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NAWGJ ILLINOIS September 2006

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 - Regional Symposium @ Indianapolis,
Indiana

Oct. 7-8 - **South Judges' Cup (Hilary will give
the test on Saturday morning).**

**Oct. 15 - Clinic @ Stevenson's HS w/testing
after the clinic.**

Nov. 10-12 - **North Judges' Cup**

Jan. 5,6,&7 - National Judge's Cup in Indianapolis, IN (more to com in next newsletter)

THINGS TO REMEMBER & DO:

Finally ready—the Illinois nawgj website is ready for you to see. There is a “**JUDGES ONLY**” section that is NOT available to everyone. It is very important that you send me two things by email:

- (1). USAG number
- (2). A password that you can remember
(although I will have it on file if you forget it).

As soon as I start receiving emails I will put your information on and you will be able to get to the “**JUDGES ONLY**” section. Everything else is available now. Thank you for your patience and enjoy the new website.

Debbie

To All Illinois Judges:

This year's Judges' Cups will be bigger and better than ever! Our goal is to have more gymnasts and even more importantly, more Illinois clubs represented. Illinois NAWGJ is committed to Illinois gymnastics, the gymnasts and education. The South and the North Judges' Cups are designed to educate and connect with the Illinois gymnastics community.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Question & Answer Session

Immediately following each session all judges will remain on the competition floor for a 10-minute question and answer session. The Head Judge will allow general questions, suggestions for improvement, concerns regarding text and problem areas. Time will not provide for critiquing every individual routine.

Meet Referee

Plans are to have a Meet Referee on the Competitive Floor. The Meet Referee will circulate to help answer questions; relay particular concerns from the head judge to a coach, handle inquiries and be the liaison.

Critique Books

Individual critique books will be changed to new and improved Critiques Books for Coaches. Every coach will receive a book designed for the compulsory and optional levels. Included will be: updates, comments and insights.

More Judges

The elimination of the individual critiques will allow for more judges to be available for other work. Judges will help with admission, gymnast check-in, timing, etc. The goal is to have judges more accessible, to provide a sense of community and to allow more interaction between judges, coaches and gymnasts.

Level 7 Team Championships

Both Judges Cups will have Level 7 Team Competition. The team with the over-all highest team score will be awarded team entry fee and team leotards to compete at the National Judges Cup, held in Indianapolis. Illinois will compete for the National Judges Cup team title January 5-7, 2007.

Gift Baskets

Not entirely new, but all judges are being asked to participate. The South judges have led the way and now it's time to get everyone contributing. If you are not creative, find someone who is. Get a group, get donations, and even get a theme. Both South and North Cup will raffle off these beautiful gifts. And the North will do better this year!

Coaches' Prizes

Each coach will receive a Judges' Cup gift and Critique Book! The Judges' Cup Committee is selecting a new and fun gift for all coaches.

NEW FOR NORTH JUDGES' CUP

The Hospitality Room

Judges and coaches will share one hospitality room. Meals, drinks, and treats will be provided in a comfortable area for everyone. This will be on the main floor- no more stairs unless you need quiet time in the Port Center.

The Soma Institute

The Soma Institute will be at the North Cup again. Relocated to a new area, they will provide those much-needed massages for the judges, coaches and gymnasts!!

OUR MISSION THIS YEAR IS TO HOST TWO SUPER MEETS:

Be great hostesses, increase participation and stimulate the gymnastics community. In addition, we would like to increase professional benefits, work towards reducing the long hours, minimizing waste and extra expenses on your part and with some advance work, maximize profit. There are several ways to do this.

Involvement

- Encourage gymnastics clubs/coaches you know to participate.
- Find people interested in judging/get them started at the Cup.
- Inquire if there are businesses you think may be interested in being vendors at the Judges' Cup meets.
- Find groups (i.e., Girl Scouts) to help run and flash for the meet.

Donations

There are simple and easy ways to get cash, merchandise, and gifts cards. Sometimes restaurants will give free or discounted meals for hospitality. Many times we don't take the moment to think or ask. Our organization is a 501C3 and many businesses look to contribute to non-profit organizations.

Donations such as gift cards from Sam's Club, Costco, Walmart, Jewel, Dominick's, etc. can be easily obtained if you start early! You might also try getting donations of any type from businesses you frequent and these could be used in the gift baskets or the Judges' Raffle. If you are able to obtain a gift card from any large store, please e-mail Debbie Pulley immediately which store gave you the gift card, the city in which the store is located, and the amount. Debbie's email address is: Priceless@insightbb.com. When it gets closer to the meet, we will decide what we need to purchase with the gift cards (pop, water, etc.) and how we will pick it up.

