

Illinois NAWGJ

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FROM THE DESK OF THE SJD

The 2008-09 season was fast and furious. It's hard to believe it is almost over. Thank you so much for judging and giving of yourself. You are very important and integral to the success of Illinois Gymnastics! USAG and NAWGJ do appreciate what you bring to the sport.

So much has gone on this year -on the competitive floor and off. Please know that your voices are heard. The Illinois NAWGJ Board is working hard to meet your needs. Board Members are listening and devoting time and energy to that end. Please note a variety of articles in this Newsletter.

Thank you,
Jeanne

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Just for you, please double check all information, Sandy will date form as corrected.

The SCORE

- Performance - the execution or accomplishment of work (Dictionary.com)
- Evaluation - an act or instance of evaluating or appraising. (Dictionary.com)
- Score - the performance of an individual expressed by a number. (Dictionary.com)

These three definitions encompass our job as judges. We evaluate a performance, apply the rules found in the Code of Points and calculate a score. Each judge has their own “library” of skills. Based on this library, routines are evaluated. Judges may not always agree on start value, but should agree on the other components of a routine – execution, composition, neutral deductions.

There are many levels of gymnastics, not only within the USAG system (Levels 4-10), but also in other organizations which use the USAG rules (YMCAs, Park Districts, GIJO. There is a basic understanding that not all deductions are applied the same way from a USAG sanctioned meet to competitions sponsored by other organizations.

Furthermore, because of the rules, it is possible to judge with someone you have never judged with before and be within 0.1 of their score consistently. Sometimes, as officials, we have difficulty accomplishing this. The rules are not being applied consistently. It does not matter if you are judging a major invitational or an in-house meet, scores should be consistent (within 0.3 from meet to meet). When a gymnast competes one weekend and receives a 7.5 and the next weekend an 8.5, it is no wonder why the coaches, gymnasts and parents are upset. This is given the same level of performance.

It is our responsibility to judge each gymnast the same way. It is also our responsibility to understand the basic differences between the organizations and apply the rules consistently within those organizations. The type of meet, the major invite, or the hope of being asked back is not a consideration. Without consistent judging, we lose all creditability.

It's Not About Being Fair

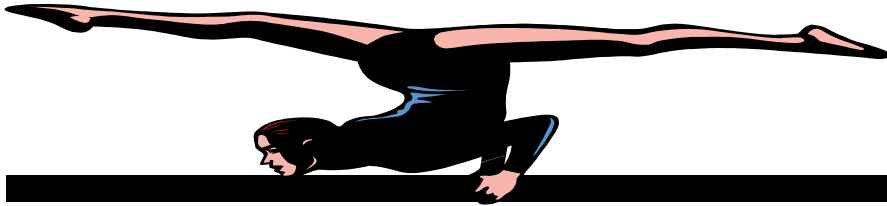
In the past 5 years, judges have faced increasing demands and expenses. It is hard to keep up with changing rules, incredible hours and requirements; professional memberships, safety, background checks, CPE, etc. And it just doesn't seem fair. It is not about being fair. All professional members have to be held to the same industry standards. It is not possible to require some pro-members to take the safety course and some not, and to have only coaches with background checks and not the officials. There are professional standards in all of the Olympic Sports.

The coaches, in gymnastics and all sports, come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds. The best coach may have never finished high school and the worst coach may have a Doctorate of Sports. It is not about being fair between the coaches and officials.

It is About Being Fair

All Gymnastics Professionals are members of USA-Gymnastics. Officials must do certification (testing) and are members of NAWGJ. Judges have two “Codes of Professional Responsibility”. It is about the gymnast and putting the best officials on the competitive floor. It is all about being fair to the gymnast and the sport.

Jeanne



PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS

Everyone who worked Judges Cup should have received a professional benefits statement from Cyndi Zimmerman. If you have not received your statement, contact Cyndi at gymmom4@aol.com

“You knew it was a hard job when you took it.” - Don Carney

BRIEF INFO ON THE UPCOMING NAWGJ STATE BOARD ELECTIONS

This summer all board positions except State Judging Director, are up for re-election. Your current board positions are:

North Assigner

South Assigner

South Judges Cup

North Judges Cup

Website/News letter

Administrative Assistant

Treasurer and Professional Benefits

Education Chair

If you are interested in running for one of the above positions, applications will be available by May 1st.

NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

The website has been down for a few days as we are in the process of switching the website to a new web host. The process is taking longer than expected so please bear with me during this transition. The new website will not only save NAWGJ money, it will also

have many new features. There will be automatic notifications to all members when something new is posted on the website. I am working on a feature that will allow you to be able to check the status of your professional benefits account. Many new features will keep

you up to date with what is happening in the gymnastics community. I think you will all be very pleased with the new website. Thanks for your patience during the transition phase.

