

NAWGJ NEWSLETTER

December, 2002

Do The Same Judges Always Get State Meets?

A few judges have asked about the state meet assignments. They say "the same judges always get state meets." Is this true? Not necessarily. Let's look at the data.

Out of 22 state meets in the past five years, no judge has been assigned to all 22. No judge has been assigned to 21. No judge has been assigned to 20. No judge has been assigned to 19. No judge has been assigned to 18. Just on these data alone, it is evident that the "same judges do not get assigned to all state meets."

So, how many meets have judges been assigned to?

The judges with the most state meet assignments are four National-rated judges (one with 17; one with 16 and two with 14 of the 22 possibilities). Two Brevet judges have been assigned to 13 of the 22 state meets. Two National-rated judges and one Brevet judge all have been assigned to 12 of the 22.

One Brevet and one Level 10 judge have been assigned to 11. One Brevet, one National, and one Level 10 have been assigned to 10 of the 22.

One Level 10 has been assigned to 9 of the 22. Three Nationals and four Level 10's have been assigned to 8 state meets each.

Two Level 10's have had 7 assignments and three Level 10's have had 6 assignments.

One National and one Level 10 have had 5; one Brevet and three Level 10's have had 4; several judges of various ratings have had 3, 2, or 1 state meet assignments.

These data need to be reviewed in light of individual circumstances: rating of the judge; geographic location of the judge; availability of the judge; return of availability form; return of availability form **on time**; clarity of availability ("I may be available but I'm not sure" doesn't help); performance and professionalism at past state meets; active judging at the level of the meet in

Florida; active participation in clinics, gyms, etc. (see page 11 of the Florida Judges Book).

Please remember that Florida has a high number of Brevet and National judges and several judges with many, many years of experience. Your turn will come if you stay active in judging and in practice-judging; if you stay focused at meets and give consistent, timely scores; if you act professionally at meets; and if you return your availability form on time with a clear indication of your availability.

If USAG continues with the two-judge panels at state meets, there will be fewer opportunities for judges to be assigned to state meet panels. On the bright side, AAU is continuing to use a large number of judges for their state meets (16 were assigned in fall, 2002). If you do not receive a state meet assignment, it is not necessarily a sign that you have not done a good job or that your hard work every weekend is not appreciated. There simply will not be enough assignment possibilities to recognize your hard work given the two-judge panel ruling. That is why the NAWGJ Board is seeking other ways to recognize your contributions to the State.

The best advice is not to consider a state meet assignment as a statement of your "worth" as a judge. Judges need to make the most of every meet to which they are assigned. For the athlete and coach, every meet is important--not just the one at the end of the season.

If you have a concern or want to know why you did not receive a state meet, please contact Cookie Batsche. All information is confidential.