

New Officials Policy & Procedure Explanations

The Officials' Committee has been asked to supply some insight and clarification regarding the newly amended Policies and Procedures.

Policy:

A. OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

1. The Officials Committee shall consist of the Officials Chair, a minimum of four (4) WYSI- certified referees, and at least 20% athlete representation.
2. The Officials Committee shall meet at least once every quarter.
3. The Officials Committee may establish sub-committees/working groups to assist with managing the affairs of the Committee.
4. The Officials Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that there is a robust pool of well trained and competent officials that are prepared to support competition throughout the LSC. This shall include establishing expectations, creating a positive officiating culture, and mentorship/training of officials.
5. The Officials Committee shall support officials within the LSC in pursuit of national level certifications, recognizing that it improves the quality of officiating within the LSC.
6. The Officials Committee shall be responsible for recruiting and identifying officials to serve as observing officials for relevant meets within the LSC (i.e. High School Culminating Events and State Championships)

Clarification: The Officials Committee helps to direct succession, retention expectations, training, mentoring, communication, resources, help to facilitate progression of certification, and design and or procure tools needed by the officials at large within the LSC.

Policy:

B. GENERAL PROVISION

1. All current expectations and rules regarding Officials' training, uniform, certification retention and conduct can be found on the WYSI Website on the officials' page.

Clarification: Please connect with a Referee if you have any questions or concerns needing further explanation.

Policy:

D. MANDATORY CLUB PARTICIPATION OF OFFICIALS

1. Host team is responsible to procure the following 3 positions: Meet Referee, Admin Official, and the Meet Director; these 3 do not need to be directly associated with the host team. Any Club wishing to host a home meet must provide two (2) officials for each day of their meet. Such official must up-to-date and in good standing. Failure of the Host Club to provide the required number of officials shall result in such Club's meet not being sanctioned nor posted on the WYSI website.

2. All WYSI Clubs participating in any WYSI sanctioned meets are required to provide the following number of officials:

1-9 Swimmers; No Officials (unless you are the Host Club, then it shall be two (2) officials);

10-17 Swimmers: One (1) Official;

18-25 Swimmers: Two (2) Officials;

26 or more Swimmers: Three (3).

3. Each non-Host Club shall submit the name of the official(s) they are providing at the time their entries are submitted to the Host Club and Meet Referee. Non-Host Clubs will have authority to list officials not registered with their Club if they have such official's consent to do so. It shall be the non-Host Club's responsibility to ensure that they have the required number of officials based on the number of total entries over the course of the meet or to have fulfilled this requirement as per the Meet Referee's discretion. If a non-Host Club does not fulfill their obligation, a fine of \$1000 will be assessed by WYSI and invoiced upon completion of the meet. It is the Meet Referee's responsibility to notify the treasurer to invoice such club.

4. If a Host Club does not fulfill their obligation of ensuring adequate minimal staffing of a meet, a fine of \$1000 will be assessed by WYSI and invoiced upon completion of the meet. It is the Meet Referee's responsibility to notify the treasurer to invoice such club.

Clarification: There are several changes that have been made to the Mandatory Club Participation of Officials (MCPO) policy. All were made to give further flexibility to support the athlete's ability to participate in developmental meets throughout the LSC. This is possible through the new flexibility given to the Meet Referee to acknowledge and deal with teams suffering with volunteer support. Staffing needs will be determined by the Meet Referee once basic staffing requirements have been met. The MR will then assign other deck positions with all volunteers available.

Any teams that are unable to fulfill the requirements of MCPO policy need to be proactive to remedy the lack of officials. As a club decides it will be attending a specific meet, it needs to begin to procure the necessary officials to attend. Once it is determined that a team may not be able to fulfill its officials obligation, a team representative must contact the Meet Referee. This gives the MR time to assess and remedy a possible shortage of needed officials. The team must cooperate with all meet staff. Early and continual cooperation will go far to help the team avoid penalty. Inevitably the decision to assign a fine will be up to the MR and will be assisted by the WYSI Treasurer to apply said fine.

To keep our focus on the athletes, the committee has voted to remove the athlete penalty, "Failure of the Traveling Club to provide the required number of officials will result in no awards (medals, ribbons, trophies, high point, etc.) being provided to such Club or its swimmers...", and increase the severity of a possible fine from \$500 to \$1000. To avoid a potential fine, communicate early and often with Meet Referee.

Most of the changes have been made to encourage and promote the open communication between teams and meet personnel. As a volunteer organization, the officials of WYSI heavily rely on the active participation of team leadership to drive the expectation of parent and guardian involvement to become an official. With the current changes, teams have a tool to help drive momentum toward a future roster of willing and able volunteers.