Linda McDonald

Congratulations to everyone who has a state meet assignment.

**Hilary Carlson will be representing IL at Level 10 Nationals.
Jeanne Johnson will represent IL at Level 9 Eastern Nationals
Hilary and Jean will represent IL at Level 9/10 Regional's
Linda McDonald and Sandy Oldham will represent IL at Level 8 Regional's**

RJD REMINDERS

As we approach the end of 4 years with the same rules, sometimes we need a review of those rules we think we remember. As state, regional, and national meets approach, please read the following, along with reviewing the Code of Points and the J.O. Compulsory Book. Thanks!

Hilary Carlson, RJD, Region 5

COUNTING VALUE PARTS (OPTIONAL)

Remember that a Value Part may be counted two (2) times in an exercise provided the element occurs in different connections (Code of Points, p. 11, C). This affects difficulty, special requirements, and bonus.

Elements are different if

They have different numbers in the Code.

Example, UB: a short kip on the low bar and a long hang kip are different elements. Therefore, a LB kip cast handstand and a long kip, cast handstand are 2 different connections.

2. They have the same number but

Are saltos with different body positions

Elements with different degree of turn (1/2, 1/1, 1 ½, etc.) Quarter turns do not change the element unless listed separately in the Code.

Ex: on Floor: a switch leg leap with a ¼ turn (switch side) is the same as a switch ½. They have the same number and the ¼ doesn't change the element.

Ex: on Beam: a straddle and a straddle ¼ are the same element and a straddle ½ and a straddle ¾ is the same element. (Note: the straddle and straddle ¼ are important also because both are allowed in L. 7.)

Level 7 and 8 Bars have casts that have different values: 0° - 44° = no credit, 45° - 21°=A credit, 20°-vertical=B credit. Therefore, for Levels 7 and 8 (and levels 9 and 10), a kip, cast to "A" handstand and a kip, cast to "B" handstand are 2 different connections.

Dates To Remember

USA Brevet Course

July 11-15
Indianapolis

National Course 1

July 15-18
Indianapolis

National Course 2

July 18-21
Indianapolis

National Congress

August 13-16
Dallas

Region 5 Mini Congress

September 18-20
Schaumburg, IL

***IF YOU SEE IT, YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT.
IF YOU DON'T SEE IT, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT.
IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU NEED TO RE-TRAIN YOUR EYE.
PATTY PANICHIAS BREVET JUDGE***

RECOGNITION OF ELEMENTS, PART II (COMPULSORY)

When evaluating an element in compulsories, there are deductions for changing, substituting, and omitting major elements. (Refer to p. 161, JO Compulsory Book.)

Changing an element is performing a variation of the prescribed element (up to the value of the element).

Example, FX L. 5: performing a back roll instead of a back extension roll is a change, deduction of .6 (p. 111)

Substituting an element is performing a totally different element (double the value of the element).

Example, BB L. 6: performing a straight jump instead of a tuck jump in the series.

Omitting an element is leaving it out completely (double the value of the element). Remember that an omitted element that is done later on in the routine is still considered omitted.

When applying this deduction, look for any resemblance to the skill. Example, UB: any cast no matter how poor is a cast. There are amplitude deductions to cover the lack. Some changes are covered by specific execution deductions. None of the following examples would be changing or substituting the element.

Example, L. 6 FX: if the handspring step-out lands on 2 feet, there is a .2 deduction.

Example, L. 5 FX: bending the arms on a back extension roll is an up to .3 general deduction.

Example, BB L. 5 & 6: Doing a heel snap turn instead of a turn requiring a weight transfer is -.3 (p. 162). Performing a weight transfer instead of a heel snap turn is -.2 (clarification in Technique and in general faults and penalties).

THE ETHICS CORNER

Judges in Region 5 are the best! We have the opportunity to see the best in the country from Level 4 on up and I don't know a nicer group of people. However, as the season gets longer, snow piles up, temperatures drop, and we're judging our 5th weekend in a row of 4000 gymnasts, even the best of us loses patience. Keep smiling! Remember that you judge because you love gymnastics.

Long meets, especially ones where we are sitting and watching warm-ups, can be trying. It's hard to remain professional (not talking with coaches, walking to another event, doing taxidermy, etc.). **I'll give a prize to everyone who gives me ideas of things to do at your table while watching warm-ups.**



Try as hard as you can to be that special smiling judge when the gymnasts come to present. As Paula Noe says, the last girl paid the same entry fee as the first girl.

