



WFTDA Postseason Requirements for Officials

Created by the Tournament Officials Selection Panel (TOSP)

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This document outlines the requirements for WFTDA Postseason Officials staffing at Playoff and Championship events.

Contents

Minimum Eligibility and Qualifications For Postseason Selections	2
Tournament Head Official (THO), Co-Tournament Head Official (CTHO) and Assistant Tournament Head Official (ATHO)	3
Crew Head Official (CHO)	4
Participating Official	4
Visual Representation of Requirements	5
Additional Information and Allowances	5
Exception Guidelines	6
Officials Selection Process	6
Goals	6
Staffing Guidelines	7
Presentation of staffing to TOSP	10
Job Descriptions	11
Tournament Head Officials (THO)	11
Tournament Head Referee (THR)	13
Tournament Head Non-Skating Official (THNSO)	13
Co-Tournament Head Official (CTHO)	14
Assistant Tournament Head Official (ATHO)	14
Assistant Tournament Head Referee (ATHR) and Assistant Tournament Head NSO (ATHNSO)	16
Crew Head Official (CHO)	16
Crew Head Referee (CHR)	17
Crew Head Non-Skating Official (CHNSO)	17
Appendix A: TOSP Deadlines (2026 Postseason)	18
Event Dates	18
TOSP Selection Deadlines	18

Minimum Eligibility and Qualifications For Postseason Selections

(Updated for the 2026 Postseason)

1. Officials may apply for any tournament regardless of its location or proximity to their region.
 - a. Eligibility will be determined from the date applications close and not the date an official applies.
 - b. Officials will be limited to one Playoff tournament in an effort to provide opportunities to a greater number of officials. Should there be low applicant numbers some officials may be invited to more than one Regional postseason tournament.
 - c. “In-region” staffing will no longer be prioritized for WFTDA Playoffs.
 - d. Being staffed as a THO will not count toward the one Regional postseason tournament limit.
 - e. Being selected as a Non-Skating Official or Referee will not limit being staffed in the other role. Limits will apply to each specific track.
2. TOSP may remove individuals from the candidate pool who are found to have violated the [WFTDA Code of Conduct](#).
 - a. This may be verified by having a processed or pending WFTDA grievance, have a documented pattern of behavior unbecoming of a WFTDA official, or have an excessive history of being replaced during WFTDA tournaments.
 - b. Applicants can be removed for these reasons, or those of similar severity, even if they meet published eligibility requirements for postseason consideration.
3. A sanctioned game is anything that would count as Sanctioned on the Officiating History Document “Summary” tab. We do not currently distinguish between WFTDA and MRDA sanctioned games.
4. WFTDA postseason tournaments are defined as: WFTDA Continental Cup, Playoff, Regional or Global Championship.
5. For requirements within the last three tournament cycles, they will be counted as follows:

- a. The upcoming postseason tournament cycle begins in April of 2026.
 - b. The previous three postseason tournament cycles are: 2024, 2019, 2018.
 - c. Eligibility for the last three postseason tournament cycles for the 2026 postseason begin on August 1, 2018.
6. Applicants that do not meet the minimum game count requirements may provide clarification on their application as to why and how they remain qualified (see [Exception Guidelines](#)).
 7. Applicants must disclose any Conflicts of Interest (COI) to TOSP either by adding something in their application, or emailing TOSP directly. This should include any family members / close, personal relationships with someone in an officiating leadership or selection position; any working relationships within derby or outside of derby; and any other relationship with someone in an officiating leadership or selection position that should be disclosed.

Tournament Head Official (THO), Co-Tournament Head Official (CTHO) and Assistant Tournament Head Official (ATHO)

WFTDA Championships

1. It is preferred that applicants have performed as a THO or CHO at a WFTDA postseason tournament within the last three tournament cycles.
2. Must have performed in at least 20 WFTDA-sanctioned and/or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - a. Five games of the 20 must be sanctioned.
3. Must have performed as a THO in at least one, or as a CHO in at least two WFTDA Sanctioned tournaments in the last 24 months from the date of the application close.

Playoffs

1. It is preferred that applicants have performed as a THO or CHO at a WFTDA postseason tournament within the last three tournament cycles.
2. Must have performed in at least 15 WFTDA-sanctioned and/or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - a. Three games of the 15 must be sanctioned.

