



WFTDA-Recognized Tournament Officiating Support Guidelines

WFTDA-Recognized Tournaments are awarded their designation based on their proven commitment to WFTDA values and to WFTDA Games and Officiating standards. It is important that these events support not just the competitive needs of participating teams, but also provide adequate support and opportunity to participating officials.

WFTDA Officiating has created this officiating support guidelines document in order to help WFTDA-Recognized Tournament hosts show this commitment. For support in any of these areas, please contact recognizedtournaments@wftda.com.

OFFICIATING STAFFING PROCESS

The officials selection process for WFTDA-Recognized Tournaments should:

- be in alignment with [WFTDA's explicit commitment to improving diversity and inclusion](#);
- take careful consideration towards providing opportunities to those skilled officials who are underrepresented in the community by such factors as gender identification, geographic location, or ethnicity; and
- have a process to enable transparency and provide actionable feedback to those who were not selected

To this end, WFTDA Officiating recommends the following best practices and guidelines to set up the appropriate officiating applications and schedules for the tournament.

WFTDA Officiating will provide WFTDA-Recognized Tournaments with access to a standardized Tournament Head Official (THO) application template which can be customized to meet individual tournament needs, but should:

- conduct an open search each year rather than simply offering the position to past THOs;
- be open to individuals outside of the host league; and
- have open-ended questions that require the applicant to thoughtfully address how they will meet the goals for officiating selection listed above.

When recruiting and selecting officials, THOs and hosts should be thoughtful about their staffing plan and how it supports the needs of the event, both for teams and for meeting officiating staffing goals.



WFTDA-Recognized Tournament Officiating Support Guidelines

- Beyond the analysis of the typical selection criteria and sources (bulleted list below), consider which additional criteria should be used to prioritize the selection of officials to meet the goals of your event.
 - Game history (type of game, number of games, recency of games)
 - Performance (certification level, references, feedback)
 - Positional expertise (game history, references, feedback)
 - Personality and fit within the group (references, feedback)
- Consider whether any particular officiating tournament spots will be reserved for officials that meet a particular demographic criteria (e.g., host/participating league affiliated officials, local/regional officials, development opportunity for a particular official).
- *WFTDA-Recognized Tournaments should always balance the size of the tournament and level(s) of competitive play offered vs. the availability of officials qualified to work each level.* WFTDA Officiating can support hosts with advice on how to balance these needs, provide opportunities for officials and appropriately staff games of all levels.

OFFICIATING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Officials staffed at WFTDA-Recognized Tournaments should receive the following considerations:

- Concern for their physical and mental well-being through reasonable scheduling and adherence to the WFTDA Code of Conduct;
- Feedback (and when appropriate, mentoring) to enable them to improve and advance in their officiating careers, including but not limited to WFTDA officiating evaluations and references for future tournaments when requested; and
- Reasonable accommodations throughout the day including access to healthy food, time and space to rest, and safe spaces to change.

Hosts should always provide a safe and supportive environment for officials and meet their health and wellness needs during the tournament. Safety is the #1 priority, and that



WFTDA-Recognized Tournament Officiating Support Guidelines

includes avoiding exhaustion and other unnecessary challenges to physical and mental health.

- Hosts should be careful to not overschedule officials, even when officials volunteer to work outside of these guidelines, and ensure that officials have time in their schedule for meals and rest.
 - Officials should work no more than 3 games per day. However, they may volunteer for additional Alt and statistics-entry roles.
 - Officials should not work more than two games in a row and if working two back-to-back games, they should have a minimum of one full game off before working another game
 - Scheduling officials for a late last game of the day and then an early first game of the next day should be avoided if possible
- Hosts should provide safe spaces for officials to change clothes and options for people of all genders. (Note: if you are hosting juniors games and officials, you should consider appropriate child-protection measures.)
- Hosts should work to ensure that if schedules and venue location/food availability prevents officials from easily locating and purchasing healthy food, that food is provided to them, the option for participating officials to bring their own food is negotiated with the venue, or officials are scheduled in such a way that they are able to leave the site and purchase and consume healthy food.