

Becoming a FISAF Australia Judge

Introduction

FISAF Australia prides itself on providing its members with the highest quality sport aerobics competition program in Australia. As part of this, it is vital that our judges are of the highest quality also.

The purpose of this document is to inform those who are interested in becoming a judge with FISAF Australia, and the expectations and requirements that come with that.

The Role

FISAF Australia judges participate in events as an official of the sport and their primary role is to apply the rules of the sport, to the best of their ability.

A FISAF Australia judge should be fair, honest, and impartial in all activities and decisions relating to every competitor participating in an event. They should also represent the values and vision of FISAF Australia in order to uphold the high standard at which it operates.

Basic Requirements

As a basic requirement, all FISAF Australia Judges must:

- Have experience coaching or competing within FISAF competition streams
- Understand, apply and abide by the FISAF Australia Rules and Guidelines, and the FISAF International Technical Regulations, including any published amendments or interpretations;
- Act fairly, honestly and impartially at all times
- Proactively work on developing and maintaining high quality judging skills through the review of Rules and Guidelines, Technical Regulations, peer discussion, and judging at competitions;
- Proactively model the interests of the sport aerobics community and the values of FISAF Australia as the sport continues to grow;
- Avoid any potential or actual conflicts of interest (including but not limited to using judge-privy information at competitions to enhance their own athletes' performance (e.g. FRF/skill list detail).

Induction Process

FISAF Australia welcomes new candidates to apply to become a member of its judging team at any time. Typically, candidates will be inducted once per year (usually in the second half of the year) with a view to being accepted onto the judging team for the competition season the following year.

The steps below provide a guide to what candidates can expect for the process.

1. Submit an Expression of Interest

Candidates must submit an Expression of Interest form to FISAF Australia to register their interest. The form assists us to learn some basic information about each candidate which might help with providing appropriate support and instruction. The document is located on the FISAF Australia website (in the Resources tab).

2. Complete Judging Exams

There are three types of exams available for candidates to complete. These include Sport Aerobics, Skills and Fitness exams. For a candidate to perform the role of certain types of judges, they must have successfully completed the relevant exam. All candidates are required to

complete the Sport Aerobics and Fitness exams prior to their induction as a minimum. Completing the Skills exam in addition to this is optional, though highly recommended.

The exams are in written format, and can be completed at home in own time. In order to complete the exams, candidates must have first read and understand the FISAF Australia Rules and Guidelines of all streams. FISAF Australia is responsible for rules relating to the School, Elementary and National streams. FISAF international is responsible for the rules relating to the International Stream.

3. Results and discussion

Upon successful completion of the relevant exams, candidates will be contacted by a senior/mentor judge to have an opportunity to discuss the next steps, ask questions, and go through the exam results.

4. Shadow judging

All new candidates are required to 'shadow judge' across all four streams to a level that provides them with adequate experience to be able to judge in different competition environments. Shadow judging means that candidates perform the role of a judge, however their scores aren't used towards the results.

The scores are reviewed by the Head Judge (or supervising judge) for the purposes of providing feedback. Shadow judging is performed on a volunteer basis meaning that payment is not provided to the candidate for their time shadowing.

Travel and print costs are also not paid by FISAF, however there will be no requirement to travel interstate for this part of the process. Shadow judging may be done live at competitions, or virtually (by way of video) and it will be expected that candidates shadow judge for different competitions.

5. Assessment/Accreditation

Upon successful completion of the previous steps, FISAF Australia will confirm accreditation of the candidate. This means that the newly appointed judge will be a paid member of the judging panel at competitions going forward.

Please note: it is a requirement for all judges to sign their approval of the Code of Conduct, and Judge/Staff Travel & Rates policies each year in order to perform the role of a judge. Any breach of the policies may result in suspension from the role.

Mentoring and Support

FISAF Australia appreciates the value that Judges bring to the competition season, and the sport as a whole. We acknowledge that senior judges often have a wealth of experience and knowledge they are willing to share with other judges, especially those who are newer to the role.

In every instance possible, FISAF Australia will work to align new candidate judges with a senior/mentor judge to facilitate and encourage the sharing of experience and information for the purpose of enriching our judging panels. New candidate judges are encouraged to contact FISAF Australia if they wish to discuss this in more detail.