

SECTION I GENERAL INFORMATION

CHAPTER 1 JUDGING PANELS

I. THE WORKING PROCEDURES OF THE JUDGING PANEL

- A. Types of Competition
1. Jr. Olympic Compulsory Competition (Levels 1 - 5)
 2. Jr. Olympic Optional Competition (Levels 6 -10)
- B. Composition of the Judging panels
1. At USA Gymnastics Jr. Olympic East/West and National Competitions, panels consist of:
 - a. 1 Chief Judge (non-affiliated)
 - b. 3 additional panel judges
 - c. Assistants (timers, line judges, etc.)
 2. At USA Gymnastics Jr. Olympic Local, Pre-Sectional, Sectional, State, Regional and National Invitational competitions, panels may consist of:
 - a. 4 judges as above, OR
 - b. 2 judges
 - 1) 1 Chief Judge (non-affiliated)
 - 2) 1 panel judge
 - c. A 1-judge panel is allowed at local/sectional competitions only for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 and at local competitions only for Level 5 (provided it is not a direct qualifier to the Level 5 State meet.) Check with your State Administrative Committee Chairman for state guidelines for Pre-sectional and Sectional meets at Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.
 - d. Assistants (UB, BB and FX timers, FX line judges)
 3. Affiliation of judges with an individual(s) or gymnastics club
 - a. A judge is considered affiliated at a specific meet if she/he is:
 - 1) An immediate family member* of a:
 - a) competing gymnast
 - b) coach of a competing *club*
 - c) club owner/administrator whose *club* is competing
 - d) Women's Artistic team member of a club competing in the meet.

Example: A parent of a Level 5 gymnast is judging an Optional competition in which her daughter's club is competing.

 - An immediate family member of a Men's, Rhythmic, Acrobatic Gymnastics or Tumbling/Trampoline Team member of a competing club is NOT considered to be affiliated.
 - An immediate family member of any child enrolled in a recreational class of a competing club is NOT considered to be affiliated.

** Immediate family refers to a parent, step-parent, grandparent, or sibling. In addition, it could include any other person living in the household.*
 - 2) A person on the payroll of a competing club.
 - 3) A Women's Artistic team member of a club competing in the meet. Example: A Level 10 gymnast holds a Compulsory rating and is judging gymnasts from her own club at a Compulsory meet.

- a. Appropriate USA Gymnastics Officer, and/or
- b. Meet Director
4. Serves as President of the Jury of Appeal.
5. Serves as liaison between coaches and judges. Must attend the coaches meeting (or designate a proxy) at Regional and National competitions.
6. Conducts the judges' meeting prior to the competition, and provides the base score video for analysis for State and above meets. The following procedures are reviewed:
 - a. logistics of the meet/scoring system, meet mechanics, etc.
 - b. rules changes
 - c. equipment issues
 - d. information from the Meet Director
 - e. professional protocol reminders
7. Must act in a professional manner.
8. Selects the Chief Judges and assigns the Panel Judges to their respective events. Criteria for assignment must be followed.
 - If the Meet Referee is also a Chief Judge, the assigning official may make the event assignments.
9. May observe and/or give opinion during conferences.
10. Is available for counsel, upon request of the Chief Judge.
11. 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.
12. May recommend, but never force, a change of any score.
13. Corrects and signs the official score sheets after any change of score.
14. Gives any technical or judging information pertinent to the competition to the Meet Director or Organizing Committee for distribution.
15. Acts as the final authority in all technical matters involving judges, timers, line judges, flashers, individual event and AA tabulators, as well as equipment.
16. 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.
17. Upon notification from the Chief Judge, issues a warning to the coach for unsportsmanlike conduct. Follow USAG Coaches behavior policy in the *Rules and Policies*. This would also be applied for excessive cheers or behavior of teammates or the coach who is disruptive to the competition.
18. Will be available for a minimum of 15 minutes following the last competitors' exercises to deal with questions or concerns with the technical decisions and/or judges' scores.
19. Must wear the correct uniform for the competition, as designated in the contract.
20. May be an affiliated judge.
21. Does not involve herself/himself with the conduct of the gymnast during the warm-ups or training. Comments to the athlete should be made only if requested from the coach or athlete.
22. Indicates any violations of *Rules and Policies* on the sanction report form.
23. Is responsible for compiling and checking the information regarding judges' fees and expenses for the Meet Director.
24. ***Checks with the scoring personnel to verify that the scores for all gymnasts are entered and all inquiries have been resolved.***
25. 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).
26. Monitors the judging panels to ensure the appropriate use of electronic tablets for judging and reference purposes.

II. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each event has Special Requirements worth 0.50 each.
 - All levels have 4 Special Requirements per event.
- B. Elements performed at Level 6, 7, 8 or 9 that are not allowed due to difficulty restrictions may not be used to fulfill Special Requirements.
- C. If an element is not awarded Value-Part credit, it may NOT be used to fulfill a Special Requirement.
- D. One element MAY fulfill more than one Special Requirement, unless otherwise specified.

