

News for Artistic Gymnastics Judges

July 1998 Issue

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Toni Talk (July 1998)

Well, I don't know about you, but I'm still just getting used to the idea that summer is finally here and now Patty is asking when I want to judge next fall, and P.J. is all excited about the upcoming Judges' Cup, and the next exam date and the base score clinic are less than a month away!!! My only thoughts are 1) "Help!", 2) "Next time we do symposium, it better be for a week in Hawaii", and 3) "Oh boy, here we go again!!!".

First of all, congratulations to all of you for surviving and thriving during the challenging first year of new compulsories and new optional rules. It took a lot of perseverance to get through the re-certification process and get ALL those meets judged. You were all outstanding. Of course, there is more fun headed your way - as of August 1, 1998, the USAG is requiring that all judges be safety certified for all sanctioned USAG competitions. There are also a host of rule modifications that go into effect August 1. Please see your Technique Magazine for details and reserve Sunday, August 2nd, to attend the NorCal Base Score clinic (see details inside).

Secondly, in order to keep track of who's qualified to judge given all the current requirements, I've asked Jennifer Shipman to expand her role of Active Status coordinator to also track NAWGJ and USAG memberships as well as Safety certification. Please be sure to send her copies of your current membership cards as well as your Active Status cards so she can add them to your "resume". She has already sent out letters to everyone she knows about who is missing one of these qualifications. If you're not sure where you stand, please call Jen at <<deleted>> so we can make sure you're up to date and ready to judge.

Finally, even though the new competitive season is approaching too quickly, I am sure it will hold its share of enjoyable moments and memorable performances. For me personally, it will certainly be memorable since it will be my last year as SJD and will (knock on wood) contain the birth of my son who is due in November for anyone who hasn't heard. I've enjoyed being SJD since it's allowed me to get to know so many of you much better than before and to understand the many facets of what's required to make gymnastics work. I've also had the chance to meet many great people from around our region and the country and to have some impact on our state. It is time for a new leader; however, and I encourage all of you who are or have been board members to think about taking up the challenge. I know it will make you grow as a judge, as a person, and as a leader, and, best of all, you'll get your own column in the newsletter!! Carpe diem!!

Toni

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Critical Reminder Regarding Safety Certification^(July 1998)

As of August 1, 1998, ALL judges must be safety certified in order to judge any USAG sanctioned competition!!! If you have never been certified or if your certification is expiring soon, please sign up for a course now through the USAG office. The fee is \$50 for USAG members who have never been certified and free to all renewing USAG members. You must pre-register with the USAG office at least 10 days in advance of the course. See the back of your Technique Magazine or call USAG Member Services at 1-800-345-4719 for registration details.

Thanks to the support of the NorCal coaches association, up to 10 full scholarships are available to pay for new judges to attend the safety certification course. Of course, there is a small catch, you must agree to judge at least six meets during the fall compulsory season. Please call Toni at <<deleted>> or send an email to toni@waccess.com if you are interested in a scholarship.

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Kristy Krafft Highlight of June Symposium^(July 1998)

Kristi Krafft, elite coach and brevet judge from Oklahoma, was a big hit at the NorCal NAWGJ symposium in June. Kristi's insightful lectures and great sense of humor taught us all a lot about gymnastics and kept us laughing. Other all-star clinicians in the line up included Patty Resnick from Flips in Reno, who gave a couple of wonderful lectures on the keys to great beam and floor, Sue Graff from Southern California, who shared her expert knowledge of vault, and Pam Bileck, who gave us help with that one haunting question - to connect or not to connect.

The symposium was held June 5-7 at a beautiful resort on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. It gave everyone who attended the chance to learn a lot and to enjoy each other's company without the pressure of a meet. Many awards were given out at the Awards Luncheon including the "NAWGJ Service Award" which went to Linda Barclay for all her years of support and the "NorCal NAWGJ Judge of the Year" which was awarded to Janet Packwood and Mary Metcho. Congratulations! Everyone please say a big thanks to Ellie Chynoweth, the NAWGJ Special Events Coordinator, for all the work she did to make the Symposium a reality.

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NAWGJ Service Award (July 1998)

by Patty Shipman, presented at the NorCal NAWGJ Symposium in June

First let me say it is an honor to have the privilege of presenting this award.

Unlike the previous recipients, Judy Smith, Janet Packwood, and myself, this individual did not emerge from our local ranks. She was transplanted here. All of us individually and collectively have benefited from her presence among us. Her undying energy, vast experience, and ultimate love for the sport of gymnastics makes her clearly stand out as a contributor.

It was fate that brought her here, but it was a stroke of genius which made us recognize immediately her many talents. I personally have had the pleasure of working at her side year after year. Her methodic approach to the task at hand has taught me so much. Even in a last minute crisis, which seems to be a way of life in this sport, she approaches "one speed ahead", and usually with a chuckle or two, resolves it wisely, and moves on.