Crew Head Official (CHO)

WFTDA Championships

1. It is preferred that applicants have performed as a THO, CHO, or official in at least one WFTDA postseason tournament within the last three tournament cycles.
2. Must have performed in at least 20 WFTDA-sanctioned and/or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - a. Five games of the 20 must be sanctioned.

Playoffs

1. It is preferred that applicants have performed as an THO, CHO, or official in at least one WFTDA postseason tournament within the last three tournament cycles.
2. Must have performed in at least 15 WFTDA-sanctioned and/or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - a. Three games of the 15 must be sanctioned.

Participating Official

WFTDA Championships

1. It is preferred that applicants have performed as an official or THO in at least one WFTDA postseason tournament within the last three tournament cycles.
 - a. Must have performed as an official in at least 20 WFTDA-sanctioned and/or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - b. Five games of the 20 must be sanctioned.
2. While there is no game count requirement to qualify for a specific position or role, recent experience in the last 24 months in that position or role is required.

Playoffs

1. Must have performed as an official in at least 15 WFTDA-sanctioned or Regulation or MRDA-sanctioned games in the last 24 months from date of application close.
 - a. Three games of the 15 must be sanctioned.
2. While there is no game count requirement to qualify for a specific position or role, recent experience in the last 24 months in that position or role is required.

Visual Representation of Requirements

	Championships			Playoffs		
	THO	CHO	Official	THO	CHO	Official
Participated as THO or CHO in WFTDA postseason in past 3 tournament cycles	Preferred	No	No	Preferred	No	No
Participated in any role in WFTDA postseason in past 3 tournament cycles	N/A	Preferred	No	N/A	Preferred	No
Required games last 24 months (WFTDA or MRDA REG or SANC)	20	20	20	15	15	15

Additional Information and Allowances

1. Individuals who do not meet the requirement for the minimum number of games officiated due to the geographic accessibility to sanctioned games or due to injury and/or disability may be considered. This must be clearly noted on your application.
2. If there is a lack of applicants meeting any of these qualifications, TOSP reserves the right to amend/alter the requirements until there are sufficient resources.
3. Alternate Official positions do not count towards minimum game requirements.
4. THO roles count as five games towards your minimum game count.
5. In an effort for higher level Certified Officials to take on mentorships roles and make space in games/events for newer officials; WFTDA Certified Officials may meet lower game count requirements as listed below.
 - a. Level 1 Certified Official: Must meet at least 90% of required games
 - b. Level 2 Certified Official: Must meet at least 80% of required games
 - c. Level 3 Certified Official: Must meet at least 70% of required games

Exception Guidelines

The Exception Guidelines are meant to make a holistic approach to selection possible. While experience and game count are solid, measurable guidelines, they do not take into account any obstacles that an applicant may have encountered.

The Exceptions are meant to be used so people who will benefit from the experience of a postseason tournament, but for reasons beyond their control have not achieved the requirements, can be considered.

The following exceptions can be quoted when an official has been presented who does not meet the Selection Guidelines:

1. The official has experienced discrimination or bullying;
2. The official is geographically isolated;
3. The official is or has been injured;
4. The official is disabled;
5. The official fulfills another role, such as skater, board member or volunteer that affects their ability to officiate;
6. There is a lack of applicants who meet the requirements for selection.

Definitions:

Geographically isolated: needing to travel an excessive amount of time/distance or spend an excessive amount of money to officiate Sanctioned and/or Regulation gameplay.

Officials Selection Process

Goals

1. Take a holistic approach to Postseason staffing so that decisions are not made for just one tournament, but for all tournaments:
 - a. Staff not just the best fit for a position, but find the best fit in that position for the entire crew of Tournament Skating Officials and Non-Skating Officials (NSOs).

