

## Meet Jury - Part One

By: Clark Hammond, Rules Chair, 12/16/19

In this issue I will address use of a meet jury under Rule 102.23. As an initial matter, protests against the judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the Referee and the Referee's decision is final. Rule 102.23.1

Second, protests regarding an athlete's competition category may only be heard by the National Eligibility Appeal Panel and the athlete is allowed to compete in his or her stated category until the Panel has issued a decision. Rule 102.23.2

Third, protests for all other competition-related protests, including protests concerning eligibility and representation, must be made to the Referee and submitted in writing within thirty (30) minutes after the race in which the alleged infraction occurred. Rule 102.23.5

Fourth, for all other protests lodged at the meet, the Referee may appoint a meet jury. The jury shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons, at least one of whom shall be a coach and one an athlete.

For what reasons would you appoint a jury? So when should you appoint a jury? How many members should be on the jury and who should be put on the jury?

What are the reasons for appointing a jury?

1. Protests made prior to the race contesting the eligibility of a swimmer to compete or to represent an organization. Rule 102.23.4
2. All other protest lodged at the meet (except judgment decisions or eligibility and representation protests occurring AFTER THE RACE). This could include protest related to the facilities, the race course, results (judgment decisions regarding times or timing equipment is not covered by 102.23.1), score, points awarded, interpretation of the rules, etc.

When should you appoint a Meet Jury?

1. Prior to the race in the case of contesting an athlete's eligibility to compete or represent an organization (except competition category).
2. Whenever the need arises. Except for the situation above, there is no set time. Certainly, it would be best to plan ahead so you are not running around trying to form a jury at the last minute.

How many members on the jury?

1. Either 3 or 5, but not 4. You want an odd number, so you do not end up with a tie. Three members should be sufficient, but you certainly can have 5.

Who should be the members?

1. At least one coach and one athlete. There is no requirement that you have an official and no restriction on having another athlete or coach. There is no requirement that the other member even be a coach, athlete or official; however, it probably would not be advisable to pick someone out of the stands.
2. The only limitation is that members should not be from the team(s) involved in the situation.

How does a jury perform its duties? The Meet Referee should facilitate the process.

1. Find a quiet spot, preferably off the deck
2. Allow the protester to present their case.
3. If there's an opposing view, allow them to present their side.
4. If they need interpretation of the rules, ask the meet or deck referee for assistance.
5. Deliberate
6. Let all concerned know the Jury's decision and the effect it has on the situation.
7. Ask the Jury not to discuss their deliberations publicly.