

State Meet Assignments

One of our judges recently asked me why she didn't get assigned to the Level 9/10 state meet. She said it seemed to her that the same people always got assigned. Since I'm new as SJD, I thought I'd do a little research to investigate the status of state meet assignments in the past and this year. I examined the assignments for a combined total of 8 optional state meets (the last four years at Level 9/10 and the last four years at Level 7/8). Here's what I found:

- * No Florida judge has been assigned to all 8 state meets in the past four years.
- * Only 4 judges have been assigned to all of the last four state meets at Level 9/10; most likely because of regional and/or national assignments but I'm not certain of this.
- * Only 3 judges have been assigned to all of the last four Level 7/8 state meets.
- * The average number of optional state meets assigned to Level 10 and higher rated judges in the last four years is 3.6 out of a possible 8 meets.
- * The average number of optional meets assigned to judges who have obtained their Level 10 rating since 1993 is 2.95.

It appears to me that there has been a wide distribution of assignments to state meets. Judges who have obtained their Level 10 ratings in the past few years will probably not be assigned to the Level 9/10 state meet for a while unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Florida is fortunate to have a large number of Brevet, Elite, and soon-to-be national judges. All other things being equal, the experience gained by these judges is useful in making the important discriminations in scores at higher level meets, e.g., making distinctions between scores of 9.4 and 9.6.

Factors other than rating and length-of-service are taken into account when assigning state meets as well. The number of meets judged at the appropriate level and higher, the number of clinics/workshops/athlete camps the judge has attended at the appropriate level, and the geographic distribution of judges at a particular state meet. In addition, the USAG Board has input into the selection of the judges for state meets. Finally, judges who have been assigned to regionals and nationals (by the Regional USAG Board) are automatically assigned to the state meet at the level they will be judging nationally.

In conclusion, I found that state meets have been assigned fairly over the past four years and there is a good distribution based on the factors cited above. We have many, many good judges in Florida and efforts will be made to help them gain the experiences needed to move up. But it does take time, patience, practice, and hard work. Hard work and dedication is noticed and appreciated by coaches and fellow judges and we will do our best to find ways to recognize your contributions.

Cookie