

# Swimming B/G Post Season Meeting

March 18, 2026 @ 10:00am

## 1. Welcome and introductions:

Kate Dobinson AD (WWP South), Frank Malta AD (East Brunswick), Carol Fowler (Site Supervisor), Sara Palumbo, Neptune Aquatics Director (Site Supervisor), Jennamarie Neylan (Coach, Red Bank Reginal), Gen Wall (Coach, PCIT), Chris Miller (Coach GCIT), Brian Booth (Coach, Mainland Reginal), Linda DuBois (Site Supervisor GCIT & Team Tournament), Paul Welsh (NJSIAA Interpreter, Diving, Team and MOC Director), John Berckes (NJSIAA, State Assignor), John Fraraccio AD (Memorial HS, NJSIAA Executive Committee Rep)

## 2. Review of previous Post-Season Minutes:

See below for Backstroke ledges information and MOC's consolation relays

## 3. Review of regular season:

See below for update on BSL

## 4. Review of Post-Season:

- Regarding **tie breakers** in state tournament, have nj.com open the power point software and email coaches the NJSIAA tiebreaker spreadsheet. The coaches will have 2 options to determine the tiebreaker.
  
- **Backstroke ledges**  
2025–2026 Regular Season:
  - a. Agreement between schools is required to utilize backstroke ledges if the facility is equipped with them. The mutual agreement is all lanes or no lanes.  
**State Tournament:**
  - b. Backstroke ledges will be used at the Meet of Champions for both the prelims and finals. Individual swimmers may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other swimmers from using them. Backstroke ledges are not permitted at any other tournament round except for the Meet of Champions.  
2026–2027 Regular Season:
  - a. No mutual agreement between schools is required to utilize backstroke ledges if the facility is equipped with them. Individuals and or the team may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other school from using them.

**State Tournament:**

- b. Backstroke ledges will be used at the Meet of Champions for both the prelims and finals. Individual swimmers may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other swimmers from using them.
- c. Backstroke ledges will be used at the team sectionals, semifinals, and finals. Individuals and/or the team may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other school from using them.

**2027–2028 Regular Season:**

- a. No mutual agreement between schools is required to utilize backstroke ledges if the facility is equipped with them. Individuals and/or the team may choose not to use them, however that will not deny the other school from using them.

**State Tournament:**

- b. Backstroke ledges will be used at the Meet of Champions for both the prelims and finals. Individual swimmers may choose not to use them, however that will not deny the other swimmers from using them.
- c. Backstroke ledges will be used at the team sectionals, semifinals, and finals. Individuals and/or the team may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other school from using them.
- d. Backstroke ledges may be utilized at all preliminary rounds. Individual schools may choose not to use them; however, that will not deny the other school from using them.

**Important Notes regarding BSL**

- a. The facility must provide and agree to utilize the ledges
  - b. All facilities may choose which type of BSL to use provided they are from the same manufacturer.
  - c. All BSL must be used as the manufacture intended and must not be altered in any way.
  - d. Under no circumstances may a school provide and use their own backstroke ledges.
  - e. Each school must have a clear procedure established for inserting and removing the ledges from the pool. This is not the facilities responsibility.
  - f. Pools must maintain a 6-foot water depth, measured from the starting end wall to at least 16 feet-5 inches (5 meters) from that wall to be eligible for backstroke ledges.
- Regarding **MOC 100 Breaststroke event**, a protest was submitted to the NJSIAA with the following determination.

After the initial race concluded, the meet referee and tournament director immediately consulted and spoke with all coaches on deck. It was confirmed that multiple swimmers did not hear the starting signal. In accordance with NFHS rules, which govern high school swimming, the meet referee has the authority to order a re-swim when there is reasonable concern that a start was not fair to all competitors.

Prior to the re-swim, it was clearly communicated to all participants and coaches that swimmers could either retain their original time or elect to compete in the re-swim, in which case the re-swim time would replace the original result.

Following review and consultation with NFHS staff, it was determined that the rule was properly applied. The protest was denied, and the results of the re-swim stand.

#### 5. Review of dates for next season:

View all important dates on the “Quick Chart”, located at the NJSIAA website under the “Schools” tab.

Start Date/First Practice Date .... November 16, 2026

Competition may begin .... November 30, 2026

#### 6. Review current tournament regulations and any proposed changes for the next season:

- Regarding “B” relay at MOC’s, this proposal was submitted to the NJSIAA Program Review Committee and voted on by the NJSIAA Executive Committee in June 2023:
  - a. Swimming rules do not allow participants in the B heat to be eligible for medals – so hosting these heats is for exhibition purposes only.
  - b. States that host B heats at their state championships are doing so in order to calculate team points and declare team champions.
  - c. NJ is the only state that hosts a separate dual-meet team tournament – we do not declare team champions at the MOC therefore do not need to calculate team points.
  - d. In no other NJSIAA sport do we bring back participants the next day that are not eligible to medal.
  - e. High school swimming is not supposed to be like club swimming – we must stay mindful of the costs of hosting our state tournaments, especially the costs to our schools – hosting exhibition events is a waste of resources for everyone.
  
- Proposed changes in Team Tournament:
  - a. Double duals for state team finals and sectional finals
  - b. NJSIAA provide ATC’s at Sectional Finals and Team Finals

- c. 12/16 team bracket for Sectionals and eliminate state semi-finals. Move from 4 sectional brackets of 8 schools to 2 sectional brackets of 12 or 16 schools. This will ensure a more competitive balance. Concerns were raised regarding opportunity for teams, limiting competition for the “high school” swimmers, shouldn’t care about the top 4 teams receiving a double bye and waiting 2 weeks to compete.

## 7. New Business:

- See above for proposed changes in team state tournament
- Encourage the coaches to form state-wide coaches’ association, there is a National Coaches Association for swim/dive coaches with many programs, \$75 for \$500 insurance coverage.

## 8. Old Business:

- See numbers 4, 6 and 9 for information
- A topic brought up at the meeting was the term, “play on” and “play bye” date for the state tournament. At the bottom of that page, it explains the Play On and Play Bye dates.

## 9. Correspondence:

- MOC, boys swim first as was written in the rules/regs but not conveyed in the psych sheets or heat sheets. The girls will swim first at the 2027 MOC Tournament. This will be addressed for the 2027 MOC Tournament.
- Cool down lanes at RBYMCA, there are 10 lanes, compete in 6 and allowed to use lanes 9 and 10 for cool down, as per Paul Welsh and John Berckes
- Can NJSIAA encourage schools with enough of one gender to form a competitive team for that gender instead of competing as a co-ed team. This usually is at the expense of the girls’ swimmers. This is the decision of each school district.
- Lower MOC qualifying times, committee cited the wild card meet and Paul explained that the entry times are based on the previous 5 years times and it has worked out for our student-athletes.
- Each school may purchase their own BSL’s, if they utilize an off-campus facility, they must be approved by that facility and the school will need to purchase 6 BSL’s for every swimmer to compete, not just the home team. Perhaps the NJSIAA should recommend 1 company so that the visiting schools can bring their own BSL, encourage the AD’s to communicate.

## 10. Good of the order:

This is a very collaborative committee, great discussions and all viewpoints are explored

