

3. Individual judges will be bound by the terms of the individual contract agreed upon for that particular meet.
4. Judges are responsible, according to all appropriate laws and jurisdiction, for all financial reporting and identification of payment/reimbursements received to the appropriate agencies (i.e. IRS).
5. Each individual judge shall sign and return the contract to the Meet Director and the contracting official.
6. Judges are not allowed to accept gifts in addition to the USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package fees/expenses unless the gift does not exceed a retail value of \$20.00.
7. Judges are not allowed to act in a dual capacity (i.e., Coach/judge, parent/judge, Meet Director/judge).
8. Must act in a professional manner.
  - a. Must not leave their seat during competition without permission of Meet Referee or Chief Judge.
  - b. Must remain at his/her event station until the entire competition has been completed.
  - c. Must avoid conversations with coaches regarding the evaluation of the exercises.
  - d. Must be willing to compromise when the two counting scores are out of range.
  - e. *Must refrain from using electronic devices (such as cell phones, tablets, etc.) for purposes other than gymnastics judging or reference on the Field of Play.*
9. Must wear the correct uniform (navy blue pants/skirt and white blouse/shirt), or as designated in the contract. *For theme competitions, the judge may wear either the official uniform or dress in the theme of the meet.*
10. Chief and panel judges are responsible for flashing their own Start Value at all Level 6-10 meets (or write it on the competitor's score card).
  - Must provide her/his own SV flashing unit, unless provided by the host club.

**B. MEET REFEREE (who may also act as a Chief Judge)**

1. A Meet Referee, or acting Meet Referee, must be designated at all Jr. Olympic sanctioned competitions.
2. If an acting judge also serves as the Meet Referee (for State Championships and above), she/he will receive a Chief Judge's fee or a Meet Referee's fee, but not both. No dual compensation is allowed.
3. Meet Referee Duties and Responsibilities
  - a. If requested, assists in conducting the draw prior to or at the coaches' meeting (depending on the organization of the meet) at Regional or National competitions, in conjunction with:
    - 1) Appropriate USA Gymnastics Officer, and/or
    - 2) Meet Director
  - b. Serves as liaison between coaches and judges. Must attend the coaches meeting (or designate a proxy) at State, Regional and National competitions.
  - c. Conducts the judges' meeting prior to the competition.
    - 1) Presents the USA Gymnastics Base Score DVD for analysis at State and above meets.
      - The Base Score DVD can be obtained from the State/Regional USA Gymnastics Administrative Committee Chairman or the State/Regional NAWGJ Director.
    - 2) Reviews the following procedures with the judges:
      - a) Logistics of the meet/scoring system, meet mechanics, etc.
      - b) Rule changes
      - c) Equipment issues
      - d) Information from the Meet Director
      - e) Professional protocol reminders
  - d. Assigns the Chief and Panel Judges to their respective events, as requested by the State or Regional Administrative Committee for State and Regional meets. It is strongly recommended that the State or Regional Administrative Committee assign the duty of event assignments to the designated Meet Referee.

