

## Are you Taking Your Divers' All America Application for granted?

Do all you can to assist your diver to attain All America - Submit a second Application.

Each year divers are scored lower than they could or should. This happens for many reasons, most if not all are unintentional, but they all prevent the committee from judging your divers as well as they can or, in diving terms, as high as you would like.

The biggest reason a diver scores less is directly related to sending in applications late. This is not because the judges are offended or later applications score less. All the applications are scored as fairly as possible. It is because diving sheets are misplaced, signature verification cards are not completed at the meet, the paperwork is lost, diving lists are mixed up ... **All of the requirements on the checklist are mandatory!** The application, diving sheet, diving results, signature verification card, DVD and proof of payment need to be provided to the selection committee. Without the proper verification the application is not watched. If you do not send in a copy of the diving sheet the committee does not judge your meet. If there is time the Selection Committee Chair will contact you and the application requirements are completed and everything works out fine. However, if there isn't time or if you don't put an email address on your application (or an incorrect one) they can't reach you to fix the problem. Also, be aware that once your season is over the coaches and officials may be much harder to contact. Most, if not all of these issues can be eliminated or at least reduced by filling out your application promptly, while the meet is still fresh in your mind. Once the meet fades from your thinking, mistakes increase. It gets harder to get the diving sheet, signatures; coaches NISCA number ... once the season ends. Do yourself a favor – complete and send your All America application promptly after your season.

The second biggest reason divers' score less than they deserve is due to the filming. Missing a complete dive, the top of a dive, the entry of the dive or filming from a really bad angle. Can you blame the judges? – Not really. How can they give a dive a good score if they can't see the dive? Can they give full credit if they only see part of the dive? The judges go out of their way to be fair (especially with this situation because it occurs frequently) but a great dive that jumps most the way out of the screen or a beautiful dive that you can't see enter the water raises doubt/questions about those unseen parts. A seven dive might get a five, or less depending upon the severity of the incident. Similarly, a dive that is so far away that it is difficult to see (and judge) hurts your diver's chance of getting the most points. Practice filming a meet before it matters. Show your coach and get there feedback. Do not take any unnecessary chances; make sure your divers score what they deserve.

The next biggest reason divers do not make All America is a lack of knowledge of the rules and requirements. Over the years I have heard many fallacies' regarding the diving selection process. Like, only the state champion qualifies, only state meet films can be submitted, applications must be received within ten days of the state meet, only the first place diver can submit a DVD, you have to make the score twice before you can submit an application. None of these are correct! Anyone who meets the 375 point standard and the minimum degree of difficulty (13.0 girls, 13.3 boys) can submit an application. Any sanctioned high school championship meet (state, league, qualifying meet, prelim, final and even invitational meets) can be sent in to be considered. The committee doesn't care who your coach is, whether the diver qualified last year, what place they finished or even there grade

point. They only care about the diving skills they can see on the DVD that is playing in front of them and scoring it the best and fairest way they can.

Another major reason divers don't do as well as they should is that the parents, coaches and or divers take the process for granted. Assuming that your diver is so good they can just send in one meet or only their state meet can potentially be a big mistake. Look at all the meets that qualify. Scoring diving is very subjective. Dives score differently in different meets. Just because the score was high does not mean they will score high enough to be in the top 100 applicants. Discern which two meets show off your diver and their diving skills the best. Re-judge them without the emotions and excitement of the meet. Years ago you were allowed to submit five applications. Now, you are only allowed to submit two. Use these two opportunities to show your diver in the best light possible. By submitting two applications you also allow for less than perfect filming, a mistake while editing, bad camera angle, different judging preferences ...

However, please be aware that all of the following situations occur each year:

When a meet is edited putting a dive in the wrong sequence that dive is failed.

When the wrong diving list is entered on the application – dive(s) are failed.

When the wrong video of a meet is sent in, the application is DQ'd

When a DVD will not play the meet is DQ'd. **Finalize your DVD when you copy it!**

Also, when the person filming gets to the meet late their seat (and thus their filming angle) dramatically affects the committees re-scoring. The dives might have been great live, but the angle the AA judges see the dives is not nearly as positive for the diver. When this occurs, ask someone to share the best angle with you. Be nice they don't have too. And when you have a good seat try to help others so that everyone benefits from the best angle (judges view).

The easiest way to make sure your diver has the best chance to make All America? – Increase the odds in your favor – discern the meets that show your divers talents the best and submit multiple entries! Don't take any unnecessary chances with your divers All America, get to the meets early, be prepared with the right paperwork, review your best meets, and submit everything promptly.