



WORLD
AQUATICS

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS PATHWAY & APPOINTMENTS RULES

DIVING

In force as from 1 January 2025

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CHAPTER A – BACKGROUND

According to the Rights and Duties of the Bureau under the World Aquatics Constitution (Article 17.1, p), followed by World Aquatics By-Laws (Article 6.5), the World Aquatics Bureau has established the World Aquatics Referees and Officials Committee ('ROC') for each World Aquatics sport on 17 October 2023 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The establishment of such Committees should further enhance the integrity of each sport and ensure an efficient and reliable Officiating system in Aquatic sports.

Each World Aquatics sport has its own Referees and Officials Committee (except for High Diving, which is to be established at a later stage). Each Committee is represented by three (3) members of which one is the Committee Chair. All members shall be independent from the Technical Sport Committee of each sport and cleared of any conflict of interest.

The new World Aquatics International Technical Officials System is a comprehensive, revamped framework designed to enhance the competency and professionalism of Technical Officials in aquatic sports. Built around three core components—education, experience, and evaluation—this system ensures a holistic approach to skill development and performance assessment. It introduces a tiered structure with Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, each representing a progressive standard of competency. These levels serve as benchmarks to assess and validate the capabilities of technical officials, enabling precise and merit-based appointments to World Aquatics events. This modernized system aims to foster excellence, consistency, and transparency, elevating the standards of officiating across all six aquatic sports.

CHAPTER B – TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Technical Officials must be on current World Aquatics Officials' Programme approved by the respective Technical Sports Committee for the Aquatic sport in order to officiate at Olympic Games, World Aquatics Championships or World Aquatics Competitions. Nominated Officials must be members of the nominating Federation and certified by the Member Federation in submitting their nomination (World Aquatics Competition Regulations, Part one, Article 11.3)

As per the rules, the maximum age of Technical Officials when officiating at World Aquatics events, except Water Polo, shall be sixty-five (65) years as of 31st December in the year of competition. For Water Polo, the age limit shall be sixty (60) years during the year of competition.

World Aquatics differentiate different roles conducted at the World Aquatics events that fall under each category of Technical Officials.

All International Technical Officials must be on the World Aquatics Officials Programme while National Technical Officials must be approved by the Member Federation in which country the event takes place.

ROLES:

International Officials – Referee, Assistant Referees, Judges

National Officials – Secretaries

Evaluators – TDC members from outside the host continent, with the role to undertake judges' evaluations

CHAPTER C – TECHNICAL OFFICIALS' EXPENSES

There are several financial aspects to be considered for Officials' education, certification and appointments.

All Official's Education and Certification opportunities costs (courses associated fees, course expenses such as travel, accommodation, transportation, meals) sit with the Technical Official candidate and/or their National Federation.

Once appointed for the World Aquatics Event (Tier 1 and Tier 2) the expenses are covered as per the following for all International Technical Officials for each Aquatic sport*:

Expense type	Tier 1		Tier 2	
	Olympic Games	World Aquatics Championships	World Aquatics Junior & Youth Championships	World Aquatics World Cup
Travel (economy airfare, train fare, bus fare, by car)	Organising Committee	National Federation	National Federation	National Federation**
Visa (and visa fee associated costs)	Organising Committee	National Federation	National Federation	National Federation**
Accommodation (minimum European three stars hotel)	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	National Federation	National Federation**
Ground Transportation	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	Organising Committee
Meals (full board)	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	Organising Committee
Per Diem (as per World Aquatics Per Diem policy**)	Organising Committee	World Aquatics	World Aquatics	World Aquatics****
Health Insurance	Organising Committee	World Aquatics	World Aquatics	World Aquatics
Uniforms *****	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	World Aquatics	World Aquatics
Evaluators	Organising Committee	Organising Committee	World Aquatics	World Aquatics

* Unless it is differently stipulated in the Hosting Agreement between World Aquatics and the Host

** Except for the DWC Super Final, World Aquatics covers the travel and visa costs for the 15 Judges, the Organising Committee covers the Accommodation

*** May differ for the Olympic Games

**** There is no Per Diem for DWC Stop 1 and Stop 2

***** Unless differently stipulated by World Aquatics

For National Technical Officials, all expenses shall be covered by the Host.

