

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
Example: A parent whose offspring is a coach of a competing club is affiliated with that club regardless of whether or not the coach is on the floor working at a specific meet.
 - c) club owner/administrator whose club is competing
 - d) Women's Artistic **Jr. Olympic or Xcel** 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.
 - A judge who critiques or coaches at a specific gymnastics club on a regular (more than once a month) basis is considered affiliated with that club.
- 3) A Women's Artistic **Jr. Olympic or Xcel** 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.

- 4) A Coach of a competing gymnast.
 - 5) A Club Owner of a competing club/ gymnast.
 - 6) Any sports science professional that is paid for ongoing services for a competing athlete.
 - Example: Athletic trainer, Physical Therapist, Sports Psychologist.
- b. Judges affiliated with a club, gymnast or coach participating in the competition MAY be assigned to judge, with the following stipulations:
- 1) In USA Gymnastics qualifying competitions with panels of two (2) or four (4) judges:
 - a) An affiliated judge may be assigned as a Panel judge or as the Meet Referee.
 - b) No more than one (1) judge with the same affiliation may be assigned per panel.
 - c) An affiliated judge may NOT be assigned as Chief Judge, regardless of accreditation rating.
 - 2) In non-qualifying Open Invitationals with panels of two (2) or four (4) judges
 - a) Affiliated judges may be assigned as a Chief or Panel judge.
 - b) If any of the Chief Judges are affiliated, the Meet Director must list the judges (and their affiliation) on the pre-meet information.
 - 3) For meets using one-judge panels, an affiliated judge may be assigned ONLY when there are not enough non-affiliated judges available and only with the approval of the Regional Technical Committee Chairman (RTCC).
 - If the RTCC is affiliated and must be assigned, approval must come from the State Administrative Committee Chairman.
 - An affiliated judge may be assigned to a one-judge panel for Level 1 and 2.
 - 4) If the club with which the judge is affiliated is not participating in the meet to which the judge has been assigned, she/he is NOT considered affiliated at that meet.
 - a) If the meet format has separate team and individual awards per session, then a judge would be affiliated only during the session(s) in which the club/team he/she is affiliated with is competing.
 - b) If there is an overall team award for the same levels at the end of the entire meet, the affiliation rules apply for the entire competition.
- C. Seating Arrangement of the Judges
1. Allow for an unobstructed observation of the exercise.
 2. Place the Panel Judges in numerical order around the apparatus, clockwise from the Chief Judge's table.
 3. Space the judges at a proper distance to allow for an individual, unbiased evaluation.
 - If floor space is restricted, both judges on the panel are allowed to sit at the same table; however, it is advised that a score tabulator be seated between the judges and/or that conversation between the two judges is limited to conferences only.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEET OFFICIALS

A. GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL OFFICIALS

1. *Individual judges shall perform their function as a judge of the Meet according to the USA Gymnastics Rules and Policies, membership policies and the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics.*
2. *Individual judges shall be limited to judging, evaluating and scoring the competition.*
 - *Shall 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.*

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.*
9. *Must wear the correct uniform (navy blue pants/skirt and white blouse/shirt), or as designated in the contract.*
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 Judges'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 Appeal.
 - 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 the start values, individual score 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 0.10
 - b. Coach standing between the bars or next to beam throughout the entire exercise 0.10
 - c. Any part of the body touching outside of the Floor Exercise border marking each time 0.10
 - d. Failure to present to Chief Judge before; to any judge after exercise each time 0.10
 - e. Failure to mark the boundary line on additional matting which covers the boundary line. 0.10
 - f. Gymnast fails to begin exercise within 30 sec. after the Chief Judge signals to begin 0.20
 - g. Unsportsmanlike conduct of gymnast (after warning) 0.20
 - h. Incorrect padding (Gymnast wearing heel/hip pads on bars) 0.20
 - * 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 jewelry) (after a warning) 0.20
- * 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.
- 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 used on the Vault runway; however, such markings should be no more than 2 inches wide and must be removed by the end of the rotation. The judge must issue a warning before taking a deduction if the measurement is exceeded or if the 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 0.50
(applied at Level 6 and above)
 - 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
13. Terminates an exercise if after a fall, the gymnast exceeds the allotted fall time 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 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.)

C. 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.

D. 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) 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".
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) 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".
 - 4) 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.

- 5) Additional Timers for:
 - a) Control of warm-up periods:
During timed warm-ups or the 30-second touch warm-up, the timer should not begin timing until the gymnast is prepared to mount (within a reasonable time).
 - The following are NOT included in the 30-second touch warm-up time:
 - Adjustment (setting) of the bars
 - Adjustment and/or marking of the beam
 - Setting the board for Beam or Bars
 - Procedures for 30-second touch warm-ups: After 10 seconds has passed, announces "20 seconds remaining". After 20 seconds have passed, announces "10 seconds remaining." At 30 seconds, announces "time".
 - If the gymnast is preparing for a skill or a dismount when time is called, she may continue to finish the skill and/or dismount without penalty.
 - If a gymnast fails to leave the apparatus after "time" has been called, the Timer must warn the gymnast by announcing "time exceeded". If the gymnast then continues on the apparatus, the Timer reports the infraction to the Chief Judge, who then deducts 0.20 from the average score.
 - b) Control of the beginning of the exercise after flashing of the green light or signal from the Chief Judge (Fall timer can do this also.)
 - c) Assistant to operate the instrument or flashboard that indicates the vault numbers.
 - d) Other assistants as required by the Chief Judge, Jury of Appeals, or Meet Organizers.

