

# Middle School Swimming and Diving

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are there rules that apply to Middle School Swimming and Diving?**

Yes! If your high school is a member of MSHAA, then so is your Middle School. The rules are available from your Athletic Director by asking to see the Handbook for the current year. There is an entire section dedicated to Middle School Rules. The rules are summarized below. In addition, all National High School Federation rules apply and must be followed during competitions.

### **What determines the school that an athlete would swim for?**

A student must be enrolled in at least 50% of his/her current classes in the school for which he or she competes.

### **Are there co-ops in Middle School?**

There could be but currently there are no co-ops that the state has approved for Middle School. Just because your HS might have a co-op does not mean your Middle School does. In order to be a co-op, your school must follow the same application procedure used for High School co-ops.

### **Are there Eligibility rules to compete?**

Yes

No student shall be eligible to **represent** a Junior High/Middle School if there is no physical on file in the offices of the superintendent or principal or athletic director of the school. The physical must be for the current school year certifying that the student has passed a physical exam and is physically able to compete. Students wanting to compete in MS cannot be older than 15 before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Student must have passing grades in at least 50% of a full class load. A first year MS student can compete without reference to his or her record in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade; however; a student who repeats 7<sup>th</sup> grade is subject to academic requirements.

### **My Middle School is 6-8 or 5-8 grades. Can they all be on the Middle School team and compete in a meet?**

Junior high/middle schools which join the MHSAA at the 6th-grade level may allow 6th-graders to participate with 7th- and 8th-graders in individual sports (e.g., bowling, cross country, track & field, swimming & diving, tennis and wrestling). With the approval of their middle school leagues, this may occur also in team sports. Contact your school or league to determine 6th grade eligibility.

### **Can I just pull Middle School aged kids off my Club team and compete in a Middle School meet?**

Not unless all your Middle School Meet Swimmers have physicals on file and are attending and passing at least 50% of a full load FOR THE SCHOOL THAT THEY ARE COMPETING FOR.

### **Can my MS swim team compete in both Middle School competitions and club competitions?**

Yes, but not more than 2 non-middle school meets from the defined start or your middle school season! A student who, after practicing with or participating in a contest or scrimmage as a member of a junior High/Middle School Athletic Team cannot participate in more than 2 outside contest during the remainder of the season. An event held on not more than three consecutive calendar days is considered a single meet. For example; a club meet with events running Friday, Saturday and Sunday counts as one outside meet