

## Certification Committee Guidelines

Because officials were automatically advanced up the ladder in the past, there were many Master-level officials around the country who were not very good. These people applied for and were accepted to work National Championships and even Olympic Trials. They were sometimes put in charge of their event, often with bad outcomes. To remedy this problem, the National Officials Committee developed strict guidelines/criteria for the various ranks which all of the local Certification Committees had to follow. To help you meet the criteria in the future, here are the guidelines for the various levels.

**Association level** - New officials need to pay dues and attend a clinic each year, submit a digital picture and a resume of meets worked, get 85% or higher on the Association level test and be working on their Practicum. Upon being certified, they are deemed qualified to work any meet in the Southern California Association. They are then often used "as needed" which helps them determine their best events.

**National level** - Association level officials who have been working at that level for two to three years may request advancement to National status. This request must include a resume of meets worked and responsibilities in them. For example, Chief of the Long Jump would rate higher than "retrieved the javelins." National level officials should be able to conduct an event properly at any meet in the US, including National Championships. They **must** work at least six meets per year to attain and maintain that skill level. They must score 90% or higher on the National level test. An additional So. California Association requirement is that no one will be advanced to National without successfully completing the Practicum. As National level officials will be representing our area, the Committee will look hard at such things as reliability, appearance, punctuality and the ability to work with others as well as knowledge of the rules, officiating skill and the ability to work all positions in a field event.

**Master level** - This is reserved for truly outstanding officials. Applicants for this level need to submit a resume of meets worked with dates, meet names and assignments over the past five years. The meets should be Local, Regional, National and International meets. The candidate should attend advanced clinics and serve as a clinic leader. The candidate should serve as the chief of an event at a minimum of 25% of the meets worked and must pass the difficult Master level test.

One thing that kept coming up over and over again by Master officials who have worked many National Championships was the importance of not advancing people to that level too soon. Master level officials are often put in charge of an event at a National Championship and must direct a crew of 6-8 other officials. If they cannot handle this or if any errors are made in their event, they most likely will never again be selected to work a National Championship or Olympic Trials.

Another theme is a need to work some meets in other Associations. People must work big meets at the National level successfully for many years before becoming a Master official and should continue to do so while a Master official. The National Officials Committee strongly feels that no one can truly be a Master level official in more than two or three areas. For this reason, some of our long-time officials who are Master level officials in a large number of events are likely to be dropped down to National level in some of them.

It is important to remember that if you are a Master level official in just one event, you are considered a Master level official. Also, remember that National level will also allow you to be selected for and work National Championships and Olympic Trials.

The key to both advancing up the ladder and getting selected to work big meets is keeping a good resume of meets worked and your responsibilities in them. You should take control of your own advancement by working meets in and out of our Association, asking to be put in charge of your event when possible, and leading a clinic.

Remember, it's not who you know but who knows you. People will think favorable of you if you do well in the following areas throughout your officiating career.

1. Quality of officiating
2. Knowledge of the rules of competition
3. Professionalism, reliability, dependability, sportsmanship
4. Rapport with athletes, coaches and fellow officials
5. Willingness to accept a variety of assignments
6. Willingness to officiate a variety of types and levels of competition