

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

October 12-14, 2007 Indianapolis , IN

I. Roll Call: Chairman Cheryl Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Region 1	Neela Nelson
Region 2	Linda Mulvihill
Region 3	Carole Bunge
Region 4	Linda Thorberg
Region 5	Char Christensen
Region 6	Pat Panichas – Excused Absence
Region 7	Myra Elfenbein
Region 8	Marian Dykes
Asst. Tech. Comm. Chair	Audrey Schweyer
JO Program Manager	Connie Maloney

II. Regional Congresses 2007

The Technical Committee expressed thanks to the National office for organizing the highly successful Regional Congresses in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, as well as the National congress in Region 1. The committee also commends Kathy Ostberg for her excellent organization and communication with the RTCCs in regards to the judging sessions/speakers. The committee looks forward to creating specific core judging sessions to be offered at each congress in 2008.

III. Range of Scores

Due to the increase in the penalty for a missing Special Requirement:

Recommendation to change the range of scores, effective August 1, 2008, to the following:

9.5 – 10	0.20
9.0 – 9.475	0.50
8.0 – 8.975	0.70
Below 8.0	1.00

Motion: L. Thorberg

Second: M. Elfenbein

PASSED

IV. Judges' Meetings prior to competition (all levels)

The committee would like to remind judges/meet referees that the following procedures should be considered for inclusion during the meeting prior to competition:

1. logistics of the meet/scoring system, meet mechanics, etc.
2. rule changes
3. equipment issues
4. info from Meet Director
5. professional protocol reminders

V. Official Score sheets

R&P page 64. B.4.

Change the wording to: the Chief Judge checks that the scores of both (all) judges, the average score, as well as time and line violations are properly recorded **during the competition**.

Clarification for Petitions:

Regarding petitions to State or Regional competitions, scores presented to the SACC or RTCC must be documented by an official score sheet issued by the Meet Director. (Refer to 2007-08 Rules and Policies, page 49-50. Part Two, Section V, Injury or illness petitions).

VI. Determination of Final Event Score

Page 10, R & P D.

Clarification: The procedure of using the score of the Chief Judge or Meet Referee to average with the original average score of the two judges (Base score) is no longer used.

Add to # 3: It is the professional responsibility of the judges to come to an agreement if their scores are initially out of range.

Add #4. If the judges are unable to compromise, the Chief Judge may mandate that the scores be brought into the allowable range.

VII. Inquiries

Reminder to judges that if a coach has a question regarding an exercise during the competition, the judges should advise the coach to submit an Inquiry Form to officially receive information. There should be no casual conversation between a coach and a judge during the competition regarding the evaluation of an exercise.

VIII. Affiliation

Add the following to the R & P, Page 63:

II. A. Affiliation of an official at a specific meet refers to:

Add bullet: An immediate family member is defined as a parent/step-parent, grandparent, sibling or any member of the household.

II. A. Add second bullet

A judge who is an immediate family member of a competing gymnast, or of a coach or club owner of a competing team, is considered affiliated with that specific club team and may not be assigned as a Chief Judge at meets in which that club is competing.

Refer to *Rules and Policies*, page 63, II.B: In non-qualifying Open Invitationals with two or four judge panels, affiliated judges may be assigned as Chief or Panel Judges, provided that the Meet Director lists the judges and their affiliation on the pre-meet information.

IX. Start Value

Since the flashing of Start Values is now required, it is the responsibility of the meet director to insure that Start Value flashers are provided for each judge, unless the Start Values are to be written on the gymnast's competitor card.

Meeting commenced on Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:00 AM

X. Level 2-3 Vault Penalties

The committee discussed the need to add deductions for these vaults. Some suggestions will be sent to both the JO and TC members and decisions will be made at the joint meeting of JOC and TC in May 2008.

XI. Level 4-6 Beam Dismount

Clarification:

Example: The gymnast attempts the dismount, comes down without performing the ¼ turn, and remounts to attempt it again. A 0.5 deduction is taken for the fall. If, on the 2nd attempt, she does not complete the dismount again, another 0.50 deduction for the second fall will be applied. Use the best attempt to determine the additional deductions for incomplete element. Refer to compulsory book (penalty pages and grey boxes).

XII. Judges' Accreditation

Clarifications regarding procedures:

A. Former judges who have no current rating may start testing again at the level they previously held.

B. Judges who hold a current foreign Brevet and are now living in the U.S. will be required to submit documentation of their Brevet and attend a Level 10 Optional judging/rules clinic prior to being assigned to a Jr. Olympic meet. A person who held a foreign Brevet in the past, but does not hold a current Brevet rating, may begin testing at Level 10.