If businesses you contact advertise in our meet program book, you will receive 40% for each ad over \$200 toward your professional benefits account. We want to have a nice printed program book, and this helps add profit to the meet that in turn **GOES TO YOU IN PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS.** Please refer to the rate sheet and the ad sizes and deadlines for prospective advertisers. **CAMERA READY** ads should be sent to Cathy Peebles (for South Cup) and to Sue Woloszyk (for North Cup).

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR ALL YOUR HELP making these the BEST Judges' Cup meets ever! If you have any questions, please call Betty Axelson-McClelland at 847-382-7487 or email her at Eggsgymbetty@aol.com.

Go to ilnawgj.com for updates and more information



Jeanne Johnson, ILSJD 5501 S. Wolf Rd., LaGrange, IL 60525 708.246.4806

To: Business Owners
From: Illinois NAWGJ

Every year the Illinois Women's Gymnastics Judges run two very large meets called the Judges' Cup. The meets draw almost 1,000 girls ranging in age from 7 to 18. The North Judges' Cup draws gymnasts from Chicago, the Chicago suburban area, as well as some athletes from Indiana and Wisconsin. The South Judges' Cup meet is held in Springfield and draws athletes from all over southern Illinois. The North Judges' Cup will be held Nov. 10-12, and the South Judges' Cup will be Oct. 7-8, 2006. These meets are significantly different from other gymnastics meets in that all of the judges donate their time for the entire weekend and coaches have an opportunity to ask the judges questions after the meet. This feedback will help the gymnasts improve and get them ready for their competitive season.

We are looking for sponsors that would be interested in advertisement during our Judges' Cup meets. The meets are used as fundraisers to provide several scholarships and awards to deserving gymnasts, as well as providing continuing education for judges through clinics and workshops to serve the needs of the gymnastics community.

Should you choose to donate, be it gift cards, cash, or merchandise, your business would be listed in our meet program provided for parents and spectators attending the competition. Cost for a business card in the ad program book is \$25, ¼ page is \$50, ½ page is \$75, and a full page is \$100. Specific dimensions for each size are included on the following page and additional advertising information.

We hope you will consider becoming one of our Judges' Cup meet supporters this year and hope your participation in this event helps your corporate success.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Sincerely,

Betty Axelson-McClelland

Betty Axelson-McClelland,
Judges' Cup Chairman

For additional information, please contact me at Eggsgymbetty@aol.com.

AD AGREEMENT FORM

All ad dimensions listed are for the maximum size for "live" printed matter. All type or art must fall within these guidelines. CAMERA-READY art is required (no film please). This includes laser-quality prints or items already in print, such as business cards or a good photocopy of an existing ad. A good rule of thumb: If it photocopies well enough, it should be fine. All ads will be printed in black and white. Ads can be mailed or e-mailed, see below for details.

_____ FULL PAGE AD: \$100
7.75" x 10.25"
_____ HALF PAGE AD: \$75
7.75" x 5"
_____ QUARTER PAGE AD: \$50
3.75" x 5"
_____ BUSINESS CARD: \$25
2.5" x 3.75"

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Checks should be made payable to: IL. NAWGJ

South Judges' Cup, Oct. 7-8

Cathy Peebles
111 S. Old Covered Bridge Ln.
Springfield, Il. 62707

cathypeebles@insightbb.com

Deadline for South Cup: SEPT. 15

North Judges' Cup, Nov. 10-12

Sue Woloszyk
415 Horizon Drive West
St. Charles, Il. 60175

sewsue811@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for North Cup: OCT. 14

To advertise in both the North and South Judges' Cup meets, send to Cathy Peebles.

.....
A donation in the amount of \$ _____ was received from _____

on ___/___/___ for advertising in the 2006 Il. Judges' Cup Meet Program.

Received by: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ILLINOIS NAWGJ, a not for profit, 501C3 Organization
TAX ID#51-017-8999

Notes from Jeanne: ETHICS

All ethics complaints and concerns should be addressed to the SJD, Jeanne Johnson. While State Governing Board members are available for discussion, complaints need to follow procedure. Most concerns should be handled as they occur- Panel Judge to Chief Judge to Meet Referee to Meet Director. There is the "USAG Code of Ethics" and the "NAWGJ Code of Professional Responsibility". Primarily, we are responsible for our own ethical behavior, secondarily, we reinforce our peers.