E. JURY OF APPEALS

1. Is comprised of the following individuals:
 - a. Meet Referee or Technical Director - President of the Jury
 - b. Meet Director (non-voting, if the questions relate to his/her gymnast)
 - c. Chief Judges of all four events (or of the event involved, whichever would be appropriate.)
 - d. USA Gymnastics personnel (State/Regional Administrative Committee Chairman and/or Regional/National J. O. Committee Chairman.)
2. For Regional and National competitions, the Jury of Appeals is comprised of:
 - a. Meet Director (unless affiliated with the inquiry)
 - b. Meet Referee
 - c. USA Gymnastics elected Jr. Olympic or Administrative officer
3. Rights and duties of the Jury of Appeals
 - a. Governs all technical and organizational matters of the competition.
 - b. Makes the final decision regarding any unusual situations. If a deduction taken from the All-Around score by the Meet Referee was challenged, the Jury of Appeals would then convene to make the final decision.
 - c. Reviews improperly handled inquiries:
If administrative procedures were not followed properly on a submitted inquiry, the coach may petition the Jury of Appeals for a review within 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.

Procedures for Inquiries:

- 1) Properly written inquiry form by the coach.
 - 2) Inquiry submitted in a timely manner to the Meet Referee or Meet Director.
 - 3) Inquiry reviewed/answered by the judging panel of the event in question.
 - 4) Inquiry returned to Meet Referee or Meet Director.
 - 5) Meet Referee or Meet Director returns inquiry form to coach by hand or by a pre-defined inquiry return procedure.
4. Methods of settling a case by the Jury of Appeals
- a. Discussion
 - b. Voting on a decision
 - c. Majority vote dictates the final decision

3. Adjustments are made in the scores to conform to the allowable range.
 4. It is the professional responsibility of the judges to come to an agreement if their scores are initially out of range.
 5. If judges are unable to compromise, the Chief Judge may mandate that the scores be brought into allowable range.
 - The procedure of using the score of the Chief Judge or Meet Referee to average with the original average score of the two (or four) judges, that is, Base Score, is no longer used.
- E. Judges may evaluate in 0.05 increments at all Jr. Olympic competitions.
- F. A final score of 1.00 will be awarded for any Compulsory or Optional exercise that results in a score equal to or less than one (1.00) point.
- G. Open Scoring
1. Is required at the Jr. Olympic National Championships. Each judge's score, as well as the average score, will be posted.
 2. Is allowed at State and Regional Championships for the Optional Levels (determined by State/Regional Administrative committees).
 3. Is allowed at Optional Invitationals, at the discretion of the Meet Director.
 4. Is not allowed at Compulsory meets and Local/Sectional Optional meets. Each judge sends a score to the Chief Judge and only the average score is posted.
 5. Procedures for Open Scoring
 - a. Each judge must independently determine his/her score.
 - b. Each judge must record the Start Value and final score on the judging slip and send it to the Chief Judge via the runner.
 - If an electronic scoring system is used, the judge must flash the Start Value manually and enter the score electronically.
 - c. After the Chief Judge receives all judging slips or reviews the electronically displayed scores, the individual judges' scores and average score are then flashed on the score-flashing unit.
 - d. If the score is changed as a result of a conference, the adjusted score should be re-flashed as a "Corrected Score".
- H. Flashing of Start Values at Optional Competitions
1. Is required at ALL Jr. Olympic Optional (Levels 6 -10) competitions.
 2. The Start Values can be flashed or written on the gymnast's competition card.
 3. It is the individual judge's responsibility to provide her/his own Start Value flashing units unless they are provided by the meet host.
 4. Procedures for Flashing Start Values
 - a. Each judge should independently determine a Start Value.
 - b. The Start Value and the final score should be recorded on the judging slip and sent via the runner to the Chief Judge.
 - c. Each judge should flash the Start Value on the Start Value flashing unit as soon as the Chief Judge receives ALL judges' score slips (*or all judges have entered their score into the electronic scoring system*).
 - d. Judges do not have to agree on the Start Value. A conference MAY be called to determine if the Start Value needs to be adjusted, either up or down.
 - e. If the Start Value is changed as a result of a conference, the adjusted Start Value should be re-flashed.
- I. Time Frame for Changing a Score
- Once the final average score is submitted to the scoring system, it may not be changed unless there is an inquiry. However, the Chief Judge is allowed to change a score after submission to the scoring system if a neutral deduction (such as out of bounds or overtime) was inadvertently not applied or if a data entry error was made.

- The element was used in the exact same connection the second time it was performed, or
- The exact same single element was performed a second time with the same entrance and exit.