CHAPTER D – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

REFEREES AND OFFICIALS COMMITTEE (ROC)

The ROC's responsibilities, per Sport, shall be as follows:

1. to propose rosters of Officials –if required–, subject to the approval of the Bureau for all World Aquatics Events based on the lists of eligible Officials as well as the minimum required number and level-qualified Officials per event Tier;
2. according to the feedback and evaluations from the relevant Technical Sports Committee –if required– to appoint the necessary Officials on a daily basis or to amend appointments during competitions; and
3. to provide any other professional activity as deemed necessary by World Aquatics.

ROC shall work in synergy with each Technical Sport Committee, World Aquatics Sports and Development departments.

TECHNICAL SPORT COMMITTEE

Throughout the technical aspects of the sport, each Technical Sport Committee's role is to advise the World Aquatics regarding Officials' Education. In addition to this, the Technical Sports Committee shall work closely with the Referees and Officials Committee (ROC) and the World Aquatics Sports Management team, ensuring an efficient and successful officiating system at all World Aquatics Events.

WORLD AQUATICS MANAGEMENT

World Aquatics Management must work closely with the Technical Sport Committees and Referees and Officials Committees while ensuring that the Officials List and database remain up to date. In addition, it must maintain collaborative communication regarding the appointments with the National Federations and Organizing Committees.

World Aquatics shall oversee the work of the Referees and Officials Committee.

To enable a smooth and efficient working approach World Aquatics Management has introduced a new Officials' Programme (more information is provided in Chapter E).

CHAPTER E – FRAMEWORK

World Aquatics has put in place a new Officials' Programme that identifies all International Technical Officials within three different Officials' levels and enables the Referees and Officials Committee to achieve their duty as an appointment body. The system is defined by three Officials' levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Besides, World Aquatics reserves the right to promote or demote officials upon recommendation from the Technical Committee.

The pathway to becoming a World Aquatics International Technical Official is outlined below.

BRONZE LEVEL

PATHWAY TO ENTER BRONZE LEVEL

Over 1 year

CANDIDATES' PROFILE

Officials must have:

- good knowledge of the rules;
- experience in officiating at Tier 5 competitions;
- ethical, physical and mental readiness; and
- recognised and/or in good standing with their NF.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO ENTER BRONZE LEVEL

NF can nominate up to 10 Officials (validation is made by World Aquatics):

1. Age: Min 18, Max 65
2. Proof of experience of 3 competitions of Tier 5 (i.e. National events)
3. English language Certificate (intermediate level B1/B2)
4. Application submitted by the NF for the candidate to take the Bronze level e-learning course
5. Completed the Bronze level e-learning course within one year on the World Aquatics Learning Platform, concluded by a successful online assessment.

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN BRONZE LEVEL

Over 4 years

EDUCATION

- Annual Online Exam: Open for one month on the World Aquatics Learning Platform. Must be completed in a single attempt with a Bronze passing grade.
- Online sessions: Participate in online sessions on Rules changes or other specific topics.

EXPERIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officiate at: at least 3 competitions of Tier 5, 4, 3 and 2 		
PRACTICAL EVALUATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have 3 evaluations of over 90% over a period of 4 years* <p>*An NF can apply for the Official to be considered for Silver if the 3 evaluations have happened within 2 consecutive years.</p>		
Next: Option 1	Next: Option 2	
They don't meet the requirements of Bronze level	They meet the requirements of Bronze level	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are excluded from the Bronze level - In order to re-enter the Bronze level, they need to meet the eligibility criteria of the Bronze level. 	They will be considered to move to Silver if they have stayed in Bronze for a period of 4 years. This period can be shortened if the 3 evaluations have happened within 2 consecutive years. If all 3 evaluations happen on their first year, the second year still needs to be completed.	They intend to remain in the Bronze level. Limit of age to maintain Bronze: 65

SILVER LEVEL

PATHWAY TO ENTER SILVER LEVEL Over 4 years

CANDIDATES' PROFILE

Officials must have:

- very good knowledge of the Rules;
- experience in officiating at Tier 5, 4, 3 competitions;
- ethical, physical and mental readiness; and
- recognised and/or in good standing with their NF.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO ENTER SILVER LEVEL

NFs can nominate up to **4** Officials (validation is made by AQUA).