- 1) Criteria for assignment must be followed.
  - 2) If the Meet Referee is also a Chief Judge, the assigning official may make the event assignments.
  - 3) At local, pre-sectional and sectional meets, the assigning official may make the event assignments.
- e. May observe and/or give opinion during conferences.
  - f. Is available for counsel, upon request of the Chief Judge.
  - g. May counsel the Chief Judge when, in her/his opinion, the average score and/or the score of the Chief Judge seems out of line with the scoring in the competition.
  - h. May recommend, but never force, a change of any score.
  - i. Corrects and signs the official score sheets after any change of score.
  - j. Gives any technical or judging information pertinent to the competition to the Meet Director or Organizing Committee for distribution.
  - k. Acts as the final authority in all technical matters involving judges, timers, line judges, flashers, individual event and AA tabulators, as well as equipment.
  - l. Notates a warning given by the Chief Judge concerning incorrect attire or signaling. She/he will then notify the Chief Judges on the other events that a warning has been given so that appropriate deductions may be applied.
  - m. Upon notification from the Chief Judge, issues a warning to the coach for unsportsmanlike conduct. Follow USA Gymnastics' Coaches Behavior Policy in the *Rules and Policies*. This would also be applied for excessive cheers and/or behavior of teammates, or the coach who is disruptive to the competition.
  - n. Will be available for a minimum of *5 minutes* following the last competitors' exercises to deal with questions or concerns with the technical decisions and/or judges' scores.
  - o. Serves as President of the Jury of Appeals.
  - p. May be an affiliated judge.
  - q. Indicates any violations of *Rules and Policies* on the sanction report form *or notifies USA Gymnastics Member Services directly in writing by mail, FAX or e-mail*.
  - r. Is responsible for compiling and checking the information regarding judges' fees and expenses for the Meet Director.
  - s. Checks with the scoring personnel to verify that the scores for all gymnasts are entered and all inquiries have been resolved.
  - t. Issues a warning to the coach and notifies the Meet Director if she/he observes more than one gymnast on the uneven bars at the same time during any warm-up (timed or 30-second touch).
  - u. Monitors the judging panels to ensure the appropriate use of electronic tablets for judging and reference purposes.

### C. CHIEF JUDGE

1. Prepares the judges for the correct evaluation of the exercises at the judges' meeting prior to the competition.
2. Checks that the apparatus and mats correspond to the USA Gymnastics regulations and that all materials necessary are available and functioning properly. This could include:
  - a. Light or time signals
  - b. Stopwatches
3. Instructs judging assistants to assure their knowledge of the:
  - a. Correct use of the signal to indicate line violations.
  - b. Correct use of the stopwatch and timing device to indicate time limitations.

- c. Proper reporting procedures for the following violations:
    - 1) Exceeding the time allowed
    - 2) Stepping out of the floor exercise area
  - d. Correct method of scoring being used.
  - e. Correct procedures for flashing of start values, individual scores and/or the average score.
4. Is responsible for the correct work of her/his panel and assistant judges.
  5. Uses a green flag or hand signal to acknowledge the presentation of the gymnast.
  6. Must evaluate the exercises accurately without bias and must first write (or enter into the electronic scoring system) her/his own score before reviewing scores from other judges.
  7. Must determine and record the score and Start Value, as well as record deductions for execution/amplitude, artistry, compositional errors and neutral deductions.
  8. Verifies that the scores fall within the proper range.
  9. Verifies that the score of the Chief Judge, panel judge(s), average score and time/line deductions are properly recorded during the competition.
    - It is not necessary to sign the official score sheet.
  10. Confirms when a gymnast may repeat an exercise (or portion of the exercise) due to technical failure and determines when the repetition (or continuation) will occur.
    - a. A flash from a camera is not a valid reason to allow a gymnast to repeat the exercise.
    - b. These decisions must be made in consultation with the Meet Referee prior to the score being flashed.
  11. Is responsible for calling a conference if an impossible Start Value has been awarded and/or for other reasons to assist the judges in arriving at a common basis for scoring during competition. During the conference:
    - a. The Start Value differences will be clarified.
    - b. The Meet Referee may be notified of and/or be included in the discussion.
    - c. The judges may change their scores, but are not obliged to do so; however, if the scores are out of the allowable range, adjustments must be made. It is the professional responsibility of the judges to come to an agreement if their scores are initially out of range.
    - d. If the judges are unable to compromise, the Chief Judge may mandate that the scores be brought into the allowable range.
  12. Takes the deduction from the average score for the following infractions. The deduction must be indicated to the coach either verbally or by visual means at the conclusion of the exercise.
 