The National Governing Board adopted a new procedure for ethics complaints, more on that to follow. Meanwhile, if all steps have been followed and a situation/problem exists, contact Jeanne by e-mail, phone, or the U.S. mail.



CANONS OF THE MONTH

Each newsletter we will cover some of the canons of NAWGJ. Hopefully, we will all think of some way we can improve our professionalism.

Canon 2: A judge should assist the Association in fulfilling its duty to make judges for women's gymnastics events available.

Canon 8: A judge should avoid judging a meet when prejudice for or against a team exists.

Canon 18: A judge should fulfill all assignments accepted, should be punctual and should attend all judging and other meetings attendant to the employment undertaken which are intended to promote a well ordered and conducted meet or event.

Canon 23: A judge should decline any assignment in which affiliation with a team or individuals would tend to influence the judge's judgment and the ability to be fair, impartial, and objective.

Comments: All these canons have to do with accepting assignments. When you fill out your availability, please be open to all meets. The assigners assign by rating, availability, and location. You may want one meet, but be needed at another. You are really signing up for a day and not for a meet.

The canons also discuss affiliation and bias. If you are affiliated you may not be a head judge at a meet, no matter what your rating. (Check Rules and Policies for the definition of affiliation.) If you are truly biased for or against a team, decline the assignment. We are hired to judge the performance of a routine, not a particular gymnast or club.

IN OTHER WORDS: DO YOUR BEST TO DO WHATEVER MEETS THE ASSIGNER NEEDS YOU TO DO AND JUDGE EAH GYMNAST AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE.

From: Hilary Carlson

The following elements were inadvertently omitted from the list of skills that have changed value for the JO program (as published in the minutes of the May 2006 joint J.O. and Technical Committee Meeting). These values are effective August 1, 2006.

Beam: #7.303 (C) Free (aerial) round-off, landing on both legs raise to
(D) new #7.403

#8.404 (D) Salto backward stretched with legs together raise to
(E) new #8.504

Connie Maloney
Women's Jr. Olympic Program Manager



Notes from NAWGJ President Carole Ide:

If you have experienced collegiate judges that you (SJD) would like to recommend to be considered for a collegiate conference competition, feel free to send me those names also. They must have a Level 10 rating or higher) and should have judged 2 college meets last season and have been active in the collegiate program. It is their responsibility to update on the JAS next month.

Also, please do NOT enter information on the JAS until September. Visit the NAWGJ.org website for information and updates first. The website will let you know when it is Ok to enter data.

Some have entered early and their information may be lost as the programmer is making changes to the system. Assigning will not begin until Oct. 1 so there is plenty of time for them to enter once they get notice to do so.

Also, there has been a change in the USAG office, Rachel Brazzo is no longer dealing with Judges Accreditation and issuing the testing dates. The new person is Tammy Davies.

A Judges' thought

Win or Tie?

At a session at our recent state congress, an interesting question was posed to us. Two girls at JO Nationals do similar bar routines (neither has any compositional deductions and they have the same amount of execution errors). The first dismounts with a full twisting double back flyaway (tucked) and the second does the same dismount but in a layed out position. Does the second girl win or do they tie? If I had been sitting on the panel at the meet, in that brief moment that I had to compute the score, I would have found a way to make the second girl win. She did a bigger dismount, so shouldn't I reward her? I would have made her score .05 higher than the first girl. I went home from congress thinking about that situation. It was clear that the coach wanted the bigger dismount to win. It was evident that the judges and the remaining coaches were split on their opinions—some thought she should win while others thought they should tie. So should she win or should they tie?

Both dismounts are valued the same (E). USAG does not give judges the responsibility of deciding which skills are more difficult than others. It is very clearly given to us in our JO Code of Points. What one person might view as an "easy C" may not be the same as another; consequently, we are not given this option. A perfect example of this is the recent change in difficulty value for the aerial cartwheel on balance beam. In my mind, an aerial cartwheel is an easier D than an aerial front walkover or a tuck front. Talking to a coach, she felt that once the gymnast gets past the fear aspect of the aerial front walkover and the tuck front, both are easier to land and be consistent. This is why we don't get to decide which is harder or easier. An E dismount is an E dismount.

