



DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



# FINA HIGH DIVING JUDGES PATHWAY

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

FINA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME





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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to explain the process that all the Technical Officials, within a FINA National Member Federation, may follow in order to become eligible to judge at FINA Events.

A key element in this process are the FINA Schools, a development programme that offers all the officials around the world the opportunity to progress and to be acknowledged as certified officials.

The main goal of this programme is to promote sports growth by offering a continuous learning pathway for active high diving judges, providing and setting the necessary competencies to become a FINA Judge.

FINA Certification Schools may be offered every year by the FINA Development Programme, with the objective of establishing a universal and standardized high diving judges training and certification system.

Through this programme all the participants have access to the same information, guidelines and interpretation of the FINA Rules, increasing the number of certified judges and enhancing their knowledge.

## 1. FINA Criteria for Judges

All judges must be able to meet the following criteria:

- Education: they shall have a complete knowledge of the rules
- Experience: they shall develop judging experience in competitions
- Application: they shall demonstrate the practical application of the rules
- Neutrality: they shall show no preference to any diver or nation
- Consistency: they shall maintain a standard in judging
- Behaviour: they shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner

## 2. List principles

A list of FINA High Diving Officials with certified judges is established annually by FINA.

Federations can delete their certified judges annually, after receiving the revised *FINA High Diving Officials List*, no later than November 30 of each year.

If no reply is received by December 15, it shall be assumed that all judges appearing on the list are approved for the upcoming year.

In special circumstances National Federations are entitled to delete certified judges during the year.

### 3. FINA High Diving Certification Schools for Judges

#### 3.1 Overview

FINA High Diving Certification Schools for Judges may be organised every year in connection with a national or international High Diving Event.

The course is designed to prepare and certify highly qualified judges wishing to be on the FINA High Diving Officials List, subject to meet the list criteria.

#### 3.2 Course description and format

The FINA High Diving Certification Schools are held over a duration of three (3) days concluding with a test. They are delivered in English by two lecturers appointed by the FINA Technical High Diving Committee.

The instruction combines theoretical sessions and practical application of judging, being both parts examined at the end of the course.

#### 3.3 Course requirements

The Organizer must have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of thirty (30) participants attending a FINA High Diving Certification School.

All participants attending a FINA School shall ensure that they comply with the below requirements:

- Be registered through the FINA GMS as described in point 3.4
- Be at least 18 years old on December 31 of the year of the school
- Demonstrate a minimum level of spoken and written skills in English
- Fully participate in the course and complete all required assessments
- Agree to abide by the FINA Code of Ethics
- It is strongly recommended that candidates have independent appropriate insurance coverage before undertaking any independent officials practice to cover any unusual circumstances such as travel and health

#### 3.4 Registration

All participants attending a FINA High Diving Certification School must be nominated by their National Federations through the FINA GMS by the registration deadline.

- Only fully submitted registrations will be considered for approval
- Please note that only approved participants may attend a FINA School
- The approvals will be done on a first come first serve basis
- The registration for the school will be closed by the registration deadline or once the maximum number of 30 participants has been reached

### 3.5 Assessment

To receive certification, a judge must attend a FINA High Diving Certification School and pass the theoretical test and the practical assessment.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** A candidate must obtain a minimum score of 85% in order to pass a FINA High Diving Certification School. FINA certification is valid for three (3) years.

For the written exam, interpreters, use of online resources, electronic watches and cell phones are not permitted. Disciplinary actions will be taken against those who act in a dishonest way or for any misconduct.

Candidates who have successfully completed the assessment will receive a Certification School Diploma.

### 3.6 Recertification

For recertification (three years), a certified judge must do one of the following:

- Attend a FINA High Diving Certification School for Judges and pass the test with a minimum score of 85% and be assessed with a minimum of 85% every three (3) years. At each FINA High Diving Certification School, the nationality of the officials will be verified by the lecturers Office (see GR 2.5 and BL 9.1).
- Be evaluated within a period of three years at three (3) different competitions held at three (3) different places with at least a 90% rating and recommended by the FINA THDC for a recertification for three years.
- Be selected for the FINA High Diving Seminar Programme, as high diving judge
- for the FINA World Championships and/or the FINA High Diving World Cup and recommended by the FINA THDC for a recertification for three years. The FINA THDC will only consider those judges who achieve a minimum of 90% agreement with observation.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In addition, each certified judge must take the Online Officials exam each year.