a. Overtime	<u>0.10</u>
b. Coach standing between the bars or next to beam throughout the entire exercise	<u>0.10</u>
c. Any part of the body touching outside of the Floor Exercise border marking	each time <u>0.10</u>
d. <b><i>Failure to present before and after exercise (before to Chief Judge; after - presenting to a judge is no longer required)</i></b>	each time <u>0.10</u>
e. Failure to mark the boundary line on additional matting which covers the boundary line.	<u>0.10</u>
f. Gymnast fails to begin exercise within 30 sec. after the Chief Judge signals to begin	<u>0.20</u>
g. Unsportsmanlike conduct of gymnast (after warning)	<u>0.20</u>
h. Incorrect padding (Gymnast wearing heel/hip pads on bars)	<u>0.20</u>

\* If the Chief Judge notices the heel pads prior to the gymnast's mount, a warning must be given. However, if the gymnast wears the heel pads during her exercise (whether or not the Chief Judge warned her previously), the deduction must be taken.

- i. Incorrect attire (includes **unacceptable** jewelry) (after a warning) 0.20  
 \* **Unacceptable** jewelry is not allowed to be worn during warm-ups or competition. Once the warning has been issued by the Meet Referee or Chief Judge, the deduction will be applied to the first event competed after the warning. Once the deduction has been applied, the MR must inform the CJ at any subsequent events so that no further penalty will be taken. The deduction is taken one time only.
- 1) Acceptable attire is a one piece leotard with or without sleeves and no bare midriff. Unitards with long legs, with or without sleeves are acceptable.  
Exception: For medical or religious reasons, reasonable accommodating exceptions to proper attire can be reviewed by the RTCC and the RJOCC or RXCC. See R & P for specific procedures for approval.
  - 2) The leg cut of the leotard must be below the pelvis/hip bone.
  - 3) Backless leotards are not acceptable.
  - 4) Underwear (including sports bras) should not be visible.  
If underwear is visible due to the cut of the leotard, warn the athlete's coach. If the gymnast does not correct it, take a deduction on her subsequent event. Underwear, including sports bras, should not be intentionally visible throughout the entire routine. However, if briefs or bra straps show due to activity, do not take a deduction. Common sense should prevail.
  - 5) One pair of stud earrings are allowed; one earring per ear in any part of the ear. All other piercings must be removed and not just covered with tape or a bandage.
  - 6) Necklaces and bracelets are not allowed. Exception: Medical bracelets.
  - 7) Spaghetti straps are considered inappropriate attire. Straps must be a minimum of 2 cm (7/8") wide.
  - 8) Elastic waistbands traditionally worn as training aids are incorrect attire. (This does not include medically necessary bandages).
  - 9) Failure to wear a competitor number when required.
  - 10) Hair should be secured away from the face so as not to obscure her vision of the apparatus.
- 11) Tennis shoes are NOT considered appropriate gymnastics footwear.**
- j. Failure to observe specified warm-up time (after a warning) 0.20  
 Deduction is taken from the event score or may be taken from the team score on that event at Jr. Olympic Nationals or team competitions.  
 Note: This deduction applies only to the practice of an element(s). If a gymnast is preparing for a skill or dismount when time is called, she may continue to finish the skill(s) and/or dismount without penalty. There is no deduction for jumping on the board and/or briefly touching the apparatus immediately prior to competition on UB or BB. Refer to VT and FX Sections for specific allowable procedures. If the gymnast fails to leave the apparatus after "Time" has been called, the Timer must warn the gymnast by announcing "Time exceeded". If the gymnast remains on the apparatus, the Timer reports the infraction to the Chief Judge, who then deducts 0.20 from the average score.
- k. Technical verbal cues by coach or teammate(s) to own gymnast (applied after one warning has been given) 0.20  
 Examples of technical cues: "hollow", "pull", "breathe" etc..  
 Exception: If the gymnast is competing on the apparatus and the coach instructs her by giving specific information on what to do during the routine (for example - what comes next in the routine or to repeat a missed requirement), a deduction of 0.20 is taken from the average without warning. This deduction is taken only once, regardless of the number of cues given.
- l. Excessive use of magnesia (chalk) or incorrect use of tape 0.20
- 1) Small chalk markings may be placed on the beam (tape markings are not allowed).
  - 2) Spreading of magnesia on the FX mat is not allowed; only small marks are allowed.
    - a) A single-line arc drawn in the corner of the floor is acceptable.
    - b) No velcro or tape markings are allowed within the Floor Ex area.
  - 3) Tape markings are allowed at the corners of the floor exercise mat to indicate the boundary line in the case of the floor carpet that uses two colors rather than a boundary line.