- b. Staff the officials who have most effectively proven their performance to achieve that goal. All officials must meet the approved eligibility requirements, then this decision is made through analysis of a number of criteria and sources including, in no particular order:
 - i. Game history (type of game, number of games, recency of games)
 - ii. Performance (WFTDA Certification Level, references, feedback).
 - iii. Positional expertise (game history, references, feedback).
 - iv. Personality and fit within the group (references, feedback).
2. Provide opportunities to a wider pool of officials to participate. This includes:
 - a. Limiting the positions and/or number of tournaments in which each official can be selected to participate (unless there is a shortage of officials or reason to repeat people, with written justification).
 - b. Taking careful consideration towards providing opportunities to those skilled officials who have encountered obstacles, such as geographical isolation, discrimination based on sex, gender, ability, race, culture, language, ethnicity, social class or status or financial means. Ensure transparency of the decision-making process.

Staffing Guidelines

The following are the guidelines to THOs for staffing WFTDA postseason tournaments. These guidelines should be taken into consideration when making selections and placements of officials. TOSP is not suggesting that any one of these guidelines should outweigh another, but they should be used together to create a bigger picture of the eligible officials in order to create effective crews.

All guidelines that are not explicitly related to staffing CHOs apply to all staffing decisions (including CHOs) for WFTDA postseason tournaments..

1. A single applicant should not be staffed in more than one Regional Tournament. THOs are encouraged to work together and to look at the overall staffing of all WFTDA Regionals across all tournaments. This will ensure opportunities are provided with a recommended limit of one WFTDA Regional tournament per official. TOSP may facilitate this process if needed.

- a. Should there be low applicant numbers some officials may be invited to more than one Regional postseason tournament.
 - b. Being staffed as a THO will not count toward the one Regional postseason tournament limit.
 - c. Being selected as a Non-Skating Official or Referee will not limit being staffed in the other role. Limits will apply to each specific track.
2. When staffing CHOs, each THO should select at least one CHO without prior Playoff/Champs CHO experience, if able, per list of applicants.
 3. In a situation where a candidate from an underrepresented group (e.g. geographical isolation, gender identification, ability, race, culture, language, ethnicity, social class or status or financial means) has applied for a position, meets the minimum qualifications, and is not otherwise disqualified based on multiple sources of feedback, preferential consideration shall be given to the underrepresented candidate. Sources of feedback that threaten to disqualify candidates from underrepresented groups will be evaluated for evidence of systemic bias by TOSP and redacted. For more information on disqualifications please see the Dropouts, Replacements and Removals in the TOSP Policies Document.
 4. Effort will be made to staff at least 25% of selected officials with those new to officiating WFTDA postseason.
 5. Officials who were staffed in a postseason event in the previous cycle will be assessed in particular on their mentorship abilities to be considered for selection.
 6. Officials are eligible for WFTDA Championships after having been staffed in at least one WFTDA postseason tournament.
 7. “In-region” staffing will no longer be prioritized for WFTDA Playoffs.
 8. Effort will be made to staff WFTDA Champs with officials from the regions of the participating teams so that the representation is reflective of the regions attending.
 - a. If six regions attend, then approximately 16.6% should be from each region.
 - b. If officials from outside the regions attending apply, they should not be excluded.

- c. If the number of applicants from a region is less than the target amount, the remainder would be first utilized to staff officials from outside of the regions attending, then split equally among the remaining regions. This process would continue until all selections are made.
 - i. EXAMPLE: see Appendix B (Coming Soon)
9. Data from sources detailed below shall be included in deriving an overall assessment of each official. All information reviewed: Certification level, experience, references, feedback, etc. will be considered together in order to determine selections and staffing. No one piece should be weighted more, but used to create an assessment of that official, their skills, and ability to perform at Regional or WFTDA Championships.
- a. Certification:
 - i. Level of certification will be considered.
 - ii. Certified officials have priority over non-certified officials that still meet the minimum eligibility and qualifications.
 - b. Officiating History Summary:
 - i. Each THO will receive a document summarizing the officiating history documents of all the qualified officials in the positions they applied and for which they are approved.
 - ii. Rather than each THO manually reading through all of the officiating history documents and summarizing and comparing the relative experience of all the officials in each position, a system has been developed to check minimum qualifications (This does not include information outside of the Officiating History Document).
 - c. Feedback:
 - i. Feedback on officials from Certification.
 - 1. Consolidated feedback from evaluations, Overviews of Officiating Skill, or the summary from an official's last certification review may be requested for individuals.
 - ii. Reference checks.