III. COMPOSITION

- A. Considerations in the construction of the exercise:
 - 1. Distribution of elements
 - 2. Diversified, creative and artistic composition through:
 - a. Various Connections
 - b. Value Parts from different groups
 - 3. Use of the entire apparatus (spatially and directionally)
- B. Characteristics of good composition:
 - 1. Changes in direction of movement
 - 2. Changes in tempo and rhythm
 - 3. Changes in body position in relation to the apparatus
 - 4. High points (peaks) which are achieved through:
 - a. The virtuous performance of Value Parts required at the specific level. No additional consideration should be given for exceeding the difficulty (Value Parts) required at the level.
Example: A Level 8 gymnast performs a back layout with double twist on floor (C-value), but is awarded a "B". It should be regarded as a "B", not a "C" for compositional consideration.
 - b. Movement contrasts
 - c. Distribution of the elements
- C. Specific apparatus requirements for composition are itemized in the individual apparatus chapters.
- D. Composition is not evaluated at Level 6 or 7. The emphasis at these levels is on the gymnast's performance; that is, execution, amplitude, rhythm, dynamics, and artistic quality.

IV. EXECUTION (TECHNIQUE/AMPLITUDE/POSTURE) & ARTISTRY

- A. Characteristics of excellent execution/amplitude would include:
 - 1. Maximum amplitude or range of movement of the body:
 - a. Externally - the relationship of the body to the apparatus or ground.
 - b. Internally – focuses upon the range of motion within the joints of the body. It refers to range through which one or more of the individual body segments move relative to each other.
 - 2. Turns (breadth axis, longitudinal axis, or combination turns) in saltos completed at the highest point of the flight trajectory.
 - 3. Optimal body lines, extension and posture.
- B. Characteristics of excellent artistry include:
 - 1. Originality/creativity of choreography in elements and connections
 - 2. Quality of gymnast's movement to reflect her personal style
 - 3. Quality of expression (i.e., projections, focus)

Clarification on steps on landing:

1. A step-close is considered one step and receives a 0.10 deduction. A very small step-close or other small foot movement would receive a 0.05 deduction.
Examples of one step = - 0.10
 - The gymnast lands with feet together, then takes one step forward, sideward, or backward on the Right foot; then returns the Right foot to join the Left foot, OR
 - The gymnast lands with feet together, then takes one step forward, backward, or sideward on the Right foot; then steps with the Left foot to join the Right foot.
2. If the gymnast is out of control or has additional movements to maintain balance after the step(s), additional deductions may be applied.
3. There is a maximum deduction of 0.40 for steps (regardless of size or number); however, if the steps result in a fall, deduct only 0.50 for the fall.
4. If the gymnast lands a Bar or Beam dismount with feet a maximum of hip-width apart, there is no deduction, provided that she slides her heels together on the controlled extension. If the entire foot slides or is lifted off the mat to join, it is considered a small step.
5. *If the gymnast lands with feet apart or staggered and then continues to take steps, deduct only for the steps. The deductions for landing with feet apart/staggered are to be applied only when the gymnast "sticks" the landing on Bar/Beam dismounts and Vault.*

V. BONUS

A. CONNECTION VALUE (CV)

1. Is achieved through unique and difficult combinations.
2. Only Dance elements listed in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points* or *J.O. Updates* may be used.
3. Only acrobatic elements WITH FLIGHT listed in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points* or *J.O. Updates* may be used.
4. To receive Connection Value, all elements must be directly connected; only on Floor Exercise can acrobatic connections be indirectly connected.
 - a. Direct connections are series in which elements or connections are performed without any delay in the immediate take-off of the next element, a stop, extra steps, repositioning of the foot or extra swings (bars) between elements.
 - b. Indirect connections (only in acrobatic series on Floor Exercise) are those in which directly connected acrobatic elements with flight phase and hand support (Group 5, i.e., Round-off, flic-flac, etc.) are performed as preparatory elements between aerials (Group 5) and/or saltos (Groups 6, 7, and 8).
5. Only those elements that receive Value-Part credit may be used for Connection Value Bonus.
6. The Value Parts may be placed in any order within a Connection, unless specified.
7. The exact same connection may be used only one time for Connection Value Bonus.
 - If the same elements are used in a second connection, but are performed in a different order, Connection Value Bonus (CV) will be awarded.
8. If a "D" or "E" element is performed within a connection, it is eligible for both "D/E" Bonus and Connection Value Bonus (Level 10 only).
 - At Level 9, any allowable "D" or "E" element will be awarded "C" Value-Part credit and will receive Connection Value Bonus if a "C" Connection Value Bonus principle is applicable.
9. An "E" element may replace a "D" element in a Connection, but the connection will receive the same Connection Value Bonus.
10. With the connection of three or more elements, the second element (and those following) may be used a second time (the first time as the last element of the first Connection, and the second time as the first element to begin a new Connection.) This is applied only if all elements receive Value-Part credit.
11. Connections may be awarded either +0.10 or +0.20, according to the applicable principle.
12. Connections will be awarded Connection Value Bonus only if each element is performed without a fall or spotting deduction.
13. The maximum awarded for Connection Value Bonus is:
 - a. 0.40 points at Level 10.
 - b. 0.30 points at Level 9.
 - c. Levels 6, 7 & 8 are not eligible for Connection Value Bonus.