 0, 1, 2, 3 Twists  ½, 1½, 2½ Twists
  Forward: Looking away  Facing the board
  Back: Facing the board  Looking away
  Reverse: Looking away  Facing the board
  Inward: Facing the board  Looking away

**ONE METER DIVING TABLE**

Any dive from a group may be designated as a voluntary dive. It will receive its assigned DD through 1.8. Any voluntary dive with a DD greater than 1.8 will be assigned a DD of 1.8.
# NFHS One Meter Diving Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dive No.</th>
<th>Forward Dives</th>
<th>C Tuck</th>
<th>B Pike</th>
<th>A Straight</th>
<th>D Free</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Forward Dive</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Forward 1 SS</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Forward 1½ SS</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<td>104</td>
<td>Forward 2 SS</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Forward 2½ SS</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Forward 3 SS</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Forward 3½ SS</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Forward Flying 1 SS</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Forward Flying 1½ SS</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back Dives</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
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<th>Reverse Dives</th>
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<th>D</th>
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<table>
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<td>2.7</td>
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<td>5321</td>
<td>Reverse 1 SS, ½ Twist</td>
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<td>Reverse 1½ SS, 2½ Twists</td>
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<td>Inward 1 SS, 1 Twist</td>
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<tr>
<td>5432</td>
<td>Inward 1½ SS, 1 Twist</td>
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<td>Inward 1½ SS, 2 Twists</td>
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### NFHS Dive Silhouettes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dive Silhouettes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101. Forward Dive</td>
<td>The higher, the better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>101. Forward Dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103. Forward 1½ SS</td>
<td>Tight tuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuck</td>
<td>Fast spin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104. Forward 2 SS</td>
<td>Long drop to water in final position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuck</td>
<td>Vertical entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201. Back Dive</td>
<td>Vertical entry, 2-4 ft. from board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>No excessive rocking of board. Feet cannot leave board in rocking prior to takeoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>201. Back Dive</td>
<td>Legs straight on way up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Vertical entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203. Back 1½ SS</td>
<td>Legs straight and together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuck</td>
<td>Look for height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301. Reverse Dive</td>
<td>Long drop to water in final position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>Good height</td>
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<tr>
<td>301. Reverse Dive</td>
<td>Legs straight on way up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Vertical entry</td>
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<td>DIVE SILHOUETTES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>303. Reverse 1½ SS Tuck</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dive must be directly in front of the board, NOT pulled to either side.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>401. Inward Dive — Pike</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Look for height Long drop to water in final, vertical position</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>401. Inward Dive Straight</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight position must be reached before peak of height Slight bend of hip on take-off is permissible</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>403. Inward 1½ SS Tuck</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dive must be directly toward board, NOT pulled to either side The longer the drop to the water in vertical position the better</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5111. Forward Dive, ½ Twist Straight</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tight tuck Smooth, easy motion not jerky</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5132. Forward 1½ SS, 1 Twist — Free</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deduct for entry “coming around the corner”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5211. Back dive, ½ Twist Straight</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In judging this dive, keep in mind “the twisting must not manifestly be done directly from the board.” The diver MUST leave the board in the back dive position</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5233. Back dive 1½ SS 1½ Twist, Free</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vertical entry</td>
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</table>
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