

STATE DECLARATION CONSIDERATIONS – ENTRY LIMITS AND QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

As we get closer to the closing of the performance list, and the opening of the Declarations window, I wanted to provide you with some additional information that may assist you with your decisions and declarations. The **consideration** qualifications/declarations, brings another layer to your deliberations, so I want to assist you as much as I can. If you have other questions, [email me!](#) More information can be found in the Swimming Manual and in the entry instructions on the swimming page of the MSHSAA website as well.

ENTRY LIMITS - OVERALL: In preparation for your declarations, please review NFHS Rules 3-1-1 and 3-2-1. Those rules outline the entry (declaration) limits for teams and individuals – you may **not declare** any athlete beyond these entry limits. These maximums include all declarations TOGETHER. If you have any questions on how this works, please call or email me. You may legally declare a swimmer in 2 individual events and all 3 relays (as a participant/alternate) for a total of 5, but the student CANNOT swim/dive in all 5 at state, or there will be a DQ. It is imperative that you understand these rules or you will jeopardize your entries/declarations.

ENTRY LIMITS – INDIVIDUAL VS. RELAY: The options and restrictions on entry limits are well clarified in NFHS Rules 3-1-1 and 3-2-1. Declarations in **individual** events that are accepted (within the top 32) WILL COUNT as entries whether an athlete swims or not (diving is included in limits). Any withdrawal, no show, scratch, or declared false start will count as an entry toward the limit of four for the meet. So, if you are declaring an athlete in 5 events (which can only be a combination of 3 relays and 2 individual events) and all entries are accepted (top 32), please realize that the athlete will have to be **held out** of one of the relays. The individual events (that are accepted) are **locked in as entries** whether the athlete participates or not. If you declare an athlete in 5 events, and he/she does not make it into the top 32 for one of the individual events, that event will not count as an entry and he/she can legally swim in the 1 individual event and 3 relays in which he was accepted, for a total of four events, at state. Relays don't count as an event unless you swim it, so being listed as a relay alternate but then NOT swimming in that relay will not count as an event toward the max of 4.

COACHES - DECLARATIONS AND CONSIDERATION CUTS: The consideration cuts may make your decisions regarding state declarations more thought-provoking. Swimmers within the top 32 in an event are guaranteed entry into that event IF AND ONLY IF you declare them, and only if you don't exceed the limits. You must also declare swimmers that made a consideration cut but are below the fastest 32, if you hope to have him/her compete in that event. Because athletes have made cuts in a variety of events, there will be holes in the top 32 (swimmers that are not declared) so you SHOULD declare a swimmer if that's the event you want to try to get the swimmer into. Just watch your limits! We've gone down the list into the 70's before, and swimmers have gotten in. If an athlete makes it in the top 32 declarations for the event, they will appear on the PSYCH SHEETS that will be posted (per Key Dates schedule) for review.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

- Q1: If I have a consideration qualifier, do I have to declare him/her in that event or will you just pull the swimmer in?
- A1: You have to **DECLARE** the swimmer if you want him/her to (possibly) participate in that event at state. If you do not declare someone, he/she will NOT be an entry (guaranteed).

Q2: Relay alternates – where do I list these?

A2: You will list your relay alternates on the MSHSAA website at the time you DECLARE that relay. No changes can be made to those relay participants after declarations (other than legal substitutes as specifically described in the Swimming Manual).

Q3: How many relay teams qualify for state in each class.

A3: 32, unless there is a tie for 32nd place.

Q4: Can we bring athletes that do not have any entries to state if we list them on our MSHSAA state roster?

A4: No. If a student has no entries and is not a relay alternate, they will not have credentials to enter the facility or be with the team on deck. Credentials will be prepared based on the athlete data in Meet Manager pulled from the MSHSAA declarations. The MSHSAA state swimming and diving rosters are to assist you and us in confirming student eligibility, but are not used for meet credentials.

Q5: When I declare, should I worry about performances still being submitted? Is there a reason to declare late?

A5: The performance list will CLOSE before declarations OPEN (see Key Dates schedule) so you can declare without worrying if all performances are in. If they aren't submitted by that point, they CANNOT BE SUBMITTED. Declare early... the window is only 24 hours and if you run into any technical glitches, etc. you want to have plenty of time. Don't procrastinate yourself into a corner.

Thank you! Email me any questions you still have.

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