









News for Artistic Gymnastics Judges

September 1998 Issue

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Toni Talk (September 1998)

Hi everybody! Surprise, another newsletter. Thanks again to Jamie for keeping us going. Well, the season has started: I'm writing this in the hospitality room at the Judges' cup meet. The meet is going really well, and it's so exciting to see so many gymnasts competing - almost 700 gymnasts!! The other good news is that they're all looking great. Yesterday we had the best Level 5 Beam and Level 6 Floor routines I've seen. Way to go coaches! A BIG thanks to P.J. Slater and everyone who volunteered their time to make this meet a spectacular success.

As the season starts, please be sure to check this month's Technique magazine (August 98) for a complete list of the compulsory book errata. There have been a lot of changes, and we need to be sure we're applying them correctly from the beginning of the season. One example is a new general deduction for body position throughout the routine. Also, for the folks that are testing, the new changes ARE reflected in the exams so be sure you're studying the correct information.

The one piece of news is that the NorCal Coaches' Association has decided to support four judge panels for Level 8, 9, and 10 State Championships again this year. This is great for us judges since it provides many more opportunities to get experience at higher level competitions. When we talked to the coaches about this, they all liked having four judges, the only concern was the cost. Together with the coaches' association, we came to the decision that the benefits were worth the cost, and we would cover the costs in three ways: 1. Entry fees for state meets will be increased slightly, 2. NorCal Coaches' Association will cover any additional loss sustained by the host club, up to \$1,000 per meet, 3. The NAWGJ board has agreed that all judges at these meets will cap their fees at the championship rate (\$150/day). What this means is that at these meets, you will get paid your normal fees up to, but not over, \$150 per day. Per diem and travel costs will be paid in addition to judging fees. Again, I think having four judge panels is a great thing for all of us, and I believe that we've reached a reasonable compromise in spreading costs between all the beneficiaries. Please let me know if you have any thoughts about this.

Good luck this season!! Toni

P.S. Robert Shawler from Cal West is the new Chairman of the NorCal Coaches' Association. He is taking over for Mike Guzman who has put in many years of hard work. Anyway, Robert just walked by and said "Tell everybody I say Hi!" So, "Hi!" to everyone from Robert. :-)

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Assigning Reminder (September 1998)

Please remember to contact Patty Shipman at <<deleted>> or << deleted>> if an emergency arises preventing you from fulfilling a contracted assignment. If you leave a message, follow up to make sure it was received. Please follow this procedure since, under our new system, Patty has the information on the availability of substitutes.

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Special Note Regarding Judges Under 18 (September 1998)

The USAG has agreed to waive the Safety Certification requirement for rated officials below the age of 18. You must submit a written request to Toni to obtain a waiver.

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Professionalism (September 1998)

by Patty Shipman

As we begin the 1998-99 competitive year it is wise to review what professionalism is and what it means to us as gymnastics judges. We have heard it all before, but it bears repeating and applies equally to all.

The essence of professionalism is the manner in which we portray ourselves in our profession. We are being paid for our roll as a gymnastics judge and, according to the dictionary, that alone makes us professionals. However, the respect we expect from coaches, gymnasts, spectators, and each other as a professional does not come from a definition. We have to earn it by demonstrating our professionalism each time we step into the role of a gymnastics official.

Some of the things required of us as a professional are obvious. We have to achieve a rating by passing a certification exam. We now have to attend a specified Safety Course. We have to maintain our memberships with USAG and NAWGJ. We have to complete an Active Status card in each year that we judge. Then we have to provide proof that we have done all of this by mailing copies of our cards to our Active Status Coordinator. However, there are many other contributing factors to how others view us as professionals.

We need to honor our contract commitments, and we have an obligation to be as prepared as possible for those assignments on our contracts. We should be prompt, equipped, and in the proper uniform; including shoes appropriate for walking on gym surfaces.

