



USA Diving Judges' Self-Funded Travel Policy

(Effective 4/1/2025)

Purpose

This policy outlines the conditions under which USA Diving (the Federation) judges may participate in self-funded judging opportunities. It is designed to ensure alignment with Federation standards while maintaining fairness and neutrality in representation.

Eligibility and Invitation Process

Chair-Initiated Invitation Based on Ranking

- Judges must be invited by the Chair of the Judges Commission to participate in self-funded trips.
- Invitations will be extended based on an internal ranked list maintained by the Judges Commission.
- The Chair will contact judges directly via phone call or text message regarding available opportunities.
- Judges must respond to the Chair within 24 hours of receiving the invitation.

Ranking List Protocol

The Commission will use the Federation's internal ranking list to identify and invite eligible judges for specific events, ensuring fairness and adherence to developmental priorities.

Re-Invitation Clause

If a judge declines an invitation, they remain eligible for future invitations within the same calendar year, subject to availability and event needs.

Annual Limit

Each judge may participate in one self-funded trip per year. Exceptions may be made only if reviewed and approved by the Judges Commission.

Funded Trips Exclusion

This policy does not apply to fully funded trips. Judges selected for trips that are supported or funded by the Federation or other governing bodies are subject to separate guidelines and selection procedures.

Non-Evaluated Judge Invitations

- If a judge is invited to an event that is not evaluated by World Aquatics, the judge must contact the Chair and the Federation directly.
- A formal letter of request must be submitted by the requesting Federation to both the Chair of the Judges Commission and the Federation for review and clearance.

Financial Responsibility and Restrictions

Full Self-Funding Required

- Judges are responsible for 100% of all travel-related expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals, and local transportation.
- The Federation will not provide any funding or reimbursements.

Neutrality and Resource Restrictions

- Judges may not crowdfund or solicit public donations to finance their trip.
- The Judges Commission and its members will not offer financial assistance or share loyalty points with the self-funded judges, ensuring neutrality and avoiding any appearance of favoritism.

Annual Review

The Judges Commission reserves the right to review and revise this policy on an annual basis.

Questions or Requests for Exception

For any inquiries or to request an exception, please contact the Chair of the Judges Commission.