- 1.** Age: Min **18**, Max **65**
- 2.** Successfully completed 4 years in Bronze (education, experience and evaluations) (this period can be shortened if the 3 practical evaluations have happened within 2 consecutive years)

3. Application submitted by the National Federation for the candidate to attend the Silver level course
4. Completed the Silver level in-person course, including classroom and practical sessions at a competition, concluded by a successful assessment and practical evaluation.

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN SILVER LEVEL

Over 4 years

EDUCATION

- Annual Online Exam: Open for one month on the World Aquatics Learning Platform. Must be completed in a single attempt with Silver passing grade.
- Online sessions: Participate in online sessions on Rules changes or other specific topics.
- Mentorship opportunities will be available for further development.

EXPERIENCE

- Officiate at: at 6 competitions at least of Tier 3, 2 or 1 (with minimum 2 Diving World Cups)

PRACTICAL EVALUATION

- 6 evaluations of over 95% over a period of 4 years.

Next: Option 1
Next: Option 2
They don't meet the requirements of Silver level
They meet the requirements of Silver level

- They are excluded from Silver level
 - They are devoted to the Bronze level. In order to re-enter the Silver level, they need to meet the eligibility criteria of Silver level.

They will be considered to move to Gold if they have stayed in Silver for a minimum of 4 years with at least 6 evaluations of over 95%.

They intend to remain at the Silver level.

Limit of age to maintain Silver: **65**

GOLD LEVEL
PATHWAY TO ENTER GOLD LEVEL

Over 4 years

CANDIDATES' PROFILE

Officials must have:

- exceptional knowledge of the Rules;

- exceptional knowledge of competition management and strong experience in officiating at Tier 1 and 2 competitions;
- ethical, physical and mental readiness; and
- recognised and/or in good standing with their NF

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO ENTER GOLD LEVEL

NF can nominate up to 2 Officials (validation is made by AQUA).

1. Age: Min 18, Max 65
2. Successfully completed 4 years in Silver (education, experience and evaluations)
3. Application submitted by the National Federation for the candidate to attend the Gold level course (webinar or in-person course)
4. Completed the Gold level course (webinar or in-person course), concluded by a successful assessment.

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN GOLD Over 4 years

EDUCATION

- Annual Online Exam: Open for one month on the World Aquatics Learning Platform. Must be completed in a single attempt with a Gold passing grade.
- Online sessions: Participate in online sessions on Rules changes or other specific topics.
- Knowledge sharing: Gold Officials to mentor and share their expertise with Silver Officials.

EXPERIENCE

- Officiate at: at least 6 competitions of Tier(s) 3, 2 and 1

PRACTICAL EVALUATION

- 6 evaluations of over 95% over a period of 4 years.

Next: Option 1	Next Option 2
They don't meet the requirements of Gold level	They meet the requirements of Gold level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are excluded from Gold level - They are devoted to the Silver level. In order to re-enter the Gold level, they need to meet the eligibility criteria to enter Gold level. 	They intend to remain at the Gold level. Limit of age to maintain Gold: 65

CHAPTER F – OFFICIALS TRANSITIONING

To ensure consistency in officiating World Aquatics will determine the transitioning process for the existing pool of International Technical Officials, based on several criteria, using the Bronze, Silver and Gold system.

The criteria will include current Officials' **certification**, **evaluation**, and **experience** officiating at World Aquatics Events.

