

***Proposal for Additional Funds to Meet Hosts
to Compensate Officials and Assist with Meet Expenses***

Florida LMSC Annual Meeting, October 30, 2025

Submitted by Anna Lea Matysek

The USMS rules for officials became stricter in 2025. The meet referee, starter, and stroke and turn judges are now required to be certified to that level, and exceptions may only be granted by the LMSC Officials Chair. (The previous rule allowed officials working in those roles to not be certified to those levels, as long as they “received training in the specific duties of their positions” and “were under the direct supervision of a certified official.”)

It is difficult to find certified meet officials who are willing to work at Masters meets. The Florida LMSC began a program a few years ago where the LMSC would purchase \$25 Publix gift cards to give to officials at each sanctioned meet, as a thank-you for their service. The process of purchasing and distributing the gift cards is cumbersome for the LMSC.

I suggest that the LMSC adopt a different method of providing gifts for officials.

The Florida LMSC currently provides a reimbursement to a meet host, after a meet, of \$5.00 per entrant if the host uses online meet entry software that automatically verifies the entrant’s current USMS membership. My proposal is that **in addition to** that \$5.00 per entrant reimbursement, the LMSC would **ALSO** provide the meet host with:

- an additional \$400.00 for a one-day meet, or
- an additional \$1,000.00 for a two-day meet, or
- an additional \$1,800.00 for a three-day meet

with the stipulation that the meet host is required to compensate (gift) each meet official for \$50 per day worked.

These funds would **ONLY** be provided to sanctioned meets and meets that are open to all members of the Florida LMSC (not “closed” meets limited to one team’s members only).

If the funds are not all used for officials, the meet host would use the funds to cover other expenses at the meet (such as timing system expenses, pool rental, hospitality for meet volunteers, etc.).

These funds would be sent to the meet host after the meet (with the \$5.00 per entrant reimbursement), upon successful completion of the meet and submission of the meet results files and documents to the LMSC Top 10 Recorder.

The advantage of this proposal is that (a) it will help the LMSC spend down some of its reserves and (b) will simplify what has been a cumbersome process for the LMSC board to handle, with the current gift card arrangement.

Based on the number of sanctioned meets held in the LMSC in 2025, the total amount issued in stipends would have been \$9,200:

2025 Sanctioned Meets	Number of Meets	Total Stipend Dollars
1-Day meets @ \$400 each	6	\$2,400
2-Day meets @ \$1,000 each	5	\$5,000
3-Day meets @ \$1,800 each	1	\$1,800
Total		\$9,200

PROPOSAL: I suggest adding a line item to the Florida LMSC 2026 budget in the amount of \$9,200 for meet stipend fees.

NOTE that this would be **in addition to** the \$5.00 per swimmer that the LMSC also gives a meet host who uses an online event registration system that automatically verifies USMS membership. That budget line item was \$7,750 in the Florida LMSC's 2025 budget.

Examples of Meets

Here are some examples of hypothetical meets for 2026 and how much they would receive in funds from the Florida LMSC. NOTE that in each example, the LMSC will expect the meet director to give \$50 per day to each official who works a significant amount of the day at their meet:

MEET EXAMPLE 1: A One-Day Meet that has 90 entrants

Meet stipend	\$400
Online entry reimbursement (90 entrants @\$5.00 per entrant)	\$450
Total sent to meet director	\$850

MEET EXAMPLE 2: A Two-Day Meet that has 150 entrants

Meet stipend	\$1,000
Online entry reimbursement (150 entrants @\$5.00 per entrant)	\$ 750
Total sent to meet director	\$1,750

MEET EXAMPLE 3: A Three-Day Meet that has 300 entrants

Meet stipend	\$1,800
Online entry reimbursement (300 entrants @\$5.00 per entrant)	\$1,500
Total sent to meet director	\$3,300