Other considerations which seem to be a little less obvious still demand our attention. How you treat your fellow professional is very important to your perception by others. Discussion with others, including that in a conference or judges' meeting, should always be treated confidentially. Words heard by a runner, flasher, timer, or any meet assistant can be, and have been, misconstrued over the years sometimes resulting in hurt relationships. Your remarks may be setting the next judge up to fail and threatening the integrity of all of us.

We all have had frustrating judging situations at some time or another. How we handle a situation is the part we can control. Think before you speak. Could your words, if repeated, have undesirable consequences?

In a meet situation it is important to be kind and polite, treating everyone equally. Remember nearly all of the other meet personnel are volunteers. You are the paid professional with the obligation to behave accordingly.

The question of affiliation requires special attention. Never put yourself in a vulnerable position to have your integrity or performance questioned. Such situations are often difficult to put behind you. It is your responsibility to make the assigners aware if there is an affiliation problem with one or more of your assignments.

In summary, our professionalism is our protection. If our appearance, our conduct, and our preparedness are all in order, our level of professionalism will shine.

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Judge's Cup 1998 (September 1998)

by PJ Slater

The financial information isn't in yet, but from all indications our '98 Judges' Cup was a huge success. It takes a tremendous amount of teamwork to put on a meet this size. Considering that the most catastrophic thing I can think of was that one session started 10 minutes late, I think we can all pat ourselves on the back. Sixty-one judges helped out. After scratches we had 627 athletes from 46 clubs compete (and no accident reports).

As usual, Jeri Foley did a great job with hospitality. Special thanks to Sandy Montross and Kellee Ford for working set up, clean up, and all six sessions. I hope Mike Nichols will come back next year. After announcing five sessions of awards he also got conned into helping reassemble the floor. Elisa Ritter was the winner of the NAWGJ rolling travel bag.

Kudos to everyone for a job well done!

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Web Address (September 1998)

<http://www.nawgj-nca.org/>

Check us out on the web! Scott Slater has been working hard to keep us up to date. You'll find schedules from Patty Shipman, clinic information, a copy of the live NAWGJ Newsletter, any much more.

Do you have e-mail? We'd like to know. Feel free to e-mail us at webmaster@nawgj-nca.org and let us know how to reach you.

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Efficiency Experts In Blue!! (September 1998)

by Judy Dobransky

There are many aspects to meet efficiency, and our ladies in blue can add to the success of any competition from the outset. These suggestions are but guidelines based on experience and may stimulate and encourage new steps in handling coaches, meet directors, officials, and meet assistants.

PREPARATION

Carry a checklist for meets and be sure the meet director has the necessary forms and supplies for the competition.

- Sanction sheet...signatures of all judges
- General meet format...individual gyms will vary
- Meet Scoring system...explanation of score sheets, runners, flashers, score table averaging, score checking responsibility
- Flashing the start value for optionals
- Inquiry sheets
- Instructions for timers...check watches
- Starting times, session breaks, meal plans
- Signing of the master score sheets
- Judges pay sheet...vouchers

ALWAYS BRING YOUR RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR PROPER REFERENCE

As meet referee, you should try to be at the coaches meeting whenever possible. Welcome the coaches; at state meets and above extend your congratulations to the athletes who have qualified to compete. Ask for questions, interpretations, and any new skills. Let the coaches know you are approachable and will be handling all the inquiries. Advise the coaches to inquire 'per event' and not wait until the last event if the qualification score is going to be close. Be sure to remind them that they should have watched the routine, but should feel free to question if they are concerned about their athlete's score. Plan to assist or guide the coaches if the inquiry format is incorrect.

Take charge of your judges' meeting. The expectation is that the judges arrive at least 1/2 hour before the competition (earlier if films need to be reviewed). Go over all the check list items. Let the judges know what has been covered in the coaches meeting. The panels should go out to the floor and check the seating arrangement in order to best handle their events and make any necessary changes before march in.

Meet referee and chief judge positions should be assigned (barring affiliation problems) to the more experienced official/s. With equal qualification a decision should have been made prior to the meet. Create and offer pre-season sessions for potential chief judges and meet referees. Suggest that attendance is necessary for consideration of placement and encourage participation. These sessions can be offered at early state meetings, congress, open board meetings, and can and should be offered more than once!

