

How to become a Judge for the Women's Program

This is a quick overview on what it takes to become a judge for women's artistic gymnastics, the ratings, the training and criteria for each level, certification, continuing educational needs and the various organizations involved.

Information is available by contacting Connie Maloney, Women's J.O. Technical Director at cmaloney@usagym.org and through National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges (NAWGJ).

WHO SHOULD BE A JUDGE?

- Past or current gymnasts. We LOVE it when a gymnast wants to stay involved with the sport he or she loves by JUDGING, whether they choose to judge while still competing or after they have retired.
- Coaches or gymnastics professionals, such as gym owners, etc.
- Parents or gymnastics aficionados who would like to be more involved with the sport.

GETTING STARTED

The entry-level for a new judge is Compulsory (Levels 1-5) or Beginner Optional (Level 6, 7, 8);

The minimum age is 16 for both levels;

Unless you are coaching optional, it is not recommended to take the Level 4/5 and the Level 7/8 tests on the same day;

How to become a Judge

STEP ONE: Let your USA Gymnastics State Administrative Committee Chair or NAWGJ State Judging Director know you're interested. Go to the USA Gymnastics website (www.usagym.org) and the NAWGJ website (<http://www.nawgj.org>) for directory information for the contact person in your State.

Cassie Rice
NV USAG State Chairman
gymcats@gymcats.com

Alex Hammond
NAWGJ NV State Judging Director
bitsofface@aol.com
Cell: 702-302-6160

These individuals can let you know of any upcoming clinics or testing opportunities.

STEP TWO: Purchase the materials needed to study for the exam from the USAG Website.

- Compulsory exam: J.O. Compulsory book & DVD (Compulsory materials are also available as an App which includes the text and video of the routines)
- Optional Exams: J.O. Code of Points (also available as an iBook). Additional study materials are also available through the NAWGJ library
- Acquire other supplemental study materials:
 - Practice tests from NAWGJ Website
 - Practice tests and videos from Washington NAWGJ
 - Download Quizlet

STEP THREE: Attend a local, regional or national Congress or clinic in order to develop the basic knowledge and skills required to become a judge.

STEP FOUR: Contact local gyms to ask if you can observe the Level 4 and 5 workouts to become better acquainted with the routines.

STEP FIVE: STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!

- You can start testing at the Compulsory level or Optional Levels 7-8.
- Check the Master Test Schedule on the USAG Women’s Judges’ Accreditation page to find a date/ location that is good for you.
- Once you have found a test location/date, you can register online or by mailing/faxing in the registration form that is posted under “Accreditation Forms”.
- Non-USA Gymnastics members may take the exam; they will need to create a “My Profile” so they can register online or by hard-copy.
- All Members should have a profile already and should be able to register online.

COMPULSORY TEST/ RATING

- Valid until July 2021
- Allows you to judge Levels 1-5.
- Testing is only on Level 4 and 5 routines and the General Faults and Penalties. *Be sure to go to the penalties pages for each individual event.*
- 50 question Multiple-choice CLOSED-BOOK exam; Passing-70%
- 10 questions on General Faults/Penalties
- 10 questions on Handspring vault
- 5 questions per event on Level 4 and on Level 5

Optional Level 6/7/8 WRITTEN TEST/ RATING

- Must pass both Written & Practical Exam to achieve a rating.
- Valid until December 2022
- Allows you to judge Levels 6, 7, 8 & XCEL (all levels).
- Written exam focuses on Level 7 and 8 rules only.
- 50 question Multiple-choice CLOSED-BOOK exam; Passing-70%
- 5 questions per event (General, Vault, Bars, Beam & Floor) for each of the two levels.

Optional Level 6/7/8 PRACTICAL TEST

- Only Level 8 routines are judged.
- 6 routines per event
 - First is a Demo routine. After judging the Demo routine, the TA will review the Start Value and score. There will not be any additional feedback;
 - 5 routines on the event will then be scored. Each routine is worth 5 points (25 pts. per event). Points are awarded by comparing your score to the Technical Committee's score (higher or lower).
 - Break
 - Repeat the process for the next event.

How to Move up Ratings

- Once you have a Level 7/8 rating, you must wait one year before testing up to Level 9. It is allowed to take the exam within one month of your year anniversary, but not before.
- Minimum age for Level 9 is 18 yrs. A Level 9 rated official must also wait one year before testing up to level 10.
 - Regional/National Level 10 athletes and coaches may begin testing Optional at Level 9;
 - Collegiate Regional/National athletes and coaches may begin testing Optional at Level 9;
 - Applicants must complete an Exemption Eligibility form, which needs to be signed by National, Regional or State Officer OR Collegiate Coach/Administrator. The form will be turned in to the State Judging Director to be approved by the USAG Women's Technical Director, Connie Maloney, before testing.
- Minimum age for Level 10 is 20 yrs.
 - Regional or National Sr. age group Elite athletes and coaches may begin testing Optional at Level 10;
 - Applicants must complete an Exemption Eligibility form, which needs to be signed by National, Regional or State Officer OR Collegiate Coach/Administrator. The form will be turned in to the State Judging Director to be approved by the USAG Women's Technical Director, Connie Maloney, before testing.