C. All Optional-rated officials must test at Level 5/6 in order to judge at the Compulsory levels.

D. CPE deficient: If there is a need to assign a judge who has not completed their CPE, the assignor must inform the meet referee, so that the specific judge's fee will be reduced by \$5.00 per hour as per the Rules and Policies, page 66, A. 9. c.2).

E. When hosting a clinic, it is the clinic organizer's responsibility to have staff available, in addition to the clinician, to sign the CPE forms. Reminder that for multi-track clinics (like Regional Congress), only sessions that pertain to coaching and/or judging of competitive gymnastics can be used for CPE hours. It was suggested to designate the CPE-eligible sessions by an asterisk and to title the judging/coaching tracks as Women's Artistic, rather than judges/coaches.

The committee made recommendations in the procedures for signing CPE records at clinics/congresses.

It was requested that Connie revise the Annual CPE Report form to include the Judge's Rating as of the past Aug. 1, carry-over hours from previous year; and any hours to be carried over for the next year.

Connie reported that the 2005-06 CPE audit procedures were carried out and all persons audited submitted their receipts satisfactorily.

XIII. Selection of Judges for Regional Meets

The committee members shared the various ways each Regional Administrative Committee selects the judges for Level 8, 9 and 10 Regionals.

XIV. Courses for 2009

A. Level 10 Re-certification was discussed and a decision was made to discontinue this level of certification. All individuals attempting to attain the Level 10 rating must successfully pass the Level 10 Theoretical and Practical exams at 80% on each part.

B. National Course (multiple dates)

Eligibility:

1. Current Brevet or National rating
2. Held a Level 10 rating a minimum of two complete cycles (8 years)
3. Must have attended a minimum of two USAG Regional or National Congresses or National NAWGJ Symposium in the current cycle (June 2005 – Dec. 31, 2008).
4. Must hold a current USAG Professional membership and current safety certification
5. Must be current with CPE requirements

Format:

Written Exam (10 questions on general and each event)

Practical exam (5 routines per event)

Criteria for attaining a National rating:

- 85% average with a minimum of 80% on each part (Written/Practical)
- If a judge scores a minimum of 80% on each part, but does not achieve an 85% total*, he/she will receive a Level 10 rating.
- Anyone scoring below 80% on either part must either take the National Course re-test or take the Level 10 exam.

** A one time National Course re-test will be offered at the National Congress*

C. USAG BREVET COURSE

Eligibility:

1. Current FIG or USAG Brevet
2. Previous Senior National (Elite) team member (minimum of 21 yrs. of age)
3. Current USAG Professional membership and safety certification
4. Current with CPE requirements

Course format/criteria for passing will be determined at a later date.

D. National or USAG Brevet Course exemptions:

Since the members of the Women's Technical and JO Committees are responsible for the development/creation of the rules and deductions for Level 10, those committee members who currently hold a USAG Brevet or National rating will retain their current rating. It is highly recommended that they audit the course for their respective level.

Since the FIG Brevet rules are now very different from the JO rules, it is highly recommended that all FIG Brevet judges attend a JO rules clinic prior to being assigned to a JO Optional competition.

XV. Judge recommendations due date

Cheryl reminded the RTCC's that the recommendations for JO Nationals and Level 9 East/West judges are due by Dec. 1st. She requested that they include any specific affiliations.

XVI. Core judging topics for 2008 Congresses

The committee selected five core topics, in addition to a JO Update, for the 2008 congresses. Each member was assigned to a specific event to prepare for the theme of "Good, Better, Best". A timeline was determined to insure that the five DVD projects would be ready for evaluation at the May 2008 meeting.

Meeting continued on Sun. Oct. 14 at 9:15 AM.

XVII. Base Scores

The committee reviewed the scripts for the State, Regional and East/West base score DVDs in order to update with any rule/value changes from the May 2007 meeting.

The committee also evaluated Level 7 routines for a new State Meet Base score DVD.

XVIII. Judges' Accreditation web page

The committee developed information to be posted on the web page to give examinees information about the exams and how to prepare.

XIX. Gymnastics apparel

In accordance with the recent FIG decision, it is now permissible for female gymnasts to wear a unitard (with long legs and sleeves or no sleeves) for competition.

XX. JO Code revisions

The committee approved the following revised Appendix items: vault value charts, "cheat" sheet, optional requirement chart, symbols charts, and event score sheets. These will be posted on the web site on the Women's Program, JO Program and Just for Judges web pages.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled on May 19-20, 2008 following J.O. Nationals in Kissimmee, FL.