

Technical Committee Minutes  
Oct. 22, 2020 7:30-9:45 pm EST)  
Oct. 24, 2020 (12:00 – 5:10 PM)

- I. Roll Call: Chairman Cheryl Hamilton called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
  - Region 1 Gigi Iavarone
  - Region 2 Linda Mulvihill
  - Region 3 Carole Bunge
  - Region 4 Linda Thorberg
  - Region 5 Char Christensen
  - Region 6 Pat Panichas
  - Region 7 Myra Elfenbein
  - Region 8 Marian Dykes
  - NDPCC Tom Koll
  - NAWGJ Cookie Batsche
  - DPTD Connie Maloney
  - DPD Christy Naik
  - VPWP Annie Heffernon
2. Judging Exams  
Since the Development Program (previous JO) Compulsory routines will change as of August 1, 2021, the opportunities for testing and earning a Level 4/5 rating for the current 2013-21 Level 4/5 compulsories will end on December 31, 2020.
3. The committee finalized the 2021 Congress Core Technical topics. All of the events and levels of the new Compulsories will be covered.
4. Judging Education/Base Scores for 2021-29 Compulsory routines  
Tom is gathering footage from his committee members for Levels 1-5 Compulsories so the TC can judge them on subsequent Zoom calls. The Vault and Bars will be judged on the following dates: Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 12 and 19. Beam and Floor are being filmed and should be ready for evaluation by the end of November.
5. 2022 USA Brevet/National Judges' Courses  
The committee discussed the idea of having categories for the National level as well as the requirements and format for ratings achieved at the upcoming courses. A sub-committee of the TC will be working with Cookie Batsche to finalize all aspects and will report at the May 2021 meeting. The committee also discussed future CPE requirements.
6. After lengthy discussion regarding whether shorts be allowed for competition, this item was tabled until the May, 2021 meeting.
7. Inquiries at Virtual meets  
The Virtual Sanction Playbook for Women's USA Gymnastics competition indicates that no inquiries are allowed. It was suggested that, in the event that State and/or Regional meets have to be held virtually, inquiries be allowed, provided a method is developed to facilitate them. If a system is developed that will make inquiries possible, the DPC and XC must vote on this in conjunction with the TC.
8. Discussion was held regarding the eligibility for invitation to the FIG Brevet Judges Courses held every year following the Olympic Games. Cheryl explained the FIG limits the number of participants per country. Also the limitations on the US judges to be able to fulfill the requirements for upgrading categories due to lack of opportunities to judge international competitions.

9. Masks and Covid-19 issues

a. At the October 22<sup>nd</sup> virtual meeting, the Technical Committee discussed situations in which a gymnast who is wearing a mask experiences the mask slipping down, or worse, up over her eyes.

The TC presented the following recommendations to both the Development Program Committee and the Xcel Committee via email:

Recommendation 1: If an athlete is mandated or chooses to wear a mask during competition, there will be no deduction for adjustment of said mask. Effective immediately.

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: L. Mulvihill

PASSED by Joint DPC and TC (15 in favor, 1 opposed)

PASSED unanimously by XC and TC.

Recommendation 2: If the shifting of the mask during competition interrupts the gymnast's movement and/or becomes a safety issue (example, covers her eyes), the gymnast may stop immediately and request permission from the Chief Judge to either repeat the entire routine or start again from the point of interruption. This would parallel the procedures for technical failure of the floor music. Effective immediately.

Motion: M. Dykes

Second: C. Christensen

PASSED by Joint DPC and TC (14 in favor, 2 opposed)

PASSED by XC and TC (15 in favor, 1 opposed)

b. P. Panichas brought forth a question on how judges should handle situations in which the recommended pandemic safety guidelines of either the state or USA Gymnastics are not followed. Pre-meet information should include the safety protocol. If these are not in place, the judge should see if the Meet Director can rectify the situation, and if not, the judge has the right to decide to leave the competition. In this case, the Meet Director has not fulfilled the agreement and would be financially responsible for any mileage expense. If there are infractions of Covid-19 safety guidelines, it would not be considered a sanction violation.

Please note: If the Meet Referee feels so inclined as to adding any concerns to the Sanction Report Form or to the new online Meet Referee reporting tool, that is up to them. Ultimately, if a USAG member enters a competition and feels the Meet Director is not doing what is required pertaining to local COVID protocols, the Meet Director should be consulted first to allow them the opportunity to remedy the situation before a complaint is filed.

The new online Meet Referee Form can be found under "Forms" --"Sanctions". The direct link is: <https://usagym.org/PDFs/Forms/Member%20Services/Sanction/refereereport20.pdf>

10. NAWGJ Report – Cookie Batsche, President

Cookie reported that NAWGJ has secured a new liability insurance policy which provides the judges with excellent coverage. She questioned the statement in the *DP (JO) Code of Points* regarding one of the responsibilities of a Meet Referee-acting as the final authority on equipment. The USA Gymnastic National Office will work with legal counsel on changing the language.

Cookie also made the committee aware of the new Activity Reports on the gymjas system with which a judge can document various types of activities for which no contract is necessary or for meets contracted by other contracting organizations. This report system is specifically for an activity that is related to the judge's professional role as a NAWGJ gymnastics judge.

11. Preparation for 2022-2026 Optional Cycle

Any changes in the *Code of Points* for Development and Xcel Programs will be considered at the May 2021 committee meetings. The Technical Committee will create worksheets for both programs to facilitate discussion at the meeting.

12. Meeting was adjourned on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 5:10pm Eastern.