HOW TO REGISTER

- The Accreditation year runs from August 1 to July 31.
- You have four attempts within the Accreditation Year to pass the exam(s).
- When registering for a written exam for the first time, sign up for the appropriate Level and the A1 form.
- If you don't pass, the next try will be Form B1, then A2, and then B2.
- There is only one Practical exam, but you have four chances to pass.

AFTER YOU REGISTER

Approximately one week before the exam, you should receive an e-mail from your Test Administrator, giving you the final information regarding contact information, specific schedule for the different levels and directions to the test site.

STUDY PREPARATION

Compulsory exam:

- You DO NOT need to memorize the values of the Major elements.
- Know the order of appearance of the Major elements within the routine.
- Know the deductions.
- Study by grouping by maximum deduction: all .50 deductions, all flat 0.30 or up to 0.3, etc.
- Know which deductions are taken by the Chief Judge.
- Read the exam questions carefully and slowly. You will have one hour.
- Try to answer the question before looking at the four choices. If your answer is not there, then you'll have to re-group.

Optional Written exam:

- You DO NOT need to memorize the Vault values;
- Know the Common element (skill) values (A, B, C);
- Know the Event Special Requirements.
- Know how the Start Value is determined.
- Know the compositional deductions for Level 8.
- Knowledge of symbols is not required, but questions referring to specific elements will also show the symbol.
- Read the exam questions carefully and slowly. You will have 1 hr. 30 min.

Optional Practical exam:

- Practice judge videos. Check with your SJD to see if they have any materials you can borrow. Check the USA Gymnastics online store for available merchandise.
- When practicing at home, try to use symbols for the commonly seen skills. Play the video in slow motion to try to get it all down on paper.
- At first, practice by judging just the execution or composition, or just figure out the Start Value.
- Then play “add on” - each time trying to add another symbol or another aspect until you can judge the whole routine at one time.

EXAM DAY

- Be on time and be prepared.
- Make sure you have your TA’s contact information in case you run into traffic and will be late arriving.
- Bring a copy of your registration confirmation.
- If you have to take a Written re-test, please be sure to bring your results letter with you to show the TA, who will make sure you registered for the correct form of the test.
- If taking a Written exam, you will not be allowed to have any personal items at your seat. The TA will supply pencils and scratch paper.
- Be sure to turn off your cell phone to avoid disturbing others.

PRACTICAL EXAM DAY

- For the Practical exam, you are allowed to have your J.O. Code of Points, Flipbook or any other resource materials you would normally have when judging a meet. Be sure to have your Vault Value chart.
- Come to exam site with your reference materials organized by event for easy access.
- You will not be graded on what your paper looks like, only on your final score.
- Remember, you can judge in increments of 0.05.
- When filling in the Scantron answer sheet, be sure to fill in three digits (example 8.00)

RESULTS

- Exams are processed within two weeks from the day they are received from the TA.
- Results will be sent via e-mail the day of processing.
- A letter with the rating card will be sent by mail to those who attain a new rating
- For those who do not pass, a letter indicating the areas of weakness will be sent by mail.
- Results are indicated by PASS or FAIL only. No scores are given.
- When testing for an Optional rating, if only one part (Written or Practical) is passed, it will remain valid through the four-year quad (2019-2022) and only the failed part needs to be re-tested.

AFTER YOU GET YOUR RATING

- ONLY Pro or Jr. Pro members are eligible to judge USA Gymnastics competitions.
- If you do not hold a current USA Gymnastics Professional (or Jr. Pro) membership, you need to register for membership, including
 - Safety/Risk Management Course
 - Pass a Criminal Background Check. (Jr. Pros are not required to get background check).

Continuing Professional Education (CPE) OBLIGATIONS

In order to be assigned to sanctioned competitions, all judges must show a commitment to continuing their education by submitting an Annual CPE report form to their state CPE coordinator every June.

The credits are determined by the actual hours, so a six-hour clinic would give you 6 clinic credits. The rating held on August 1 of each year determines the appropriate number of hours required to be submitted by June of the next year.

The total number of CPE hours increases with the rating level of judge. Half of the hours required must be from Approved clinic hours. The remainder may be from clinics, coaching, volunteering, and other miscellaneous activities.

Familiarize yourself with the current "Officials" chapter of the Women's Rules and Policies book, which is posted online under the Women's page and select Rules. All members may receive a hard copy of the R & P by sending a written request that includes their name, member # and current address.

Learning to judge has two main aspects:

1. Being able to recognize that a mistake has been made.
2. Being able to appropriately quantify that error.

* Know the correct body positions

* Know the execution deductions

CONGRATULATIONS!! ENJOY WORKING WITH OUR WONDERFUL ATHLETES!

ENJOY MEETING NEW FRIENDS!

ENJOY THE CHALLENGE OF STAYING UP TO DATE IN OUR EVERCHANGING SPORT!

CONTACTS FOR JUDGING QUESTIONS

Technical questions: Your Regional Technical Chairman

Judging Association questions: Your State Judging Director

Test Registration & Eligibility questions: Connie Maloney - JO Technical Director

Call: 317.829-5628

e-mail: cmaloney@usagym.org