- 4) Use of tape or excessive chalk is not permitted on the vault table.
- 5) Athletic tape, Velcro strips or small chalk marks may be **placed** on the Vault runway, **provided that such markings are removed no later than the end of the rotation. Maximum width of Velcro strip or athletic tape is 5 cm (2"); maximum length is 3 feet.** The judge must issue a warning before taking a deduction if the measurement is exceeded or if markings are not removed.
- m. Use of additional mats, springboard on unauthorized surface, or the use of the hand placement mat for traditional approach vaults 0.30
- n. Failure to remove the board after the mount 0.30
- o. Failure to remove board or authorized spotting device after a release element 0.30
- p. Using incorrect apparatus specifications 0.30
- q. Starting the exercise before the signal is given 0.50  
(deduct from the score of the repeated performance)  
If the gymnast starts the exercise before the signal is given, she should be asked to stop and repeat the performance immediately.  
(See Vault chapter for specifics on vault.)
- r. Coach on the floor exercise mat inside the border marking (applied at Level 6 and above) 0.50
- No deduction if coach is on the Floor mat to remove an object fallen from gymnast (i.e., metal hair clip, eyeglasses, etc.) or to adjust the placement of skill cushion.
- s. Absence of music or music with words or song/speech 1.00
- Refer to Section V Floor Exercise, Chapter 1, III. for specifics
- t. The performance of a one-arm vault: if at least half of the vault panel saw that only one hand touched the vault table 1.00
- u. Short exercises (applies to completed or incomplete routines) 2.00
- Uneven Bar routine with less than 5 Value Parts
  - Balance Beam and Floor Exercise routines - less than 30 seconds
- \* Refer to Level 6 Beam exception: Beam Chapter-Timing Regulations**
13. Terminates an exercise if after a fall, the gymnast exceeds the allotted fall time: **Vault (1 minute - after judgment is completed)**, Uneven Bars (45 seconds) and Beam (30 seconds).
- A bleeding wound (or any other injury due to a fall) does not give the athlete the right to repeat her exercise or resume from where she left off. If the 30 or 45 second fall time (BB or UB respectively) is exceeded before the wound can be covered, then the routine is terminated.
14. Reports to the Meet Referee or Jury **of Appeals** if:
- a. The gymnast's attire is incorrect.
  - b. There is unsportsmanlike conduct of the coach (after warning).
  - c. There are excessive cheers or behavior disruptive to competition by teammates or coach.  
Example: Gymnasts standing around the FX area, blocking the view of the judges and/or specators.
  - d. Failure to observe specified warm-up time by the team (after a warning). The deduction would be applied to the team event score where infraction occurred.
  - e. Coach or teammates were warned about technical verbal cues.
15. Is responsible for responding, in conjunction with the panel judge(s), to an inquiry in a professional manner.
16. May not be affiliated at any sanctioned qualifying meets. (Exception: Affiliated judges may be assigned as Chief Judges at non-qualifying Invitational meets, provided that the judging panels are listed with their affiliation on the pre-meet information.)

#### D. PANEL JUDGES

1. Must evaluate the exercises quickly and accurately, without bias.
2. Must record the Value Parts, Bonus, Special Requirements and Start Value, as well as record deductions for execution/amplitude, artistry, and compositional errors.

3. Must include on score slip to send to the Chief Judge (if electronic score input is not available for each judge):
  - a. Judge's initials and assigned number
  - b. Competitor Number, Start Value and Score
  - c. Notification that a deduction was taken for the coach spotting the gymnast
  - d. Notification that the gymnast exceeded the border marking on Floor Exercise, if no Line Judges are present. Also, attempt to signal any such violation by raising a hand.
  - e. Must write the European 7-
4. When changing a score, the judge must cross out the first score, initial the change, and write in new score. Do not erase.
5. May be affiliated; however, there may not be more than one judge per panel with the same affiliation.

