

## 2021 Season Coaches/Officials/Computer Scorers Highlights

### 1. Ohio's Return to Play Law (ORC 3707.511)

A. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), under the Return to Play Law, requires coaches and referees of youth sports organizations to successfully complete a training program every three years concerning concussions and head injuries and recognizing symptoms.

B. The Greater Dayton Swimming Association falls under the jurisdiction of a "Youth Sports Organization. The ODH defines a "Youth Sports Organization" as:

" . . . defined as public or nonpublic entities that organize athletic activities in which the athletes are not more than 19 years old and are required to pay a fee to participate in the athletic activity or whose cost to participate is sponsored by a business or nonprofit organization."

C. In accordance to the ODH Return to Play Law, GDSA will require the following:

1) **Coaches** will complete the free on-line training and submit certificate of completion to GDSA Representative by the first day of official practice.

**NOTE: If coaches have already completed an on-line concussion training with an Ohio Department of Health approved organization (NFHS, NAYS, or CDC) within the last three years, they just need to provide proof of completion to team's GDSA Representative.**

2) **Officials** will complete the free on-line training and submit certificate of completion to GDSA Representative by the first scheduled regular swim meet.

**NOTE: If an official has already completed an on-line concussion training with an Ohio Department of Health approved organization (NFHS, NAYS, or CDC) within the last three years, they just need to provide proof of completion to team's GDSA Representative.**

3) **GDSA Representatives** will complete the free on-line training and submit certificate of Completion by the first day of official practice.

D. The following is the link to access the training program (available on SwimTopia):

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

E. The Ohio Law (ORC 3707.511) also requires youth sports organizations to provide parents/guardians a concussion fact sheet. GDSA will use the free fact sheet from the ODH (on Swimtopia with the registration section).

F. A Concussion fact sheet (on GDSA Swimtopia website) must be kept on file in Pool Managers office as reference in the event of a potential brain injury.

G. Pools will keep ODH MEDICAL CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY AFTER SUSPECTED CONCUSSION Forms in Pool Manager's office for Head Referee or Asst. Referee to fill out in the event of a swimmer suspected of experiencing a brain injury and/or concussion.

1) Parents/guardians will be given the form. The form must have a physician or

licensed healthcare provider assess and clear the swimmer before they return.

- 2) Swimmer must be cleared to return with completed form turned into Coach and GDSA Representative to keep on file.

## **2. GDSA Procedure for suspected concussion and/or possible brain injury**

A. GDSA procedure in response to a swimmer displaying signs and/or symptoms of a possible brain injury or concussion (in compliance with Ohio Return to Play Law) will be the following:

1. The swimmer will be removed from competition.
2. The parents/guardians and coaches are to be advised of the swimmers removal from competition.
3. Head Referee and/or Asst. Referee will fill out the top section of the ODH MEDICAL CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY AFTER SUSPECTED CONCUSSION Form (on GDSA Swimtopia website) and give form to parents/guardians of swimmer suspected of experiencing a brain injury and/or concussion.
4. The parents/guardians will be advised to have the swimmer evaluated by a healthcare provider immediately.
5. The swimmer will not be permitted to practice or compete until medically cleared by a healthcare provider as evidenced by a completed the ODH Medical Clearance to Return to Play After Suspected Concussion form to coach (in accordance to Ohio Law) and the Pool GDSA Representative.

## **3. Lindsey's Law**

- A. GDSA is considered a 'Youth Sports Organization' under the law, as stated in 1.B above).
- B. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), under the Lindsay's Law, requires coaches, parents/guardians, and athletes of youth sports organizations to view a training video and review written materials every season concerning sudden cardiac arrest in youth, recognizing symptoms, appropriate interventions, and athlete's return to participate requirements. The following is the link to access the training video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3teQ3e\\_hoQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3teQ3e_hoQ&feature=youtu.be)

- C. GDSA representatives will develop and keep record (signature form) of parent's/guardian's fulfilling the requirement to view training video. The following are the time frames for completion:
- 1) Coaches are mandated to watch the training video session and review the Ohio Department of Health document "Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Lindsay's Law Information for Coaches" prior to the first day of practice.
  - 2) Officials are mandated to watch the training video and review the Ohio Department of Health document "Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Lindsay's Law Information for Coaches" prior to the first day of practice.
  - 3) Athletes and parents/guardians are to watch the training video, review the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Handout", and return a signed copy of the handout to their GDSA Representative prior to the first day of practice.
  - 4) GDSA Representatives will maintain records of proof of compliance to the law.