1. Feedback from provided references. TOSP will request reference checks during the application process and add them to an application package for each applicant.
2. Any feedback obtained shall be shared with all THOs (and available to TOSP) so that all THOs have the same information.
- iii. Data obtained from member feedback sent to TOSP after forum post.
- iv. Any information collected from references or links to publicly available game footage that results in an official not being staffed must be cited when submitting crew selections to TOSP. (This information may additionally be shared with Certification.)

Presentation of staffing to TOSP

1. The THO will give TOSP insight into their staffing methodology before the selection process starts;
2. The THO will present their staffing choices to TOSP;
 - a. They will substantiate each staffing choice using the Staffing Guidelines;
 - b. If they have deviated from these guidelines for reasons not mentioned in the Exception Guidelines, they will substantiate their decision.
3. For the decision making process, see TOSP process of Review in the [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#) document.
4. All THO communication with TOSP should be sent through the tosp@wftda.com email individually.
5. THOs are expected to inform TOSP immediately of any dropouts so that the proper replacement procedure can be executed, including reporting when alternates are activated during the tournament and any officials pulled in from the reserve list.

Job Descriptions

Tournament Head Officials (THO)

THOs will perform their duties off-skates and without serving on any officiating crew.

Pre-Tournament

THOs are expected to:

1. Review current [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#), specifically those sections pertaining to staffing.
2. Work with TOSP and Officiating Education to provide feedback on the WFTDA Tournament Officials Roles, Responsibilities and Procedures.
3. Select competent Crew Head Officials (CHOs) with oversight of TOSP and per the guidelines established in this document.
4. Oversee assignment of officials to crew positions with oversight from TOSP and per the guidelines established in this document and the [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#).
5. Work to moderate the WFTDA-managed communication platform that WFTDA Tech or TOSP will set up for each tournament.
6. Work with TOSP and WFTDA staff to coordinate tournament needs prior to the tournament. WFTDA would like to standardize needs across tournaments.
7. Must be fully aware of changes to all official rules clarifications and tournament standard practices.
8. Work with the host-selected GTO to properly communicate procedures for the tournament.
9. Communicate with CHOs at least two weeks prior to the tournament to answer any crew questions.
10. Release tournament Day 1 staffing assignments at least 3 weeks prior to the tournament. Day 2 staffing assignments may also be released, however Day 3/4 assignments should be determined based on previous days crew performance.
11. If applicable, work with the Assistant Tournament Heads and include them on all communication.

12. Send feedback to TOSP for each official not selected for their tournament one month before the start of their tournament. This feedback will be sent to the officials requesting feedback to further their officiating development.

In-Tournament

1. Supervise and assess crew and officials' performance during the tournament.
2. Observe games and provide feedback to other CHOs to ensure all tournament crews are performing as accurately and consistently as possible.
3. Manage staffing as per the guidelines established in the Dropouts, Removals, and Replacements section in the [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#) document.
4. Assign officiating crews to games throughout the tournament.
5. Assist GTO and CHOs in managing tournament suspensions per the [WFTDA Expulsion and Suspension Policy](#).
6. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, approve the track setup as compliant with the [WFTDA Tournament Track Setup Requirements](#), together with the host league Tournament Lead, GTO and Risk Coordinator.
7. Conduct the pre-tournament officials meeting, if applicable, and assist with the Captains' meeting as needed.
8. When necessary, conduct daily wrap up meeting(s) that includes THOs, CTHOs, ATHOs, CHOs and GTOs to discuss issues or concerns and plan officiating for the following day(s).
9. Provide support and consultation to participating teams throughout the tournament. Be available for teams to ask questions relating to the Rules and Statsbook.
10. Work with the host Tournament Lead regarding tournament needs throughout the tournament.
11. Will immediately (by the conclusion of the tournament) document any situation and report it to TOSP, where it is determined by THOs and CHs that any official participating in a postseason tournament failed to adequately perform their duties at the tournament.

