

Why Did My Diving All-American Application Get Rejected Common Errors Made During the Application Process

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The high school season has ended and you have filmed all of your championship meets and chosen the top two or three meets (that achieved a qualifying score). What comes next?

Fill out the online application and submit it for consideration to the NISCA (National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association) for High School All-American. The site can be found at www.niscaonline.org.

Sounds pretty simple doesn't it. But not so fast my friends, it's not as easy as it seems. If it were, the committee that reviews the applications and DVD's would not have so many disqualifications. The vast majority of these DQ's are not the result of a bad dive, but errors made when applying. After all that hard work and training, it would be a shame to be disqualified for a technicality, but it happens every year.

In an effort to reduce the number applications that get rejected, here are the most common errors made by divers, parents and coaches.

Bad DVDs

Now I don't mean to suggest that the diver, the filming, or diving performance is bad. Simply that a few of the DVD's submitted arrive cracked, contain no video, won't play or are unrecognizable by either a DVD player or computer!

The unfortunate aspect of this problem is that there are divers who go through the process of submitting an application, paying the fee and are disqualified because no one can see their dives, regardless of how well they performed.

The bottom line here is that the diver, the coach, or the parent is responsible for submitting a DVD that works. Watch the DVD before submission, and make sure that the disc is in good working condition and can be viewed on a DVD player.

Application Problems

With over 600 applications submitted, there are always problems, but many of these are incredibly simple to correct just by following three simple rules:

1. Submit a complete application. In other words all the required paperwork.
2. Include the application fee.
3. Include the DVD.

Seems simple, but there are always a small number of divers that forget one of these three important items!

Dive and Score Sheet Problems

- Correct Score Sheet - Make sure that the diving sheet that you include is for the competition that is on the DVD. Including a score sheet from a regional or sectional championship, and footage from the state championship, will result in an immediate DQ.
- Get the required Signatures – Print a copy of the NISCA AA Diving Verification Card from the website and take it to the meet with you. After your son or daughter achieves the required score (375 pts) make a point of getting the necessary signatures from the diving referee and meet manager. It is their signatures that confirm that the score and place were accomplished in a properly sanctioned high school competition. **Note:** it is much easier to get these at the meet than to track them down after the fact.
- Missing A Dive – If you forget to include a dive on the video, you're chances of making All-American drop like a rock. Why ... the missed dive counts as a failed dive. Since all of the submissions are judged like a real diving meet, when a diver does not complete the dive (aka – the dive is missing), it is failed. Now this is not to say that if a diver receives a fail dive they won't be selected. If 2013 National High School Champion Bryce Klein missed a dive, I feel certain he would have made the top 100. But you would not enter a real competition knowing that you only get 10 dives and the rest of the field gets 11, so check your DVD and make sure all 11 dives are included!
- Missing A Dive Part II - If you miss a dive during the competition, chances are that someone else has that dive on tape. It is worth the time to ask other people filming if they have the footage you need. It is also a good idea to ask others to film your son or daughter while you in turn film theirs. Make sure you edit the second diver off the DVD before you submit it.
- Matching the Diving Order – If you do a dive out of order during a meet, that dive is failed. Again, this is a fairly simple. A diver should expect the same result with their application as they would in a competition. Check your diving sheet and make sure that the dives on the DVD are in the same order as those on your score sheet.

These are just a few of the problems that occur each year, and every one of these can be corrected by making sure that you have included each of the three items needed, and reviewing your DVD before it is sent.

One final suggestion is to submit your application(s) as soon as your season ends. This is when your season is fresh in your mind. It is much easier to track down signatures, find diving sheets, choose the best meet(s), and get your coaches help before everyone moves on to the next priority. By submitting early (or at least on time) you save money and have a chance to re-submit anything missing or broken and still have the best chance to make All America.