And, our assistants.... At more and more meets families have to work multiple sessions, so friends, aunts, grandfathers, and siblings are called to help, often with no knowledge of the sport. Every session, review with them what they are supposed to do. Tell them if they have a question to wait until you have come up with a score and then ask. They want to help, but don't always know the protocol. Be careful what you say at the table because it is easy to be misunderstood. Even a comment about a leotard design could be misinterpreted. Gossip does not belong at the table.

Remember we all represent each other and our organization. Be nice. Hilary Carlson RJD

Tri-Annual Financial Report Summary
Submitted by Jeanne Johnson SJD

The Tri-Annual Financial report is one of three financial reports that Illinois submits for the year. This summary explains income and expenses for the first period of 2009. This is a summary of the March Tri-Annual Financial Report. Below is a brief explanation of the Report. The preceding page is the NAWGJ Tri-Annual Financial Report form. Illinois NAWGJ is required to give a Financial Report to Members once a year. In addition, Illinois NAWGJ must follow the procedures set forth by NAWGJ.

Listed in the Report are income and the expenses for the Judges Cup. Often income and expenses are on more than one Tri-Annual Report. A separate Judges' Cup Report is being finalized. The Illinois Board will review the Report. The Report will be submitted to Hilary Carlson, RJD.

The Tri-Annual Reports cover different numbers of months (3 months, 4 months and 5 months). Differences can occur based on when receipts are submitted, approved and cleared. For example: one set of receipts could miss the cut-off date for one report and two sets could be put together on the next report.

Board Members are reimbursed for approved and receipted NAWGJ expenses.

Testing, Testing, Testing

Are you testing, thinking about testing or wavering somewhere in the middle? We have old Nationals, new Nationals, old 10's and hopefully new 10's and a handful of 7/8's and level 9's-where do you fit in? ("Old" is not the best word but I am using it anyway.) Please see Linda's article below for testing information.

If you are just not sure what to do about testing give Kathie Gebhardt, Education or me (Jeanne) a call. If you are eligible for the National course and not signed up please drop me a line or call. I would be very happy to help in any way. Please e-mail Kathie Gebhardt with your exact testing plans, Gymjudge59@aol.com. This will help us organize and meet your clinic needs.

The Infamous Summer Schedule Clinics and Study Groups

Level 10 Clinics

These clinics are open to all judges. Only Level 10 rules will be discussed. The clinics will be run similar to the National Course. There will be a Nationals only Meeting at 8:00 am June 7th at Aerial Gymnastics Club. The Clinic will follow.

June 7	Bars	Video/Lecture and Gymnast Demonstration	Aerial Gymnastics
June 16*	Beam	Video /Lecture	Tentative Date/Site TBA
June 23*	Floor	Video /Lecture	Tentative Date/Site TBA

Study Groups for the Nationals

Study groups are being organized. Of course you can organize your own study group-even with just yourself. But to better meet the needs of our members we are trying to outline 3 study groups.

1. Judy Harwood has volunteered to do a Northwest location.
2. We are looking for a Southwest location. It can be also be a floating site.
3. Teresa Millmore has volunteered to host a South study group. This study group would include Nationals and level 10's.

Study groups should be schedule around the two clinics at Maine East and please try to work with everyone's schedules. Monday and Wednesday evenings are recommended for the Northwest and Southwest groups. There will be more information, check the website for updates.

August Clinic Levels 5-10 Gym Etc., Bloomington

Teresa Millmore hosts a weekend Camp for gymnasts in August. She has agreed to host a Judging Clinic for Levels 5-10 in conjunction with the Camp. There will be in- gym and lecture/video. Plans are to include testing- the 5/6 test will be offered, and if possible, the optional tests will be offered. Check the website for the date.

CPE Credit: There will be CPE credit for the June 7th Bar Clinic, June 16th Beam Clinic, June 23rd Floor Clinic, and the August Clinic. Credits are equal to the hours attended. June 7th will be about 4 hours (Nationals 6 hours). The August clinic will be based on the TBA schedule with a minimum of 4 hours offered.

Thank you,
Jeanne

TESTING

Current compulsory ratings are good until 2013. If you currently hold a 5/6 compulsory rating, you do not have to re-certify at the compulsory level until 2013.

EVERYONE MUST RECERTIFY AT THE OPTIONAL LEVEL.

Your current optional rating will expire Dec. 31, 2009 and you are required to test. Hilary Carlson and Jeanne Johnson are the local test administrators. There will be testing dates for all levels 5-10. The optional test will be offered after national congress.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION AND CONTACT SANDY OLDHAM IF ANYTHING IS INCORRECT. Sandy's e-mail is: sewoldh@sbcglobal.net

[ILLINOIS NAWGJ MEMBERSHIP 2009](#)