Example on Beam: ; later performs 

Back walkover (A) STOP Back Walkover (0), then later performs Back Walkover (A), Flic-flac step-out (B)

In this example, the third Back Walkover receives Value-Part credit and therefore can fulfill the Acro Special Requirement

3. When several elements or variations of a single element are listed under the same number in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points* or *J.O. Updates*, they may be recognized as different elements provided that they meet specific criteria. See the specific apparatus chapters for further clarification.

D. Any element not listed in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points* or *J.O. Updates* must be submitted in writing and on videotape to the respective Regional Technical Committee Chairman **and Regional Jr. Olympic Committee Chairman** in order to be evaluated for Value Part credit. ***The Regional Technical Committee Chairman will then return the signed Element Evaluation form to the coach indicating the final decision as to the Value to be awarded.***

1. A copy of this evaluation must be presented to the Meet Referee or Chief Judge prior to the competition in order to insure proper awarding of difficulty.
2. Evaluations will be valid for one Jr. Olympic quadrennium (beginning Aug. 1 of the year following the Olympics) and will be posted on regional websites.
3. Any newly evaluated element of "C" value or above performed with the definite technical specifications **at Jr. Olympic Nationals** will be named for the gymnast who submitted and performed the element and added to the Jr. Olympic Code of Points listing of elements. If more than one gymnast performs the same new element at the same competition, the element will not be named for the gymnast.
4. "A" Dance elements on Beam and Floor Exercise: If a variation of an "A" Dance element is not listed in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points*, the judge may award "A" value if it is comparable to the "root" element.

E. The "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" Value Parts require a definite technical execution. If the element is not executed according to the requirements, it may be recognized as another element as listed in the *Jr. Olympic Code of Points* or *J.O. Updates*.

F. Any salto element performed with major deviation from proper technique that results in the inability to land on any part of the bottom of the feet first will not receive Value Part or Special Requirement credit.

G. The Value Part requirements for Jr. Olympic Optional Competition are:

<u>Level 10</u>	<u>Level 9</u>	<u>Level 8</u>	<u>Level 7</u>	<u>Level 6</u>
3 A	3 A	4 A	5 A	5 A
3 B	4 B	4 B	2 B	1 B
2 C	1 C	0 C	0 C	0 C

H. **DIFFICULTY RESTRICTIONS**

1. Level 10 has no difficulty restrictions.
2. Level 9 restrictions
 - a. Only "A", "B" and "C" elements, plus any number of allowable "D/E" elements may be performed at Level 9. The allowable "D/E's" are:
 - Dance "D/E's" (awarded "C") on Beam and Floor
 - Any "B" or "C" root elements with a full pirouette ("D" awarded "C") on Uneven Bars. See Bar chapter for examples.
 - b. In addition to any of the above allowable "D/E" elements, Level 9 gymnasts may also perform a maximum of one other restricted "D or E" element per event from any group.

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 *and different elements within those 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, Vault *and on an isolated salto or the last salto in an Acro series on Floor Exercise*.

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.

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.
 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. ***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.

IV. JUDGE INADVERTENTLY MISSES THE EXERCISE

The following procedures are to be used in the rare occurrence that one judge misses the exercise:

- A. **With a 2-judge panel:** The gymnast has two options after the coach is advised of the score of the judge who evaluated the whole routine: 1) accept that score, OR 2) repeat the exercise after a reasonable period of rest. If the gymnast elects to repeat, the score of the second routine will count.
- B. **With a 4-judge panel:** The final score is determined by entering a score for the judge who missed the routine that is equal to the highest score given by the three other judges and then averaging the two middle scores, as usual. This method gives the gymnast the benefit of having the highest possible score and there is no need for the option to repeat the exercise.
- C. In either case, the Chief Judge should consult with the Meet Referee, who will then notify the coach of the gymnast's options.

V. PROCEDURES FOR FALLS/INJURIES RESULTING IN BLEEDING

- A. Take steps to stop the bleeding immediately and cover the wound as soon as possible.
- B. 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.
- C. If the 30-second (Beam) or 45-second (Bars) fall time is exceeded before the wound can be covered, then the exercise is terminated.
- D. If there is blood on any equipment or mats after the gymnast finishes her routine, the blood must be removed prior to beginning the next gymnast's routine.
- E. The coach and athlete have the right to determine if the athlete can continue the routine after the fall (within the fall time limitations).

VI. RE-EVALUATION OF EXERCISE

- A. If a judge realizes that a gymnast was mistakenly judged using incorrect rules for her level, the routine may be re-evaluated using the appropriate rules to determine the correct Start Value and specific compositional deductions, based on the judges' shorthand.
 - This re-evaluation must occur within 5 minutes of the end of the competition for that session.
 - The judging panel must notify the Meet Referee and scoring personnel that the re-evaluation is to occur.
 - The coach must be notified immediately of any score change.
- B. At State and above Championship meets, in extenuating circumstances the Meet Referee has the authority to allow a judging panel to review a routine to verify that the Special Requirements were fulfilled.
 - The coach must be notified that a review will occur.
 - No additional deductions are allowed to be taken by a judge after the review if the Special Requirement(s) in question is (are) awarded.