

Canadian officials' international judging assignments de-mystified

May, 2007

Who decides?

The individuals on the committee responsible for selecting Canada's representatives to international diving events are:

Kathy Seaman	- FINA Technical Diving Committee
Mitch Geller	- Chief Technical Officer; DPC
Nancy Brawley	- National Team Director, DPC
Eldon Godfrey	- FINA Bureau

How are judges selected for international assignments?

The list below is the generic framework of areas of consideration when considering who from the Canadian Senior National Officials list should be selected to work towards certification as a FINA level official, and who from the FINA list of certified judges should represent Canada at international events:

- technical knowledge and demonstrated application of such knowledge, historical knowledge, understand the committee and technical structure of Diving Canada and FINA, familiar with the competitive athletes, meet referee role
- leadership – active role within group of judges, and mentor – active in our ranks, help with mentoring our new judges – throughout all levels of diving
- presence and influence- the ability to represent Canada with distinction at international meetings and events to further Canada's position as a leader on the international judging scene and have a presence (ability to influence views) at international competitions and on panels
- age; recognizing that an age limit of 60 has been implemented
- demonstrates excellence and commitment, and potential to contribute in a positive way to the development of the sport of diving
- professional demeanour, proactive, inquisitive, industrious, volunteer commitment

The committee uses a combination of objective and subjective processes to determine how officials meet the criteria.

What can I do if I'm interested in judging internationally?

While wishing can't make it so, if you meet the criteria above, you should ensure that the DPC office (through Anne Warburton) is aware of your interest. The committee meets annually (usually in the fall) and reviews the list of current officials to determine who to invest in for the upcoming season, giving consideration to our long term needs.

Playing an active leadership role in Canadian diving In general and the Judging Program specifically, will add viability for this position.

How many international judges are needed?

A limited number of international judging opportunities are available each year and the committee tries to ensure each FINA judge receives one assignment per year. Longer term needs are always considered as both experienced and new judges are needed. The committee must also now take into consideration the requirement for FINA judges to re-certify every two years through a Judges School.

The committee can assign judges to the Grand Prix and junior competitions. For Major Games, World Cups and World Championships, the committee nominates judges and acceptance or non-acceptance is by FINA or the host societies. At this time FINA will select 5 judges from their roster for each of the new FINA World Series events.

What can you tell me about the FINA Judges School?

Certification as a judge by FINA requires attendance and successful completion of the FINA Judges School every two years, successful completion of a written exam each year, and successful evaluation at a FINA approved competition.

This certification entitles judges to judge, if selected and/or nominated by the International Selection Committee, at FINA Grand Prix events, FINA World Junior Championships, World University Games, World Cups/Championships and Major Games.

A limited number of Judges Schools will be held each year, and they will not necessarily be in countries where competitions are being held that we attend. Countries must apply to hold the Schools.

Canada hopes to host a Judges School in 2008, possibly in conjunction with Canada Cup. At this time it is not known how many judges Diving Canada will be able to fund. Of any funding that is available, priority will be given to those who are already on the FINA judges list. We hope to be able to have spots available for other national level officials who wish to self-fund, as we believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for development in the Canadian judging program. Judges Schools around the world are only just beginning. As we get feedback on these, then we can begin to work out details for the one to be hosted here, and with FINA's approval.