Unfortunately, others, "the powers that be", also recognized this person's abilities. That revelation by USAG removed her from our ranks and relocated her to the USAG national office.

It is my sincere personal honor to announce that this year's NAWGJ service award is presented to **Linda Barclay**. Through the Judges' Cup, Linda provided us with the funds to offset the costs of our dues and the funds for the educational opportunities we've experienced locally, but most importantly she provided the venue which brought us all together in one place to interact with one another and grow as judges.

I personally miss Linda, but what she helped us attain in NorCal remains, and that is a true contributor.

Thanks for everything, Linda!

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Newsletter Announcement (July 1998)

Hear ye, hear ye, we have finally filled the last open board seat!! I am happy to announce that Jamie Naples has now taken over as newsletter Editor. This is good news for all of you since she has pledged to nag me to death to make sure the newsletters go out according to a regular schedule. If any of you would like to submit articles or have ideas for the newsletter, please give Jamie a call at <<deleted>> or email her at jlnaples@aol.com. Here is the schedule Jamie has proposed for the newsletter:

Issue Date	Deadline for Submissions
End of August	August 15
End of November	November 15
Middle of February	February 1
End of May	May 15

Welcome Jamie! We, especially ME, are extremely happy to have you on board.

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Membership Reminder (July 1998)

Jennifer Shipman needs the following items from each of you. We are counting on Jen to let us know who is eligible to judge so please make sure she knows everything about you, well, almost everything...

1. Copy of your current NAWGJ membership card.
2. Copy of your current USAG membership card.
3. Copy of your Safety Certification card, if it is not listed on your USAG card.
4. Copy of your completed 1997 Active Status card.
5. Copy of your JCI (Judges' Certification Inc.) rating card.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you worked last year's Judges' Cup and are entitled to have NAWGJ pay your dues, you **MUST STILL DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS:**

1. **COMPLETELY** fill out your membership application and send it to Toni so she can add the check and send it **OR**
2. Pay the dues yourself and send Toni a copy of your check and/or new membership card. She will then send you a refund check.

Do **NOT** send memberships directly to NAWGJ or USAG without payment. **DO** fill out your application forms completely and take one of the two steps above. And, finally, please remember that this does not happen automatically. It is your responsibility to make sure all your memberships are current. (My only warning is that now we have a guard dog (Jen) so watch out! :-)) Also, feel free to call Jen or Toni with any questions or concerns. Thanks!

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Assigning Update (July 1998)

As most of you know, we are in a continual pursuit of excellence in the assigning process, i.e. we keep trying everything we can to try to make it a little bit better each year. This year, Patty has already been working hard in conjunction with the NorCal Coaches' Association to finalize the competitive calendar for next year. She is now very close to completing the calendar as well as gathering up all of our availability forms. She and the assignors will be meeting within the next week or two to assign the fall season. There are a few changes you'll notice this year.

1. You will receive one master schedule for the season about the first week of August. Based on this, please reserve all dates for which you are assigned to judge.
2. When you receive your schedule, you will also receive a "blanket contract". This will remove the need for individual meet contracts. Please sign and initial as appropriate and return as instructed. By returning this contract, you put your NAWGJ insurance in force for each of the meets you accept. This is powerful protection for you. Please use it. (NOTE: Of course, you must be a current NAWGJ member to be covered by NAWGJ insurance. Please check your records to make sure you're up to date.)
3. Detailed meet times, including any changes, will be sent to you by your local contracting official approximately two weeks before the event.

We hope this new process will meet your needs more fully. As always, if you have ideas or suggestions regarding the assigning process, please contact Toni or Patty. And, PLEASE, thank Patty, Nancy, Laurie, and Marjorie every time you see them. Assigning is a very hard task, let's make sure it's not a thankless one as well.

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New Practice Judging Guidelines (July 1998)

Judges' Certification Inc. has issued some new practice judging guidelines which we should all be aware of. Please note that if you test Level 9 or 10 prior to completing your two required practice judging sessions, YOU WILL NOT BE SENT RESULTS, and you may end up in LIMBO LAND!! This is not a pretty thing-just ask Cara Gibson or Jeri Foley. Get your ducks in a row and get your practice judging done!

1. Two practice judging sessions are required each year prior to a judge testing up to Level 9 and/or Level 10. Practice judging is not required to test at any other level.
2. The judge must practice at the level they are attempting to test and the chief judge must hold a rating of that level or higher.
3. The judge may practice judge one or more sessions on a given day. A session is defined as having a minimum of eight gymnasts per squad.
4. The judge must rotate to a different event with each new rotation. Practice must be obtained on all four events.
5. Coaches are not permitted to practice judge if their team constitutes more than one third of the gymnasts in a given squad.
6. Collegiate competitions are not allowed for practice judging credit since NCAA has modified the JO age group rules.

*Please see the May 1998 Technique Magazine for the complete minutes of the JCI meeting.

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