

VHSL Policy on Championship Meets Shortened by Inclement Weather

ISSUE

VHSL Swimming and Diving Championship Meets are scheduled across multiple days (3 days for the State meets) to allow preliminary heats to occur on one day with the finals heats on the following day. Preliminary heats are swum to determine the seeding for the finals heats; the procedure for accomplishing this in preliminary heats is called “pyramid seeding” which distributes the top 24 swimmers across the last 3 heats as follows:

HEAT	LANE							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Last	19	13	7	1	4	10	16	22
Next to Last	20	14	8	2	5	11	17	23
2 nd from Last	21	15	9	3	6	12	18	24

The purpose is to provide a more realistic opportunity to swimmers seeded 9th through 24th to swim to their level of capability by ensuring that the top swimmers are distributed across all of the 3 last heats in prelims. But, it also means that the top 3 swimmers in the event coming into the meet do not swim head-to-head against each other in preliminary heats.

Because Swimming & Diving is competed as a winter sport, the championship season occurs in late January through mid-February. This is the same general time period that historically in Virginia produces the highest probability for snow and ice during the winter. As such, over the past 5 years, several district, regional and state championship meets have endured adverse weather conditions or predictions. One of the options that may be considered in such situations is to shorten the meet.

This policy addresses the procedures to follow for a championship meet that is shortened by inclement weather. It **does not** address the decision tree involved in concluding that the meet is to be shortened as that decision rests entirely on meet management in direct consultation with appropriate staff at VHSL and school administrators and based on the conditions and information available at that point in time.

POLICY

The decision to shorten a championship swim meet will result in that championship meet being swum as a timed finals meet such that there will only be a single contesting of each event and the results from that single contest are scored. This means that all

events—or those events that remain if the meet is already underway—**must be reseeded** from pyramid seeding to timed finals seeding in order to ensure that the top competitors in that event compete directly against each other in the meet.

Timed finals seeding are shown in the table below. As a practical matter, only the final 3 heats of the event will need to be reseeded from their preliminary heat seeding, because the previous heats already conform to timed finals seeding.

HEAT	LANE							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Last	7	5	3	1	2	4	6	8
Next to Last	15	13	11	9	10	12	14	16
2 nd from Last	23	21	19	17	18	20	22	24

In the case of a meet already underway when the decision is made to shorten the meet, the events already contested shall be scored based on the results from the preliminary heats as swum. They will **not** be reswum.

For diving events, where one or more rounds of diving have been completed prior to the decision to shorten the meet, the scores achieved through the last round completed by all divers shall be the final score if all rounds of diving cannot be competed. Divers are **not** permitted to change the order of dives from that shown on the submitted diving scoresheet. However, if the decision to shorten the meet occurs before one or more rounds of the diving event have been completed, all divers shall be directed to use a 6-dive program and resubmit scoresheets accordingly. If sufficient blank official NFHS scoresheets are not available for all divers to enter their 6-dive programs, there shall be no penalty for using a non-NFHS scoresheet blank for this purpose.