The following tables outline the criteria Diving:

DIVING	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Certification	Certification	Certification	Certification
Evaluation	no evaluations	Must have 3 evaluations of over 95%	Must have 6 evaluations of over 95%
Experience	not applicable	Officiating at least at 3 competitions of Tier 2, 3 or 4 over a period of 4 years	Officiating at least at 6 competitions of Tier 1 and 2 over a period of 4 years

CHAPTER G – WORLD AQUATICS COMPETITIONS

World Aquatics defines five (5) different Tiers of International Competitions as per World Aquatics Competition Regulations, Part One, Article 2.2.1. For the World Aquatics Officials Appointments, the Competitions of relevance are:

Tier 1. Major Aquatics Competitions – the Olympic Games, World Aquatics Championships, World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m), and

Tier 2. Other World Aquatics Competitions – World Junior and Youth Championships in each sport, World Cups, World Leagues, and other World Aquatics competitions.

The following Table outlines the number of events per each Tier, for every World Aquatics sport (per single calendar year and one Olympic cycle):

SPORT	Tier 1		Tier 2		Total	
	Per Calendar Year	Per Olympic Cycle	Per Calendar Year	Per Olympic Cycle	Per Calendar Year	Per Olympic Cycle
DIVING	1	3	3-4	12-16	4-5	16-20

The following tables outline the number of International (ITOs) and National Technical Officials (NTOs) required for Diving events:

Diving	Event	# ITOs	# NTOs
Tier 1	Olympic Games	23	8 to 10
	World Championships	28	8 to 10
Tier 2	World Cup Super Final*	15	6 to 8
	World Junior Championships*	30 to 40	12 to 16

*The ITOs for the Diving World Cup Stops 1 and 2 and the World Junior Championships are coming from the Federations, not nominated by World Aquatics.

Tables below outlines the ratio of **Gold**, **Silver** and **Bronze** level of International Technical Officials (ITOs) at the following event Tiers:

DIVING					
Tier	% Bronze	% Silver	% Gold	% total	# total
Olympic Games, World Championships	0	20%	80%	100%	23-28
World Cup Super Final only * **	10%	20%	70%	100%	15

*The % may differ based on continental representation and availability of the officials

**The ITOs for the Diving World Cup Stops 1 and 2 and the World Junior Championships are coming from the Federations, not nominated by World Aquatics.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATION:

For the Olympic Games (Tier 1), there are **23** judges total with the following Continental breakdown:

1 Africa, 5 Asia, 5 America, 11 Europe, 1 Oceania

For World Championships (Tier 1), there are **28** judges total with the following Continental breakdown:

2 Africa, 6 Asia, 6 America, 12 Europe, 2 Oceania

For World Cup Super Final (Tier 2), there are **15** judges total with the following Continental breakdown:

1 Africa, 4 Asia, 4 America, 5 Europe, 1 Oceania

For World Junior Championships and World Cup Stops 1 and 2, it is up to the Federations to bring their judges, as long as they are on World Aquatics Officials List.

CHAPTER H – APPOINTMENT POLICY

World Aquatics Officials and Referees Committee shall be the only body that has the mandate to recommend and appoint International Officials for all World Aquatics Events, subject to World Aquatics Bureau approval.

The Officials and Referees Committee should proceed to Officials appointments (referees and judges) for all World Aquatics Events as soon as the World Aquatics Event Calendar is released. In principle, the appointments should take place no later than six (6) months before the commencement of the sports event.

The following shall be taken into consideration when making the Officials appointments:

1. Tier level of the event;
2. Required percentage for appointment of Bronze, Silver, and Gold level Officials;
3. Officials' education, certification, evaluation and experience;
4. Continental/Regional representation;
5. Gender representation;
6. It is preferred that the Appointed Referee is a member of the respective Sport Technical Committee to ensure the necessary experience required to uphold such duty.
7. Officials' development opportunities;
8. Available support through National Programmes;
9. Perceived or actual conflict of interest.

Once the appointments are made, and upheld by the World Aquatics Bureau, the World Aquatics Management Team shall communicate appointments to the relevant Officials, National Federations and Organising committee/s.