

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

**Florida LMSC Annual Meeting
October 22, 2024
Submitted by Anna Lea Matysek**

The USMS rules for officials will become stricter in 2025. The meet referee, starter, and stroke and turn judges will now be 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. I spoke with officers in other LMSCs to find out whether they compensate officials and this proposal is based on what is done in some of the other LMSCs.

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, \$800.00 for a two-day meet, and \$1,000.00 for a three-day meet, with the stipulation that the meet host is required to compensate 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 needed for officials, the meet host would use the funds to cover other expenses at the meet (such as hospitality for the meet volunteers). 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.

In 2024 there were six one-day meets, five two-day meets, and one three-day meet (now postponed) that would have qualified for this proposal, for a total of \$7,400.00 in funds. With the LMSC’s current level of reserves this proposal would help spend down the reserves.