In this case, you may say that it is clear that the layout dismount is harder because of the body position. Which dismount is more difficult is more clearly shown than in the aerial cartwheel/aerial walkover situation. It still doesn't matter. USAG has clearly indicated that a gymnast should compete in the level that is most appropriate for her. If you push a gymnast ahead of where she should be, she scores horribly because of .50 deductions for special requirements. If a gymnast is held back, she receives no reward for going beyond what is expected at her level. A level 7 gymnast gets nothing extra for doing a full on floor. A level 9 gymnast does not get bonus for doing a D because it is beyond what is expected at her level. If she wants rewarded for the D, she should move on to level 10. The same is true with the dismount situation. I agree that a full twisting double back flyaway is more difficult when it is layed-out. This dismount exceeds what is expected from a level 10 gymnast, so she gets nothing extra. If she wants to be rewarded for that dismount, she needs to move on to the elite program.

If I had been on that panel, I would have made the second girl win, and I would have been wrong. We need to use the rules that are given to us, regardless of the outcome. While it may seem unfair to a particular gymnast in a particular situation, the rules are written to be a benefit to all gymnasts and the sport of gymnastics in the United States. Know the rules and apply them equally to all gymnasts in all situations--that is our job. The two gymnasts in that particular situation should tie.

By Stacey Mooney



TSUK DE JOUR:

**Illinois State Congress had many people this year - we even had judges' from Wisconsin come! How neat is that! In attendance were: C. Huffman, B. Bennett, S. Woloszyk, M. Ackman, B. Axelson, S. Barbato, S. Brosnan, H. Carlson, S. Cuthbertson, L. Drummond, K. Elg, B. Ellis, K. Gebhardt, L. Greene, A. Grimes, J. Holtz, J. Johnson, L. Klaus, N. Koga, M. Kraus, K. Krebs, B. Miller, S. Mooney, C. Morano, A. Norris, S. Oldham, D. Pulley, J. Redmond, MJ Roehrig, T. Sandoval, L Scheib, C. Schuh, M. Sedlacek, B. Stevens, B. Stone, D. Teague, S. Uhler, J. Cachione, and C. Zimmerman. G. Valkoun, J. Droese, & K. Ferguson (Wis.)*

**IL had several people that went to National Congress: K. Krebs, L. McDonald, C. Morano,*

J. Johnson, S. Oldham, B. Axelson, H. Carlson, D. Durham, S. Sargeant, C. Marquardt, Amy Tritt, & Deb Tritt

**Dianne did color commentary for IG.*

**Raffle winners: Betty won \$750 vault master, Linda won \$500 GK merchandise & Amy won free registration for Congress 2007 in San Jose.*

**Pam Swan Lovell is due with child #2 in December*

**Jeanne Schneider is now living and judging in Minnesota*

**Kerry (she judged in IL one yr.) is married & living outside DC*

** Dawnita Teague's new email address: beamin5@comcast.net*



From Jeanne

ILLINOIS CONGRESS had quite a few discussion topics. Here is a list of some of the topics: How do you do your rhythm Deductions? How do you track your general deductions? What is your scoring process when the gymnast finishes her routine? Compulsory? Optional? Are we judging too fast? Should the faster events slow down or pace their event? Does this affect the look of the competitive floor? How consistent are we in judging? Do we judge different meets differently? Difficult meet situations - what to say? Do? State Meet Assigning-do we want a State Involvement Form? What about guidelines for meals, hotels and travel arrangements-should we have guidelines? If a judge is leaving before ___ and/or arriving home after ___ should she be given the option of a hotel? Meal?

Sunday at Congress featured gymnast performance lectures. The morning lecture on bars entertained several controversial topics. The gymnasts were also exceptional. Dan Miller, Jiani Wu and gymnasts from Arena and Aerial Gymnastics wowed the crowd with high flying releases: the Shaposh, hindorff, geinger, reverse hecht, bails, toe-ups (the Chinese sit-up) and jaegers. Demonstrations also included huge dismounts and the weiler kip.

Some of the topics discussed- How do you deduct on a never before seen skill? Can free hips be done with straight arms? If like routines are performed, no composition deductions and each having -0.30 in execution, does the routine with the more difficult "E" dismount win or tie the routine with the "less difficult E" dismount? Good questions-see Stacey's article and an idea for a great round table at next year's Congress.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE LECTURERS AND GYMNASTS

The 2006 Congress has come and gone. This summer's Congress was great. It had a lot of gymnastics-in the gym, a variety of gymnasts and tons of repetitions. Let's take what we know from this year and build for next. We know: it was hard to hear, lectures were sometimes too close to each other, some lectures were more gymnast oriented, the bar lecture was advanced (will include an intermediate level next year). A survey was planned but did not happen. If you have any additional comments please e-mail Jeanne.