## E. JUDGING ASSISTANTS

1. Do not evaluate or score the exercise.
2. Signal and record specific faults and penalties to assist the Chief Judge.
3. Types of Judging Assistants and their responsibilities:
  - a. Line judges for Floor Exercise:
    - 1) Must be a rated official.
    - 2) Signal by raising a hand or flag when gymnast steps (or touches some part of body) beyond the boundary line.
    - 3) Inform the Chief Judge in writing of such violation.
  - b. Timers
    - 1) **Vault Fall Timer**
      - a) **The Chief Judge must monitor the Vault Fall time. The watch: Starts when the evaluation of the first vault is completed. Stops when gymnast leaves the landing area.**
      - b) **After 40 seconds have passed, announces "20 seconds remaining". After 50 seconds have passed, announces "10 seconds remaining." At 60 seconds, announces "time". A second vault is not allowed after "time" is announced.**
    - 2) **Uneven Bars Timer**
      - a) Is responsible for the correct timing of falls. The watch: Starts when gymnast lands on the mat after a fall. Stops when gymnast leaves the floor to re-mount.
      - b) After 25 seconds have passed, announces "20 seconds remaining". After 35 seconds have passed, announces "10 seconds remaining." At 45 seconds, announces "time".
    - 3) **Balance Beam Routine Timer**
      - a) Is responsible for the correct timing of the exercise. The watch: Starts when the gymnast leaves the floor. Stops when gymnast lands on the mat after a fall. Re-starts with first movement to continue routine. Stops when the gymnast arrives on the mat on the dismount.
      - b) Signals with an acoustical instrument (or verbally), indicating a warning of 10 seconds remaining and a second signal indicating final time.
      - c) Informs the Chief Judge, verbally or in writing, of any time violation.
    - 4) **Balance Beam Fall Timer**
      - a) Is responsible for the correct timing of falls. The watch: Starts when gymnast lands on the mat after a fall. Stops when gymnast leaves the floor to re-mount.
      - b) After 10 seconds have passed, announces "20 seconds remaining". After 20 seconds have passed, announces "10 seconds remaining." At 30 seconds, announces "time".
    - 5) **Floor Exercise Timer**
      - a) Is responsible for the correct timing of the exercise. The watch: Starts with the first movement of the gymnast. Stops with the final movement of the gymnast.
      - b) Informs the Chief Judge of the time violation in writing, indicating the actual time.

# SECTION I GENERAL INFORMATION

## CHAPTER 4

### CLARIFICATIONS OF UNUSUAL JUDGING SITUATIONS

#### I. INCOMPLETE EXERCISE (OPTIONAL LEVELS 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10)

If a gymnast is unable to complete her exercise, the score will be determined in the usual way, by determining the Start Value and deducting any appropriate execution/amplitude, composition and specific apparatus deductions. A deduction of 2.00 is taken from the final average score by the Chief judge if:

- A. The Uneven Bar exercise contains less than 5 Value Parts.
  - Note: a completed bar routine that contains less than five (5) Value Parts will also receive a 2.00 deduction.
- B. The Balance Beam or Floor Exercise routine is less than 30 seconds.
  - The 2.00 deduction is taken when a gymnast performs a completed or an incomplete exercise that is less than 30 seconds.

#### II. EQUIPMENT FAILURE/REPETITION OF AN EXERCISE

In situations where there is an equipment failure (including broken or completely torn handgrips) occurring through no fault of the gymnast or coach, the gymnast may choose to:

- A. Stop immediately and request permission from the Chief Judge to either repeat her routine or to continue from the point of interruption. In questionable cases, this request should be made to the Jury of Appeals. Once permission is given, the gymnast would perform again after a reasonable amount of rest time. No score would be given for the partial routine.
  - B. Continue to complete the routine. At the completion of the routine, she and her coach must decide whether to repeat the routine or accept the score given. The judges will not post the score until that decision is made. In the case of Floor Exercise, no deduction would be taken for the music failure if the decision is to accept the score.
- Note: Equipment failure does not include: the unfastening of bandages or handgrips, loss or partial loss of footwear, incorrect bar setting, or failure to tighten cables/T-handles on Bars and Beam.*
- C. Any decisions regarding the repetition of an exercise must be made by the Chief Judge, in consultation with the Meet Referee.