Post-Tournament

1. Write and submit evaluations on all certified CHs to WFTDA Certification within 60 days. THOs are also expected to write and submit feedback for uncertified CHOs within 60 days.
 - a. TOSP will supply a form for feedback on uncertified officials.
 - b. All feedback will be sent to the official.
 - c. Failure to do so may result in not being selected for a THO position the following tournament cycle.
2. Work with aTHOs and TOSP to document and communicate on-site decisions to the other THOs and ensure consistency of execution between all of the tournaments.
3. Complete feedback reports and evaluations as per the guidelines established in these TOSP Policies & Procedures. This includes a brief report summarizing the tournament experience and officiating performance within **two weeks** of tournament completion.

Tournament Head Referee (THR)

The Tournament Head Referee will have the final decisions on any rules disputes that arise during the tournament.

1. A Rules Committee member will be present on the tournament message board and available for support throughout the postseason tournaments.
2. Discussions will happen after the game. During gameplay the CHR is the authority.
3. All decisions will be in compliance with the current rule set and must be communicated to other THRs in order to keep consistency in decisions between tournaments.

Tournament Head Non-Skating Official (THNSO)

In-Tournament

1. Ensure that all forms for games are prepared and printed for the upcoming game based on the submitted team rosters and [WFTDA StatsBook](#) practices for paperwork.

2. Work with the selected CRG Manager to properly communicate procedures for the tournament and determine workflow of stats.

Post-Tournament

1. Ensure completion of final statistics for submission by Sanctioning deadlines.

Co-Tournament Head Official (CTHO)

CTHOs will be responsible for the same duties as a single THO. It will be up to the CTHOs how to split and/or share their duties of the tournament and come to a consensus on decisions, including staffing and administrative work.

Assistant Tournament Head Official (ATHO)

ATHOs will perform their duties off-skates and without serving on any officiating crew, unless they are activated to fill a vacancy on a crew in accordance with the TOSP policy section on Replacements.

Pre-Tournament

1. Expected to review current [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#), specifically those sections pertaining to staffing.
2. Assist the THOs on moderating the WFTDA-managed communication platform that WFTDA Tech and/or TOSP will set up for each tournament.
3. Work with TOSP and WFTDA staff to coordinate tournament needs prior to the tournament. WFTDA would like to standardize needs across tournaments.
4. Must be fully aware of changes to all official rules clarifications and tournament standard practices.
5. Expected to attend and be a part of any conversations or meetings about rosters, but will not be the final say in any roster.
6. Work with the THOs and GTO to properly communicate procedures for the tournament.

In-Tournament

1. Support the THO with supervision and assessment of the crews and officials performance during the tournament.

2. Along with THOs and CHOs will observe games and provide feedback to other CHOs to ensure all tournament crews are performing as accurately and consistently as possible.
3. Support the THO in the management of staffing as per the guidelines established in the Dropouts, Removals, and Replacements section in the [TOSP Policies and Procedures](#) document.
4. Assist the THOs with assigning officiating crews to games throughout the tournament.
5. Coordinate with THOs to assist GTO and CHOs in managing tournament suspensions per the [WFTDA Expulsion and Suspension Policy](#).
6. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, support the THO in approving the track setup as compliant with the [WFTDA Tournament Track Setup Requirements](#), together with the host Tournament Lead, GTO, and Risk Coordinator.
7. Attend the pre-tournament officials meeting and Captains meeting, as needed by the THO.
8. When necessary, attend daily wrap up meeting(s) that include THR, THNSO, ATHR, ATHNSO, CHRs, CHNSOs, and GTOs to discuss issues or concerns and plan officiating for the following day(s).
9. Provide support and consultation to participating teams throughout the tournament as needed.
10. Work with the THOs and the host Tournament Lead regarding tournament needs throughout the tournament.
11. Should the THOs and CHs determine that any official participating in a postseason tournament failed to adequately perform their duties at the tournament, the THOs, ATHOs, and CHOs will immediately (by the conclusion of the tournament) document the situation and report it to TOSP.
12. As prescribed in the Dropout and Replacement procedures, may be needed to fill in vacancies.

Post-Tournament

1. Assist in drafting evaluations for certified officials and feedback for uncertified officials.

2. Work with THOs and TOSP to document and communicate on-site decisions to the other THOs and ensure consistency of execution between all of the tournaments.
3. Help the THOs complete feedback reports and evaluations as per the guidelines established in these TOSP Policies & Procedures. This includes a brief report summarizing the tournament experience and officiating performance within **two weeks** of tournament completion.

