



POSITION STATEMENT – DIVE ENTRIES

June 2017

Background:

With recent changes to the Health and Safety Act increasing the accountability on facility owners and operators to provide safe 'workplaces', an increased focus is being seen by swimming pool operators in relation to how swimmers are diving into pools for both competition and training. This increased focus is particularly relevant to pools with shallow depths of less than 1.4m.

Swimming NZ has been asked to develop a policy relating to dive entries into pools that can be used by pool owners/operators to assist them to determine their own diving rules and how these are applied to a swimming club using the pool for training and/or competition.

In an effort to get a formal policy adopted quickly, Swimming NZ has looked to Swimming Australia who operate within a strict Health & Safety environment and has invested considerable time and resources into developing a robust dive entry policy back by significant international research. It is this policy that Swimming NZ now references and endorses for use within the NZ swimming environment.

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to inform swimming clubs, swimming facilities owners/operators and swimming coaches or water safety teachers of Swimming NZ's position in relation to dive entry for swimming competition or swimming training.

The policy is to assist clubs, facilities owners/operators, coaches and water safety teachers undertaking swimming events and training activities to make informed decisions and to issue directives to ensure safety of their participants.

Given the overriding responsibility for determining Health & Safety rules and procedures falls to the respective pool owner/operator, Swimming NZ maintains that the suitability of this policy for use at a specific facility, is at the sole discretion of the swimming pool owner/operator who must themselves determine its suitability or not for use at their facility.

Policy:

1. Less than 0.9 metre - No dives.
2. 0.9 metre to less than 1.0 metre - Concourse dive (providing concourse is not more than 0.2 metre above the water surface).
3. 1.0metre to less than 1.2 metre – Concourse dive (providing concourse is not more than 0.4 metre above the water surface).
4. 1.2 metre to less than 1.35 metre – Concourse or Platform dive (As long as the platform is not more than 0.75 metre above the water surface.)
5. 1.35 metre and more - As per FINA Rule FR2.7.

Application:

Swimming NZ will utilise this “Dive Entry for Competitive Swimming Position Statement” to inform clubs, coaches, facility operators, officials and facility owners of the adopted position of the sport. As such the policy will be:

- Displayed on the Swimming NZ website for reference;
- Distributed to Swimming NZ region and club networks;
- Utilised as the reference for responding to all enquiries from clubs, facility operators, swimming officials and facility owners on specific swimming pool dive entry circumstances; and
- Applied to discussions with aquatic industry organisations in relation to the application of common standards where Swimming NZ is not directly involved.

Review:

Swimming NZ will review its position in relation to the Swimming Australia’s Dive Entry for Competitive Swimming Policy on an annual basis.

Authorisation:

This Position Statement has been authorised by the Board of Swimming NZ in May 2017.



Steve Johns

Chief Executive Officer