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NAWGJ - NorCal Board Meeting Minutes (September 1998)

NAWGJ -NorCal BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GRANLIBAKKEN RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

TAHOE CITY, CA

JUNE 6, 1998

Those board members present: Jeri Foley, Scott Slater, P.J. Slater, Marjorie Schultz, Jennifer Shipman, Patty Shipman, Laurie Skelton, Toni Cupal, Kathy Sgamba, Laurie Kensiski, Ellie Chynoweth, Nancy Miller. Guests: Regional directors Janet Packwood and Joan Geel.

1. Meeting was called to order by State Chairperson Toni Cupal at 7:45 p.m.
2. Financial statement was read and presented by Toni Cupal.
3. It was mentioned that Jamie Naples is now our new newsletter editor. There will be a minimum of 4 newsletters published a year. It was requested that if you have any articles that you want to have published, you are to submit them no later than 2 weeks prior to publications. The deadline dates for submission are February 28, May 15, August 15, and November 15.
4. All levels of the judge's certification exam will be given on August 1, 1998 at Technique Gymnastics and at Region I Congress on Sept. 11 & 12. Times to be determined.
5. Membership chairperson, Jennifer Shipman, will notify those whose safety certification expires. Everyone now must be safety certified, and it is imperative that everyone should be kept up to date.
6. Jennifer will also be starting a new mentorship program to help new judges become more familiar with our organization and to help them feel more welcome in our community. Mentorship signups will be available soon.
7. Patty Shipman will be implementing a new form of availability for judging assignments with a master schedule for all northern California. She will also be sending out a blanket contract to all judges that will cover the entire season. She is hoping that this will simplify the scheduling process for all concerned.
8. Kathy Sgamba is now requesting judges for the collegiate season. She will send out availability schedules as soon as they are available. NCAA will try to standardize the fees. She will also work with the JO assignors to coordinate scheduling between both the college and JO programs.
9. Scott Slater stated that effective June 5, 1998, NAWGJ-NorCal will have their own web site. It can be reached at <http://www.nawgj-ncal.org/>.
10. P.J. Slater submitted the financial statement from the 1997 Judges' Cup. It was motioned to be accepted, it was seconded, and passed. She also presented the budget for the 1998 Judges' Cup. It also was passed.
11. It was mentioned that Base Score Clinic will be held August 2, 1998 at Technique Gymnastics. It was proposed that in order to be assigned at State Championships this year or to be assigned as chief judge at zone championships you must attend the base score clinic. It; therefore, was motioned, seconded, and passed.
12. Toni mentioned the possibility of retaining the 4 judge panel at levels 8, 9, & 10 State Championships. Patty moved that we explore that possibility with the coach's association, and this was seconded by P.J. Slater.

Note: Four judge panels for Levels 8, 9, & 10 will be supported again this year through a

combination of increased entry fees and NorCal Coaches' Association support. In our August board meeting, NAWGJ also agreed to accept championship fees for these meets if normal fees exceed the championship limit.



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1999 National Judge's Cup (September 1998)

Think of January where you are...

Now, think of January in the Valley of the Sun!

Make your plans now to enjoy the 1999

National Judge's Cup in warm sunny Phoenix!!

N.A.W.G.J. Presents... The 1999 National Judge's Cup

Hosted by

Extreme Gymnastics

January 8-10, 1998

Phoenix, Arizona

Entry Fees:

Levels 4,5,6 \$40
Levels 7,8,9,10 \$60
Team Entry 20 per level

Mail Entries to:

Arizona Gymnastics Boosters
15821 N. 79th St.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
(602) 596-3549

Entry Deadlines: December 1, 1998

A \$50 deposit will hold your place prior to 12-1-98

Meet Site:

In the heart of the Arizona State University Campus-P.E. West, with generous bleacher viewing. ASU is close to great shopping, sports, resorts and everything the Valley of the Sun has to offer! (ASU is close and easy to get to from Sky Harbor Airport)

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