Assistant Tournament Head Referee (ATHR) and Assistant Tournament Head NSO (ATHNSO)

1. Assist the Tournament Head Referee or Head NSO in their duties.
2. Be ready to fill in a vacancy on a crew as needed and as prescribed by the policy on Dropouts and Replacements.

Crew Head Official (CHO)

1. Responsible for ensuring that WFTDA rules, standardized practices, sanctioning uniform policies, tournament policies, and Tournament Roles and Responsibilities are being enforced during the game at the highest standard of fairness and accuracy.
2. Communicate with paired CH at least 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
3. Communicate with crew at least 2 weeks prior to the tournament to answer any questions and foster crew building leading up to the tournament.
4. Conduct a crew meeting before the first game of the tournament. Length and timing is up to the CHO. It is the CHO's discretion if a meeting will be held before each assigned game.
5. Expected to write and submit evaluations on all officials on their crew, regardless of certification status, within 60 days.
 - a. TOSP will supply a form for feedback on uncertified officials.
 - b. All feedback will be sent to the official.
 - c. Failure to do so may result in not being selected for a position the following tournament cycle.

6. Exercising their best judgment, may resolve differences in officiating or conflict between officials within their tournament crew.
7. Manage staffing as per the guidelines established in the Dropouts, Removals, and Replacements section of the TOSP Policies and Procedures document.
8. Assist GTO in processing tournament suspensions per the WFTDA Suspension Policy.
9. If applicable, attend daily wrap up meetings that include THR, THNSO, ATHR, ATHNSO, CHRs, CHNSOs, and GTO to discuss issues or concerns.

Crew Head Referee (CHR)

1. The CHR is the ultimate authority during the game.
2. Makes a final ruling on uniform contrast between opposing teams and recommends a uniform change if necessary.
3. Makes a final ruling on uniforms and helmet covers as outlined in The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, WFTDA Sanctioning Policy, and WFTDA tournament games policies.
4. Conducts pre-game Captains Meeting with CHNSO.
5. Assists GTO with expulsion meetings if necessary per the WFTDA Expulsion and Suspension Policy.

Crew Head Non-Skating Official (CHNSO)

1. Completes IGRF and gathers signatures.
2. Conducts pre-game Captains Meeting with CHR.

Appendix A: TOSP Deadlines (2026 Postseason)

Event Dates

Latin America Regional Championships (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil) April 3-5, 2026

North America-California Playoffs (Richmond, CA, US) May 15-17, 2026

North America-South Carolina Playoffs (Columbia, SC, US) May 22-24, 2026

North America-Michigan Playoffs (Lansing, MI, US) May 29-31, 2026

North America-Ontario Playoffs (Waterloo, Ont, CAN) June 5-7, 2026

Europe Regional Championships (Namur, Belgium) June 12-14, 2026

Oceania Regional Championships (Melbourne, AUS) June 27-28, 2026

WFTDA Championships (Malmö, Sweden) October 15-18, 2026

TOSP Selection Deadlines

Dates are projected and may change based on other factors.

Playoffs

Tournament Head Official Selection

November 30, 2025: Applications close for THOs

December 15, 2025 - January 4, 2026: TH Interviews and Panel Review for THO Applicants

January 9, 2026: THO candidates selected and vetted by Oversight

January 19, 2026: THOs notified of selection

January 23, 2026: THO acceptances due

January 30, 2026: THOs announced on forum

Officials Qualification

January 12, 2026: Apps close for all officials

January 19, 2026: Reference(s) for all officials due

Late January - Early February 2026: CHO Review & Selections

Mid February - Early March 2026: Officials Review & Selections

Mid-Late March 2026: Officials selection announcement

NOTE: TH and Officials selections for the Latin America tournament may be finalized prior to the dates listed in order to provide more notice to those selected.

WFTDA Championships

Tournament Head Official Selection

Playoffs and Championships THO selections will follow the same timeline and use the same application.

Officials Qualification

March 31, 2026 - Applications close for all crew officials

April 25, 2026 - Crew Heads selected

June 15 2026 - Preliminary invitations sent to Officials

August 1, 2026 - Announcement of crews