

Assistant Commissioner Sarah Bridenbaugh

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Winter Swimming

**Issues of Concern
(legal, playing Rules,
fiscal management,
etc.)**

The 2025 Rules Committee made some major rule changes that we need to address as a state. Rule 2-7-3 was approved, and this permissive rule allows backstroke ledges in pools that maintain a 6-foot water depth, measured from the starting end wall to at least 16 feet, 5 inches (5 meters) from the end wall. It also specifies the acceptable dimensions for the ledges. Under Rule 2-7-3, if backstroke ledges are used in a competition, identical ledges must be provided by the host team for all lanes. Even if the ledges are available, individual swimmers are not required to use them.

When schools were asked on the triennial survey about the wedges, only 23.13% of schools said to not adopt it. 53.74% of swimming schools want to allow wedges for the 25-26 season, and another 23.13% of schools wants them permissible by 26-27. I am currently gathering information on which pools have this equipment available and will report back to the Board of Control what options we have in our postseason.

In addition, the 2025 rules committee did not pass a proposal submitted by our office that would allow for state association adoption to reduce the number of dives for championship meets and conduct the event in accordance with 9-4-3.

However, the committee did approve a 3-year experiment with a 6-dive format. If we wish to try an alternative, this would allow us to reduce the number of dives for the postseason format that could allow for expanded opportunities for participation in this event and help reverse the current downward trend. We have not polled our schools on this topic yet, but we do plan to send out a survey to the Designated Representatives. We will also bring the results of that survey to the September meeting.