## **4. NEW: Infectious Disease Liability Waiver:**

- A. Participation in GDSA events or activities by my child and myself involves the possible exposure to and illness from infectious and/or communicable diseases including, but

not limited to, COVID-19, MRSA, influenza, and other infectious or communicable diseases. While adherence to particular rules and requirements may reduce the risk of possible exposure, the risk of serious illness and death remains; and

- B. On behalf of my child and myself, I knowingly and freely ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the Releasees or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and
- C. On behalf of my child and myself, I agree to comply with all rules, regulations or conditions established by GDSA and the State of Ohio for participation in such events or activities. If, however, I observe any violation of the rules, regulation or conditions established by GDSA or State of Ohio during my presence or participation, I shall remove myself from participation and immediately bring such matter to the attention of the GDSA; and
- D. On behalf of my child and myself, I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS GDSA, its board members, officials, agents, employees, Members, Leagues and Associations, clubs, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event or activity in which I participate (“RELEASEES”), from and against any and all claims of whatever type or kind including any illness, disability, death, or other loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of Releasees or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law. Further, I expressly agree that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Ohio or any other state in which my/our child may participate in any event or activity described herein, and that if any portion of this release is determined to be invalid, it is agreed that the remaining provisions of this release shall continue in full force and effect. Finally, I further state that I have fully and carefully read the above release, understand the contents of the same and sign this release voluntarily and as my own free act and deed.

## 5. Ribbons:

In order to cut costs, the board voted to keep the current awards for semis and finals AND then only give regular season ribbons to 10 and unders. 11 and ups will not receive regular season ribbons.

## 6. COVID- 19 Changes:

- A. One timer for each lane & two backup timers; one writer for two lanes
- B. Clerk of Course at ALL Meets (Regular Season and Championships)
- C. Live Stream Meets
- D. Designated Areas for “Walk ups Watchers” at each pool
- E. No changing in the bathrooms during and after the meets
- F. No catchers in 42 ft event unless requested and approved by parent of both swimmer and catcher as well as coach
- G. Practice Protocols- GDSA will allow each team to determine its own practice protocols.
- H. Concessions Protocols--All concessions items must be either purchased pre-packaged from a store or purchased wrapped/boxed from a restaurant.
- I. Starter & Stop Watches should be sanitized after each meet.

## 7. Schedule:

- A. Registration Period ends on June 18 at midnight. Time stamped registrations forms after this date will not

be eligible to compete in meets.

- B. Individual Maximum events per regular season meet: 5 Events-Swimmer's entries may not exceed 2 relays.
- C. Two heats for Relays (4 Relay teams with a total of 16 swimmers per team competing)
  - 1) Scoring: Teams will only accrue points from the top 2 relay finishers.
- D. Two heats for all individual events
  - 1) Scoring: Teams will only accrue points from the top 2 finishers.
- E. Championship eligibility minimum meet requirement is 2 tri-meets.
- F. Championship week of July 12 without a Timing System.
  - 1) Additional volunteers will be required.
- G. Semi-Final Championship Entries-3 swimmers per individual events and 2 relays
  - 1) **A swimmer entered in a relay team may not be listed as an alternate for that Relay event.**
  - 2) **For Semi-Finals, the fastest relay from each team will qualify for Finals. Any open remaining lane assignments for Finals will be filled according to Semi-Final finish times.**
  - 3) **At Finals with only one (1) relay per team may score points.**
  - 4) **The relay team members qualifying for finals must be the same as those who swam the event in Semi-Finals.**
  - 5) **A swimmer cannot be listed as an alternate for an event if entered to compete in that event.**

## **8. For Events #11 & #12, the "Two" Heats for each event will have recorded finish times by the timers assigned to the respected lanes.**

- A. Finish times for the third and later heats will be obtained by the coaches only.
- B. Finish times on third and later heats will not be considered as official times for championship entries.
- C. **Coaches please reserve Exhibition swimmers the 42ft. race for those swimmers only able to swim 42ft.**
- D. Head Timers or Starters will instruct the timers during the Pre-Meet Timer Meeting

## **9. Pre-Meet Documentation Changes**

- A. Coaches responsible to bring their own hardcopies to meet for bullpens.
- B. Meet entry changes prior to the start of the meet must be turned into by 5:45 PM to the Computer Scorer.

## **10. Mid-Season Officials Training (Starter's Clinic included)**

- A. Date: TBD
- B. Location: TBD
- C. Time: TBD
- D. RSVP numbers to: TBD

- 11. **Regular Season Meet Warm-Up schedule change: change to accommodate the additional heats 5:45 PM Entry Changes due to Computer Scorer**
  - 5:50-6:00 PM Host Pool
  - 6:00 Officials/Relay Take-Off Judges Meeting
  - 6:00-6:10 PM Closest pool to host
  - 6:10-6:20 PM Farthest pool to host
  - 6:15 PM Timers Meeting
  - 6:25 PM National Anthem
  - 6:30 PM Meet Start