- *A flash from a camera is not a valid reason to allow a gymnast to repeat the exercise.*

#### III. INQUIRIES

- A. The coach is entitled to see the four (or two) scores of his/her individual gymnast.
- B. If the coach has a question regarding an exercise during the competition, the judge (or Meet Referee) should advise the coach to submit an Inquiry Form to officially receive information. There should be no casual conversation during the competition between the coach and the judge regarding the evaluation of an exercise.
- C. Inquiries are limited to questions regarding:
  1. Compulsory Routines
    - a. Text
    - b. Evaluation of major elements
    - c. Neutral deductions
    - d. Falls
    - e. Unusual occurrences

2. Optional Routines
    - a. Start Value
    - b. Neutral deductions
    - c. Falls
    - d. Unusual occurrences
    - e. Specific flat (not "up to") compositional deductions.
- D. Inquiries must be legibly written on the official inquiry form by the coach and submitted within 5 minutes of the completion of that event rotation to the Meet Director or Meet Referee. The Meet Director will then forward it to the Meet Referee, who gives it to the Chief Judge of the apparatus in question.
1. No fee may be charged to submit an inquiry.
  2. Coaches need to be aware that an inquiry allows for a second evaluation which may result in:
    - a. no change in score.
    - b. the score being raised.
    - c. the score being lowered.
  3. The Chief Judge and the panel judge(s) will respond, providing only the information requested. After the Chief Judge has completed the response to the inquiry, the Meet Referee or Meet Director will return the form to the coach, either by hand or by a pre-defined inquiry return procedure.
    - The coach may not approach the judge regarding the inquiry during the competition.
- E. No video review is allowed at any Jr. Olympic competition during the processing of an inquiry unless the following criteria are met:
1. If the above administrative procedures are not properly followed on a submitted inquiry, the coach may petition the Jury of Appeals for a review within five (5) minutes of the end of the rotation/competition or the return of the inquiry form, whichever occurs later.
    - A video review, if available, may be considered by the Jury of Appeals.
    - Jury decision should occur within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the meet and before the awards are presented.
  2. At State meets and above, a coach can request video review by the Meet Referee and the highest rated unaffiliated judge (if video is available) in the event that the inquiry involves the possibility that the judging panel missed an element that would affect the Start Value. Examples:
    - a. All judges did not record a full turn on Beam.
    - b. One or more judges recorded a 2/1 twist instead of 3/1 twist.
    - c. ***Verification that the gymnast grasped or touched the bar with one or two hands before falling on a release element on Bars.***
  3. The video review process may NOT be used to appeal a judgement of degree assessment, i.e., degree of casts, handstands, incomplete turns, direct connection of elements or leg separation in leaps as well as other like skills.
  4. If the Meet Referee or highest rated judge is affiliated with the athlete in question, the video review will be conducted by the two highest rated unaffiliated judges, or the highest rated unaffiliated judge and a USA Gymnastics officer.
  5. The Meet Referee must inform the judging panel that a video review will be initiated as well as the final decision.
- F. Score Review at Sectional/State Qualifying Meets and State Championships
- If, after the completion of the last event, an athlete's All-Around score is 0.10 or less than the qualifying score to State (or Regional Championships), the coach may submit an inquiry for the gymnast's lowest scoring event (regardless of the order in which that event was performed) in order that the athlete be considered for qualification purposes.
- Any change of score is official and would be included in the official results. This process does NOT apply:
1. for mobility purposes.
  2. if qualification to State/Regional meet is by percentage or designated number per age division.