

Please consider the following P&P changes for consideration by the Governance Committee,

- Assignment to specific regions of responsibility for each of the 4 referees on the officials committee.
 - Provides clear representation and a go to referee that each official in the state sees on a regular basis.
 - Provides clearer “chain of command” for issues officials may have
 - Ensures that each region is represented and receives information in a timely manner
 - Ability remains in the P&P to have up to 10 total committee members. 1-chair, 4-regions; these 5 must be referees. The other 5 positions are for 2 athletes, and 3 at large members who must only meet the minimum session experience.
 - I chose 30 sessions because it takes 16 sessions to be considered for any of the N2 level certifications. Also, a reasonable amount of officiating sessions per year I believe is 15. Taking this into consideration equates 30 sessions with 2 years experience as an official.
- Culminating meet reimbursement for observing officials
 - It was generally decided quite some time ago that we would no longer provide travel reimbursement to officials who observe the high school championship meets. It was decided at this same time that we would pay a \$100 stipend to anyone who does observe these meets, both sessions of course. Those officials who observe both 4A and 3A would of course receive \$200.
- Officials travel reimbursement
 - We have been discussing the possibility of changing the P&P to discontinue the \$500 travel reimbursement to all officials for participation at higher level meets, and to trade this for something that encourages newer officials to take part by paying more of their initial travel cost. The committee has balked at this idea the last few times we have discussed it; concerns raised included making sure the newer official has some sort of “skin in the game”, how we choose who we would “scholarship”, and a general disdain for the word “scholarship”. I have discussed with other officials from different LSC’s what they receive in way of travel reimbursement for attendance at higher level meets. I have found there really is no clear path, many LSC’s do reimburse for 1 meet a year from \$500-\$750, many don’t reimburse at all.
 - I have re-written the policy based on a budgeted reimbursement pool of \$3,000/year.

- I have re-written the policy with the following thoughts in mind,
 - It gives someone the opportunity to go to Zones, as a ST judge for the first time 100% paid between the \$1000 first time, \$500 first time and zone reimbursement that comes through. However, this committee must approve this request. My vision is that for someone to be approved they would need to demonstrate a past commitment to officiating by moving through the certifications, requesting evaluations and participating in both championship meets as well as being a leader in their own LSC meets. If someone requests just because their child is going and they want all expenses paid, no, that should not be approved
 - It does not fund those who continually go to Zones and do nothing else but be an ST judge.
 - BUT, it does fund those who go and are in an assigned position. And how do you get to an assigned position, by taking part in the national evaluations here in our LSC and taking part in the Champs meets in assigned positions.
 - It gives someone the opportunity to attend futures, which seems to be the gateway now to going to a 3 star and above meet.
 - And, after 5 years, people are eligible to go again, hopefully to that 3 star and above meet....the LSC benefits here because this is a requirement to have an N2 evaluator in the LSC.
- Otherwise, there is just general clean up in the policy.
 - I also added a separate stipend/reimbursement for any official that is selected to attend the Olympic Trials. This is the highest honor any official can ever receive; and frankly is a penance for the time required to be there if selected. Sierra Nevada has a similar policy. On a separate topic, the LSC should consider its reimbursement amount for an athlete who was to attend trials as well.
- Benefit to the athlete-
 - I have witnessed the LSC grow from a point where there was no one on deck with national experience to a deck where a majority of the officials at a champs meet now have been evaluated by a national evaluator or have attended a national meet. These changes have resulted in a more professionally ran meet creating a more welcoming and competent competitive environment that puts the athlete first and applies grace. Coaches have provided positive feedback regarding the changes. Instituting these changes helps eager officials overcome some of the financial hurdles that may prevent them from attending these meets. Attending these meets is critical to what we

have established for the athletes. In some ways it is similar to Continuing Education that is required for many people in their jobs.

I. Officials

A. OFFICIALS COMMITTEE (approved 1.12.2025)

a. The Officials Committee shall consist of the Officials Chair, **who is a WYSI certified referee**, a minimum of four (4) WYSI-certified referees, **and up to three (3) officials at large, each of whom must have served a minimum of 30 sessions.** 20% athlete representation **must be maintained at all times.**

Each Referee should be from different regions and represent the following groups of teams

- **Big Horn Basin**

- Powell
- Cody
- Worland
- Riverton
- Lander

- **Northeast**

- Converse County Waves
- Gillette
- Sheridan
- Buffalo
- Casper
- Swim 5150
- Newcastle

- **West**

- Jackson
- Pinedale
- Kemmerer
- SWAT
- Rawlins
- High Altitude

- **Southeast**

- Capital City
- Laramie
- Chadron
- Scotts Bluff
- UWYO

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b. The Officials Committee shall meet at least once every quarter.

c. The Officials Committee may establish sub-committees/working groups to assist with managing the affairs of the Committee.

d. 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.

e. 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.

f. 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).

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

C. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

~~a. WYSI officials who work at an "observed swim meet,"~~ **High School State Championship meet** are eligible **to receive a stipend up to \$100 for each meet.** ~~for reimbursement for their reasonable expenses as specified below. Applications for payment shall be submitted to the Officials Chair within thirty (30) days after the end of the meet.~~

~~a. — Mileage — map distance between your house and the pool at the current IRS rate.~~

~~b. — Lodging — actual charge for accommodation. (Receipt required.)~~

~~c. — Per Diem — \$45 per day worked at the meet.~~

b. WYSI officials who work at any of the following meets: ~~Senior or Age-Group Zones, Senior or Age-Group Sectionals, Futures, Nationals, Junior Nationals, US Open, Grand Prix, TYR Pro Series Meets,~~ as a certified N2 or N3 official (or being evaluated for certification or recertification as such) are eligible for payment of \$75 per session from WYSI. **Officials who work as a Stroke/Turn Judge for the first time, or, work in an assigned position at a Zones level meet are eligible for like payment.** ~~Mileage and lodging will not be reimbursed by WYSI. Payments to an individual official are limited to \$500 per year. Officials assigned to the US Olympic Trials are eligible for travel reimbursement of \$1,000. To be eligible for payment, officials applying to work any of these meets shall submit a copy of their pre-meet application to the Officials Chair before the meet. Applications for payment shall be submitted to the Officials Chair within thirty (30) days after the end of the meet on the proscribed form. (See Section X, Forms)~~

1. **The Officials Committee, at its sole discretion, may choose to reimburse two (2) officials each year an amount not to exceed \$1,000 who seek any of the following,**

- a. **1st time participation in any position at Junior Nationals, Nationals, TYR Pro Series, or the US Open (3-star and above meets)**
- b. **1st time participation at a futures level meet**
- c. **1st time participation in any position at a zones or sectional level meet**
- d. **this reimbursement shall be considered separate from any other reimbursements**
- e. **officials are only eligible to participate once every five (5) years**
- f. **the ideal candidate must demonstrate to the officials committee a future officiating plan and show how that will benefit the athletes of the LSC**
- g. **application can be made by notifying the officials chair at any time and will be considered by the committee within 2 weeks of submittal**

~~c. — WYSI officials shall receive a credit in the amount of the cost of initial and renewal background checks against their next following annual Non-Athlete Registration Fee.~~