### 3.7 Qualification framework

#### 3.7.1 Content

The curriculum will be based on the current version of the [FINA High Diving Manual](#) and the [FINA Handbook](#):

- Judge's Responsibilities
- High Diving: Analogy and Difference to Diving
- Fundamentals: High Diving Competitions and Competition Format
- High Diving Number Designation: Degree of Difficulty



- Statement of Dives: Competition Procedure
- Elements of the Dive: Approach and Take-off – Flight – Entry
- The Dive: Approach and Take-Off
- The Dive: The Flight
- The Dive: The Entry
- Rules: Interpretation & Application
- Using the Point Scale

### 3.7.2 Competencies to be achieved at the end of the school are:

- Participants will fully be versed with the FINA High Diving Rules (current version of the [FINA High Diving Manual](#) and [FINA Handbook](#))
- Participants will demonstrate a high level of understanding of the rules and the application of the rules to judge at an international level of competency.

## 4. FINA High Diving Officials Online Exam for certified judges

Once a year, each FINA certified judge must pass the FINA High Diving Officials Online Exam through the [FINA Learning Platform](#)

- All the FINA certified judges will receive access to complete the Online Exam
- The Online Exam may be taken each year from 1<sup>st</sup> February to the 31<sup>st</sup> December
- A score of 85% is required to pass the exam
- The exam can be taken more than once, if a score of 85% is not achieved
- Those judges who do not complete the online exam by the 31<sup>st</sup> December will not be eligible for nominations by the THDC in the following year

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The FINA High Diving Officials Online Exam for certified judges does not serve as recertification.

Please see section 3.6 for any further information concerning the recertification process.

## 5. Evaluation of certified judges

### 5.1 Evaluation criteria

All certified judges shall be evaluated into one of the following categories:

- 95 – 100% = very good
- 90 – 94% = good
- 85 – 89% = satisfactory
- 80 – 84% = deficient
- 79% and under = unsatisfactory

### 5.1.1 Numerical

Comparison of the awards given by the judge and the opinion of the observer and classified as follows:

Less than 5% difference between the observer and the judge	=	very good
Between 6 - 10% difference between the observer and the judge	=	good
Between 11 - 15% difference between the observer and the judge	=	satisfactory
Between 16 - 20% difference between the observer and the judge	=	deficient
More than 21% difference between the observer and the judge	=	unsatisfactory

### 5.1.2 Behaviour

While judging the contest, the judge must at all times reflect appropriate international behaviour which includes:

- To wear the appropriate dress code
- To report for duty on schedule and attend the meetings called by the referee
- To be alert at all times
- Not to communicate with the other judges and coaches during the event
- Not to coach the diver from the chair
- To be prompt in the response to the referee for scores
- To concentrate on the event and the field of play

### 5.1.3 Neutrality

- Does not show bias towards or against certain divers or Federations.

### 5.1.4 Knowledge of the Rules and additional Diving Education

- Ability to understand and apply the rules during the competition

## 5.2 Evaluation procedure

The following high diving events are the main venues for observation by THDC Members or nominated experts:

- FINA World Championships – High Diving
- FINA High Diving World Cups
- Selected Red Bull Cliff Diving Series Events
- Continental High Diving Championships
- Special Invitation of THDC Observer to National or Regional Championships

After each competition, an observation report shall be sent to the FINA THDC Sub-Committee Judges.



## 6. FINA High Diving Officials List

### 6.1 List principles

A list of FINA High Diving Officials with certified judges is established annually by FINA.

**Federations can delete their certified judges annually, after receiving the revised FINA High Diving Officials List, no later than December 14 of each year.**

In special circumstances National Federations are entitled to delete certified judges during the year.





