

PASDA JUDGING & SCORING PHILOSOPHY

As you watch more diving, especially by talented performers, you will observe that although several divers may do the same dive, it never looks quite the same. This is because each individual has unique mannerisms, characteristics of movement, strengths and timing – all adding up to an abstract but observable phenomenon called “style.”

Style is difficult to assess by any standard, except whether or not you like it. This is why judging is difficult. Even though there are execution criteria that all divers must meet, evaluation remains a subjective process. No matter how well a dive is performed, artistic likes and dislikes of the judges play a large part in the outcome of any contest. For this reason there are usually differences of opinion among coaches, competitors, judges and spectators about the accuracy of results.

The most important consideration for a PASDA judge to remember is to remain consistent within the age group. If you are always the judge that is a point higher than all the other judges, fine, just stay that way through the event. PASDA suggests that judges award slightly higher scores for the youngest age group to encourage them, and then as the age increases, adjust the scoring.

EVALUATING PARTS OF A DIVE

Certain parts of the dive must be analyzed and evaluated independently in order to construct an overall award. Judges only look at the elements of the dive from the start of the approach to the entry into the water, not the walk up to the board or any movement under the water.

Starting Position: The starting position may be standing facing the water for forward approaches, or with the diver’s back to the water at the end of the springboard for backward approaches. The diver should be standing straight with the head erect, and the arms straight and steady in a position of the diver’s choice.

Approach: The approach should be smooth, straight and continuous. Forward approaches should use no less than three steps, before executing a hurdle from one foot. Novice divers may forego the approach and assume a starting position at the end of the board. The back approach is initiated by an arm swing used to initiate momentum. At no time during the back approach shall the diver’s feet leave the springboard.

Take-Off: The takeoff must show control and balance, and should be bold, high and confident. The diver must leave the springboard from both feet. The takeoff should be from the end of the board with the proper landing and leaving angle for the given dive. Greater height affords greater accuracy and smoothness of movement.

Flight: The flight of the dive should be smooth and graceful. At no time should the dive move to the left or the right of the springboard, nor shall any part of the diver touch the board. During the dive, the body shall be carried in one of the four acceptable positions:

- **Straight position:** the body is not bent at either the knees or hips, feet together, toes pointed, arm position is at the option of the diver
- **Pike position:** the body is bent at the hips only, legs straight at the knees, feet together, toes pointed
- **Tuck position:** the body is compact, bent at the knees and hips, knees and feet together, hands on the lower legs, toes pointed
- **Free position:** (for twisting dives with flips) body position is optional, legs together, toes pointed; the twist may be performed at any time but cannot be done before leaving the board.

Entry: The entry into the water, whether it is a head-first or feet-first entry, shall be vertical or as close to vertical as possible with minimal splash. The diver’s body shall be straight, the legs together, and the toes pointed. Hands should be close together, and the arms must be extended over the head and in-line with body on head-first entries. On feet-first entries the arms shall be straight and at the diver’s side.

PASDA JUDGING & SCORING RULES

A dive is scored between zero and ten points in half point increments by each judge. Judges generally deduct from ½ to 2 points for each poorly executed element of a dive. An individual score should fall into the appropriate range for each judging category as shown here:

0completely failed	5 - 6satisfactory
½ - 2 unsatisfactory	6½ - 8 good
2½ - 4 ½ deficient	8½ - 10 very good

Failed Dives (0)

- Feet enters before head on a head-first dive
- Head enters before feet on a feet-first dive
- Twist is not within 90 degrees of the announced requirement at completion of dive
- Executes the wrong dive (not just wrong position)
- Takeoff is not from both feet simultaneously (or very near it)
- Twisting part of dive begins before takeoff
- Diver takes more than a minute after having been warned that he is taking too long.

Unsatisfactory (½ to 2)

- Correct dive, but clearly done in the wrong position
- Half twist dive that fails to show a clear position before initiating the twist

Deficient (2½ to 4½)

- Correct dive, but done partially in the wrong position
- On feet first entries, one or both arms are above the head.
- On head first entries, one or both arms are below the head.

Significant Discretionary Deductions by Judges

- Dive lacks a proper starting position, approach, or takeoff.
- On standing dives (inward/back), diver bounces on the board or rocks excessively before takeoff.
- Flight lacks proper mechanics or entry is far from vertical.
- Diver strikes board in flight or veers left or right.

Referee Deductions (Balk, Hurdle)

- If a diver restarts the approach (called a balk), judges score the dive as if there were no balk, but the referee instructs the recorder to deduct 2 points from each judge's award. A dive will be declared a failed dive after a second restart. A two-footed hurdle is considered a balk.
- ~~If diver takes less than 3 steps on forward hurdle, referee deducts 2 points from all judges scores.~~

8 & Under Divers

- Up to two restarts are allowed without penalty, but a third restart will result in a failed dive.
- Two-footed hurdles and one-footed takeoffs are discretionary deductions by the judges.
- Dives are scored with a 1.0 DD during dual meets and with actual DD during championship meet.

Specific Dive Scoring

- All jumps (100, 200) are scored with a DD of 1.0 and position of arms may be clearly up or down at discretion of diver. This applies to 8/u and 10/u age groups. Jumps are not allowed in competition for 12/u age group, except for "B" level divers.
- A standing forward (101) or back dive (201) without a clear takeoff, where the diver simply falls off the board, shall be declared by the referee and awarded a maximum score of 4.5 by the judges.
- Back and front dives with half twists (5211, 5111) are allowed but strongly discouraged for novice divers who tend to twist before leaving the board. A diver must leave the board before initiating a twist or else it will be declared a failed dive by the referee. Half-twist dives that do not show a clear position before initiating the twist will receive a maximum score of 2.