

The NAWGJWA Committee is a volunteer group which strives to support the judges of Washington State. These elected volunteers are committed to making fair decisions that benefit all NAWGJ-WA members. Below are the collaborative answers from the committee.

Present at the Meeting -
Patty Ames - State Judging Director
Noelle Buell - West Representative
Michelle Ladow - Assigning Team
Pam Harper - Assigning Team
Denise Green - appointed member
Dawn Kis - appointed member

Leah Mohets-Chan - East Representative - not present
Jayme Hostetter - Secretary - not present

- Why was the fundraiser, NAWJ dues paid criteria, made so late? It gave the East side a short time frame to plan to be there.

Both this year's fundraisers have been on the calendar since July at the meet draw. An email sent on Oct 24th with details was sent to the membership which is 3 weeks prior to the event. The education funds which are earned at these fundraisers are shared as determined by the board. The new SGC needed time to discuss this matter to determine the criteria.

- Therefore, the 2nd fundraiser is on a day that has an East side meet so some cannot come.

This was discussed at length at our committee meeting regarding how NAWGJ funds can be allocated. Per our bylaws priority is given to NAWGJ events. Permission must be requested to use funds for events that are not NAWGJ events. i.e USAG Congress etc Conflicts in schedules can occur and cannot be helped. The education funds continue to be divided as the committee determines and shares with members. The committee will review and discuss this item for the 2023-24 season.

- Dues paid only if at a fundraiser, or are there any other opportunities?

Currently, at this time, for the same reasons as listed above there will not be another opportunity in Washington. This will be discussed as well by the NAWGJWA committee. There is one other opportunity, such as volunteering at the National Judges Cup will be considered as this is a NAWGJ sponsored event.

- Why have there been some assignments to meets that were not the 1st choice (if requested on more than one meet on that weekend)?

This is something that the assigners will be mindful of. The specific meet requests have been shared with the team. If judges notice that they are not assigned to a specific meet they are requested to send a simple polite email to the assigners to let them know. Washington has 2 new assigners, unintentional errors may happen, a bit of grace would be appreciated. They will fix errors as soon as possible.

- Assigning errors - weekends off or college assignments?

Judges are assigned based on their provided availability. If judges would like weekends off or to do college they should block out their availability in Gymjas. The NAWGJWA assigning teams first and only priority are club meets in the state of Washington. It is helpful if you would please only make yourself available for weekends/days you are truly available. Each judge is an independent contractor. The assigning guidelines document can be found at (insert link)

- Why are meets put in draft mode?

Meets are left in draft mode to keep them as working documents. This allows the assigning team flexibility to move judges as needed. This also allows more time for the assigners to make accurate assignments that line up with the meet directors needs, which may evolve as the meet details are confirmed

- Why do minutes say recommendation instead of Motion?

This is an easy fix. As a reminder it is the intent of the motion that is what is important.

- Why isn't the google doc for winter released yet?

The Winter/Spring Judges doc sheet is typically opened on Dec 1st. This is 1 month prior to the beginning of the season and the first meet weekend.

- Who/when should we reach out about hotels for meets?

Meet directors are responsible for making hotel arrangements per the USAGWA committee. Judges should work directly with the Meet Director for those arrangements approx 2 weeks prior to the meet. Refer to your NAWGJ Gymjas contract for meet director information regarding hotel/travel arrangements.

- Is there a way to find director's contact information?

As mentioned above you will find Meet Director contact on your Gymjas contract

- Can we add a quick link on the NAWGJWA site to matting specifications?

This can already be found on the NAWGJWA website on the homepage. It also is within Priscilla's documents and also on the USAG link.

- Can Gymjas send an email to the judge when they are assigned?

Gymjas already has this feature. As soon as the assigner sends the information to the meet director this prompts an email to the judge letting them know they have been assigned. This will let the judge know they can go in and create their contract.

- Gymjas be set to allow judges to change their availability after they have been assigned to another meet while in draft mode?

The assigning team will work on taking meets out of draft mode sooner.

- Why are meets disappearing from our list before we have the opportunity to accept/decline them?

The assigning system is a fluid system and if a judge is not specifically requested they may be moved to another meet to accommodate any gaps and fill meets as needed. As the team is learning the system, please be patient. Also, judges are requested to communicate via email very simple and concise updates to their schedules to the assigners.

- A question was asked about the decision to pay for NAWGJ dues only if you volunteer at one of the fundraising events and whether that was allowed or not based on NAWGJ's bylaws.

The income from the fundraiser will be divided as the board has decided to fund education for all of the wa judges. If judges choose to volunteer at the fundraiser (s) to help earn money for all judges, they will have the benefit of having their dues paid without taking it out of the fundraiser proceeds. Currently, this is what most states choose to do and fulfills the 501c3 requirements.