

NEW JERSEY REGISTER

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 18

ISSUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

**EDUCATION**

45 N.J.R. 2146(b)

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking**

**N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.18 and 11.12(a)3 and 4**

**Persons Assigned to Work with Interscholastic Swimming and/or Diving Programs**

Petitioner: Linda DuBois.

**Take notice** that on August 2, 2013, the New Jersey State Board of Education received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner requesting that the State Board of Education repeal the requirements for a high school swim coach to be certified as a water safety instructor and as a lifeguard to be hired as a varsity swim coach. The petitioner states varsity coaches do not need to teach high school athletes, for example, the proper mechanics of the side stroke or elementary backstroke to coach a safe and successful swim/dive team. The petitioner also states that varsity swim coaches do need to know the four basic varsity swim strokes of freestyle, backstroke, breast stroke, and butterfly. The petitioner further states that none of the strokes is taught competitively in the water safety instructor program.

The petitioner states that no other state has instituted these requirements of swimming coaching staffs. The petitioner also states it is expensive for school districts to get outstandingly qualified swim coaches certified as water safety instructors with no purpose to enhance the safety of the athletes. The petitioner further states it is very costly and time consuming to accomplish the certification.

The petitioner states the American Red Cross now requires individuals who do hold water safety instructor certification be affiliated with a pool facility that they can use to enter into the computer system as the individual's "organization." The petitioner also states it is becoming almost impossible in South Jersey to become affiliated with a pool facility due to the limited number of pools and shared facilities.

In accordance with applicable rule N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, the Department shall subsequently mail to the petitioner, and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition.