

Judges ~ Chapter 1 ~ Evaluation of Exercises

I. SKILLS and VALUE-PARTS

- A. **BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD Divisions**, exercises are composed of “Skills” and “Value-Parts” (VP).
- Skills listed on **BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD Skill Charts**:
 - receive “A” Value-Part credit, and
 - may fulfill Special Requirements at the designated Division.
 - Skills listed in Xcel Code of Points:
 - receive value listed, even if different from Junior Olympic Code of Points value.
 - are allowable elements for that Division and will:
 - receive VP credit, and
 - may fulfill Special Requirements.
- B. **PLATINUM and DIAMOND Divisions**, exercises are composed of
- Skills listed on **PLATINUM or DIAMOND Skill Charts** “A”
 - Skills listed in Xcel Code of Point: with different difficulty values:
 - “A” = part with easy difficulty 0.10 pt.
 - “B” = part with medium difficulty 0.30 pt.
 - “C” = part with high difficulty 0.50 pt.
 - “D” = part with higher difficulty (**DIAMOND** Division only).
(only one (1) “D” is allowed as an additional element or to replace lower VP; No Bonus awarded.)
- C. Higher Value-Parts can replace lower Value-Parts, but not reverse.
Replacement is one (1) to one (1) basis, regardless of value.
- Skill Charts or Xcel Code of Points elements can be recognized two (2) times for Value-Part credit:
 - provided the element occurs in a different connection, (i.e., preceded or followed by a different element).
 - EXCEPTION Floor Exercise: Acro Flight skills with hand support
 - eligible to receive VP, regardless of the number of times performed, provided series are different.
 - may fulfill Special Requirement credit.
 - Acro Flight elements with hand support are eligible**:
 - To receive Value-Part credit regardless of the number of times performed (provided the series are different).**
 - May fulfill Special Requirements.**
- D. Same element performed third (3rd) time, or second (2nd) time in exact Same connection:
- No Value-Part credit awarded.
EXAMPLE – Beam: Back Walkover “A”, lands on Beam, < falls > Back Walkover “A” + Back Walkover (“0”)
 - No Value-Part credit awarded for third (3rd) Back walkover and
 - No Acro Series awarded since one (1) element had no value.
 - No Special Requirements awarded.
 - Applicable Execution and Amplitude deductions are applied.
 - EXCEPTION: Value-Part credit can be awarded for element performed third (3rd) time if:
 - Previously not awarded Value-Part credit:
 - element lacked completion first (1st) or second (2nd) time performed, or
 - element used in exact same connection second time (2nd) performed,
 - Exact same single element performed second (2nd) time with same entrance and exit.
EXAMPLE – Beam:
Back Walkover “A” stop Back Walkover (“0”) later: Back Walkover “A” + Flic-Flac step-out “B”
Third (3rd) Back Walkover receives Value-Part credit and can fulfill Acro Special Requirement.
- E. Elements listed under Same Number in Xcel Code of Points, may be recognized as Different element.
- Must meet specific criteria (see specific apparatus chapters for further clarifications).
 - EXAMPLE – Beam: Back Walkover “A” and Back Walkover on one arm “A”
Variations of the same element and both will receive VP credit.
- F. New Elements not listed in Xcel Skill Charts or Xcel Code of Points must be evaluated by:
- Regional Technical Chair and National Xcel Committee Chair.
 - Element Evaluation forms found on www.usagym.org website in Forms section under Women.
 - Copy of evaluation must be presented to Meet Referee prior to the competition to ensure proper awarding of difficulty.
 - Evaluations will be valid for one (1) current Xcel quadrennium (Xcel quadrennium begins August 1 of the year following the Summer Olympics and ends four years later on July 31) and will be posted on Regional websites.
 - “A” Dance elements on Beam / Floor Exercise: variation comparable to “Root” “A” Dance element, Judge may award “A” value if not listed in Xcel Code of Points.

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SKILLS and VALUE-PARTS (continued)

- G. "A" "B" "C" and "D" Value-Parts require definite Technical Execution.
 Elements not executed according to requirements,
 • Recognized as another element listed in Xcel Skill Charts or Xcel Code of Points, OR
 • Award No VP credit.
- H. Salto elements – fail to land on any part of bottom of feet first:
 1. No Value-Part credit awarded.
 2. No Special Requirement credit awarded.
- I. Value-Part Requirements for Xcel Competition are:

| BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD | PLATINUM | DIAMOND |
|--|--------|------|----------|---------|
| See Rules Charts for Specific requirements for these Divisions. | | | 6 "A" | 5 "A" |
| | | | 1 "B" | 2 "B" |

J. DIFFICULTY RESTRICTIONS

1. **RESTRICTED ELEMENTS:**

Elements are Restricted based upon their Value as listed in the Xcel Code of Points not based on the quality/amplitude of the performance.

a. *If a restricted element is performed: (All Divisions)*

- 1) **Deduct 0.50 from SV**
- 2) **Do not award Value-Part credit**
- 3) **The element cannot be used to fulfill Special Requirements**
- 4) **All appropriate execution and amplitude deductions would be applied to all elements, whether or not they receive Value-Part credit.**

2. **BRONZE Division ~ Restrictions**

- a. Only Skills listed on **BRONZE** Skill Chart and allowable ("A"/"B") elements.
- b. Allowable "B" elements receive "A" VP Credit:
 1. **Beam:**
 - a) Cross Split Jump (135 - 180° split)
 - b) Cross Straddle Jump (135 - 180° split)
 - c) Split Leap (180°)
 2. **Floor:**
 - a) Side Leap (135° – 180° split)
 - b) Straddle Jump (60° – 180° split)
- c. Other "B" or higher VP elements are **NOT ALLOWED**.
- d. List of "A" Value-Parts **NOT ALLOWED** in **BRONZE** Division
 1. **Bars:** Salto Dismounts, any skills on HB
 2. **Beam:** Walkover, Salto / Aerial Dismounts
 3. **Floor:** Saltos / Aerials, More than two (2) Flight Skills

3. **SILVER Division ~ Restrictions**

- a. Only Skills listed on **SILVER** Skill Chart, allowable "A" elements, and "B" Dance elements.
- b. List of "A" Value-Parts **NOT ALLOWED** in **SILVER** Division:
 1. **Bars:** Giants (LB / HB), Salto Dismounts
 2. **Floor:** more than one (1) Salto / Aerial.
- c. Other "B" or higher VP elements are **NOT ALLOWED**, except "B" Dance elements.

4. **GOLD Division ~ Restrictions**

- a. Only Skills listed on **GOLD** Skill Chart, "A" elements and allowable "B" elements.
- b. List of "B" Value-Parts **NOT ALLOWED** in **GOLD** Division
 1. **Bars:** Giants, Release moves with bar change
 2. **Floor:** "B" Saltos
- c. "C" or higher VP elements are **NOT ALLOWED**.

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DIFFICULTY RESTRICTIONS (continued)

5. **PLATINUM** Division ~ Restrictions
 - a. Only Skills listed on PLATINUM Skill Chart, “A” / “B” VP elements and “C” Dance VP elements.
 - b. Allowable “C” element receives “B” VP credit
 1. **Bars:** Clear Hip to Handstand
 - c. Other “C” or higher VP elements are NOT ALLOWED, except “C” Dance elements.

6. **DIAMOND** Division ~ Restrictions
 - a. Only Skills listed on DIAMOND Skill Chart and “A” “B” “C” and one (1) “D” VP elements.
No Bonus awarded for “D” element.
 - b. “E” VP elements and / or more than one (1) “D” element are NOT ALLOWED.

II. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each event has four (4) Special Requirements worth 0.50 each.
- B. Restricted elements may not be used to fulfill Special Requirements.
 - Elements are Restricted based on their Value as listed in the *Xcel Code of Points*, not on the quality / amplitude of the performance
- C. Elements with no Value-Part credit may not be used to fulfill Special Requirements.
- D. More than one (1) Special Requirement, may be fulfilled by one (1) Skill / VP element, unless otherwise specified.

III. EXECUTION (Technique / Amplitude / Posture) and ARTISTRY

- A. Characteristics of excellent execution / amplitude would include:
 1. Maximum amplitude or range of movement of the body:
 - a. Externally – relationship of body to apparatus or ground.
 - b. Internally – focuses upon range of motion within joints of the body.
Range through which one or more individual body segments move relative to each other.
 2. Turns in Saltos (breadth axis, longitudinal axis, or combination turns) completed at highest point of flight trajectory.
 3. Optimal body lines, extension and posture.
- B. Characteristics of excellent Artistry include:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. <u>Originality / Creativity</u> of choreography in elements and connections | up to 0.10 * |
| 2. Quality of Gymnast's movement to reflect <u>Personal Style</u> | up to 0.10 * |
| 3. Quality of <u>Expression</u> (i.e., projections, focus) | up to 0.10 * |
| * maximum deduction of 0.10 in each category | |

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EXECUTION (Technique / Amplitude / Posture) and ARTISTRY (continued)

C. General deductions for faults in Technique, Execution, Amplitude, and Artistry on Bars, Beam and Floor

| Slight / Small Faults: up to 0.10 | |
|--|--|
| each time <u>0.05</u> | Flexed / Sickled feet during Value-Part elements |
| <u>0.05</u> | Failure to join (slide) Heels together on controlled extension of Vault / Dismount landing when feet are a maximum of Hip-width apart |
| up to 0.10 | Slight Hop, small adjustment of feet, or feet staggered (one in front of the other) on landing of elements or Dismounts <i>FX Acro elements:</i> small controlled step after landing to finish in lunge is allowed with no deduction. |
| up to 0.10 | Deviation from straight Direction on landing |
| up to 0.10 | Arm Swings on landing |
| up to 0.10 | Legs Crossed during Value-Part elements with a Twist |
| up to 0.10 | Brush / Touch of Foot / Feet on Apparatus or Mat |
| up to 0.10 | Entire Foot / Feet slide or lifted off floor to join on controlled extension of Vault / Dismount landing, when feet are maximum of Hip-width apart (small step) |
| <u>0.10</u> | Landing Vault / Dismount with feet further than Hip-width apart |
| each step <u>0.10</u> | Steps on Landing (per step – maximum of 0.4) |
| Medium Faults up to 0.20 | |
| up to 0.20 | Leg or Knee separation |
| | Insufficient Exactness of Body Positions |
| up to 0.20 | Insufficient <u>Tuck</u> (Ideal = min. of 90° bend in both Hips and Knees) |
| up to 0.20 | Insufficient <u>Pike</u> (Ideal = min. of 90° bend in Hips, 91° - 135° = insufficient pike) |
| up to 0.20 | Insufficient <u>Stretch</u> (Ideal = straight 180° position, greater than 135° is stretched) |
| up to 0.20 | » Arch |
| up to 0.20 | » Hip angle = 136° - 179° |
| up to 0.20 | Failure to maintain Stretched body position (Pikes down) |
| up to 0.20 | Incorrect Body Posture on landing |
| up to 0.20 | Insufficient Split when required (Dance / Non-flight Acro elements) |
| <u>0.20</u> | Large Step / Jump on landing (approximately 3 feet or more) |
| up to 0.20 | Additional Trunk movements to maintain balance / control upon landing UB / BB Dismounts or Floor Acro elements. Applies to “stuck” landings, using trunk movements to avoid steps. |
| up to 0.20 | Incomplete Turn / Twist |
| Large Faults up to 0.30 | |
| up to 0.30 | Bent Arms in Support or |
| up to 0.30 | Bent Knees (90° or more) |
| each max. 0.3 | No more than 0.30 for Bent Leg(s) / no more than 0.30 for Bent Arm(s) on one (1) element. |
| up to 0.30 | Additional Movements to maintain balance / control on BEAM |
| up to 0.30 | Squat on Landing (hips even with / lower than knees) |
| up to 0.30 | Brushes / Touches landing surface with one (1) or two (2) hands (No Support) |
| up to 0.30 | Insufficient Extension (open) of body prior to landing – UB / BB dismounts and BB / FX Acro |
| up to 0.30 | Insufficient Height of Salto Dismount (UB / BB) |
| <u>0.30</u> | Use of Supplemental Support (BB) - EXAMPLES in specific apparatus chapter |
| Very Large Faults <u>0.50</u> | |
| <u>0.50</u> | Support on Mat with (1) or (2) hands |
| <u>0.50</u> | Fall on Mat to Knee(s) or Hips |
| <u>0.50</u> | Fall on / against apparatus |
| <u>0.50</u> | Fall / Failure to land on bottom of feet first, No Value-Part / No Special Requirement |
| <u>0.50</u> | Spotting Assistance <u>upon</u> landing of Dismount element, Award VP / Award SR |
| <u>0.50 + 0.50</u> | Spotting Assistance <u>upon</u> landing and <u>Fall</u> after Spot upon landing |
| <u>0.50</u> | Spotting Assistance <u>during an element</u> , No Value-Part / No Special Requirement |

Judges ~ Chapter 1 ~ Evaluation of Exercises

GENERAL DEDUCTIONS FOR FAULTS (continued)

- D. Clarification on Steps on Landing:
1. Deduct 0.10 for step-close, considered one (1) step.
Deduct 0.05 for very small step-close or other small foot movement.
 - a. EXAMPLES: one (1) step
 - 1) Lands with feet together, takes one (1) step forward / sideward / backward on Right foot; then returns Right foot to join Left foot, OR
 - 2) Lands with feet together, takes one (1) step forward / backward / sideward on Right foot; then steps with Left foot to join Right foot.
 2. Out of control / additional movements to maintain balance after step(s), additional deductions may be applied.
 3. Maximum deduction of 0.40 for any number of Steps (small / large). Steps out of control, leading to a fall, only apply the 0.50 deduction for a fall.
 4. Deduct for landing with feet apart / staggered only when Gymnast "Sticks" the landing. Deduct only for additional steps, after steps on landing are taken.

IV. Xcel EXERCISE REQUIREMENT FORMULA

| | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD | PLATINUM | DIAMOND |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| Value-Parts (VP) | NA | NA | NA | 0.90 | 1.10 |
| Special Requirements (SR) | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Execution / Artistry | 8.00 * | 8.00 * | 8.00 * | 7.10 * | 6.90 * |

* Maximum amount of Execution Deductions = 4.0, which includes Falls.

Deduct for Artistry and Spotting Assistance in addition to Maximum Execution.

Compositional deductions are not applied to any division in the Xcel Program.

V. CALCULATING START VALUES AT Xcel COMPETITIONS

- A. All Judges independently determine the Start Value.
- B. Not mandatory that Judges agree on Start Value, but an impossible Start Value, requires a Conference.
- C. Steps in determining the Start Value:
1. All routines in Xcel begin at 10.00 SV
 2. DEDUCT from Start Value:
 - a. Missing Value-Parts (Platinum & Diamond)
 - b. Missing Special Requirements (0.50 each)
 - c. Exercise is without a Dismount (0.30)
 - d. Performance of Restricted Elements (0.50 each)
- D. EXAMPLES of Determining Start Value:
1. **DIAMOND** Division 5 "A" 2 "B"
Gymnast performs: 8 "A" 1 "B" and missing 1 SR (- 0.50)

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| | 10.0 |
| Missing 1 "B" | - 0.3 |
| Missing SR | - 0.5 |
| | 9.2 SV |
 2. **PLATINUM** Division 6 "A" 1 "B"
Gymnast performs: 6 "A" 1 "C" Acro + 1 "C" Dance and meets all SR all VP requirements are met

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | 10.0 |
| Restricted Element | - 0.5 "C" Acro element) |
| | 9.5 SV |
 3. **GOLD** Division (UB: 6 Skills / VP)
On Bars, Gymnast performs: 1 "A" 1 "B" + 3 skills from **GOLD** Skill Chart / missing Circling Skill SR

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | 10.0 |
| Missing 6 th Skill / VP | - 0.5 SR # 1 (Do <u>not</u> deduct 0.1 for missing an "A" VP) |
| Missing Circling Skill | - 0.5 SR # 3 |
| | 9.0 SV |

Judges ~ Chapter 2 ~ Scoring

I. DETERMINING AVERAGE SCORE

A. Four (4) Judge Panel:

1. Establish Final Average Score:
 - a. Highest and Lowest scores are eliminated.
 - b. Two middle scores are averaged by:
 - 1) Add the middle two scores together
 - 2) Divide by two

EXAMPLE:

Chief Judge 1: 9.40 High eliminated

Judge 2: 9.00 Low eliminated

Judge 3: 9.20

Judge 4: 9.30

$$9.20 + 9.30 = 18.50 / 2 = 9.25 \text{ Average Score}$$

2. Average Score determines allowable range between two counting scores.
3. Two counting scores out of range, Chief Judge calls a conference.

B. Two (2) Judge Panel:

1. Establish Final Average Score:
 - a. Two scores added.
 - b. Divided by two.

EXAMPLE:

Chief Judge 1: 7.80

Judge 2: 7.50

$$7.80 + 7.50 = 15.30 / 2 = 7.65 \text{ Average Score}$$

2. Average Score determines allowable range between two (2) scores.
3. Two (2) scores out of range, Chief Judge calls a conference.

II. RANGE OF SCORES

- A. Range of Scores is allowable difference between the two (2) counting scores.
- B. Average Score, not the Chief Judge's score, determines the Range.
- C. USA Gymnastics Xcel competitions, Allowable Range of Scores between two middle scores, or two (2) scores, when only two (2) Judges are used:

| <u>Average Score between:</u> | <u>Range of Two Counting Scores</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.50 – 10.00 | 0.20 pt. |
| 9.00 – 9.475 | 0.50 pt. |
| 8.00 – 8.975 | 0.70 pt. |
| Below 8.000 | 1.00 pt. |

- D. Too great a difference between the two scores, a conference of Judges is called. Discrepancy is resolved by one of the following procedures:
 1. Start Value discussed.
 2. Mathematical procedures checked for accuracy.
 3. Adjustments made in scores to conform to allowable range.
 4. Professional responsibility of Judges to come to an agreement if scores are initially out of range.
 5. Judges unable to compromise, Chief Judge may mandate scores be brought into allowable range.
- E. Judges may evaluate in 0.05 increments at all Xcel competitions.
- F. Final Courtesy Score of 4.00 will be awarded for any Xcel exercise that results in a score equal to or less than four (4.00) points.
- G. Open Scoring is not allowed at Xcel competitions below State Championships.
 1. State Administrative Committee determines if Open Scoring is allowed at Xcel State Championships.
 2. Regional Administrative Committee determines if Open Scoring is allowed at Xcel Regional Championships.

Judges ~ Chapter 2 ~ Scoring

RANGE OF SCORES (continued)

H. Flashing of Start Values at Xcel Competitions

1. Required at all Divisions of Xcel competitions.
2. Start Values can be flashed or written on Gymnast's competition card.
3. Judge's responsibility to provide Start Value flashing units, unless provided by meet host.
4. Procedures for Flashing Start Values:
 - a. Each Judge independently determines Start Value.
 - b. Start Value and Final Score recorded on judging slip and sent via runner or electronic scoring device to Chief Judge.
 - c. Each Judge displays Start Value on flashing unit, when Chief Judge receives ALL Judges' scores.
 - d. Judges do not have to agree on Start Value.
Conference MAY be called to determine if Start Value needs to be adjusted, either up or down.
 - e. Start Value changed as a result of a conference, adjusted Start Value flashed as "Corrected Start Value".

I. Time Frame for Changing a Score

1. Final Average Score submitted to scoring system:
 - a. May not be changed, unless there is an inquiry.
 - b. Chief Judge allowed to change a score, after submission to scoring system:
 - 1) If neutral deduction was inadvertently not applied (example: out of bounds / overtime) or
 - 2) If data entry error was made.
 - 3) Score change must occur:
 - a) Prior to end of rotation, or
 - b) Within five (5) minutes of end of session (example: data entry error).
 - 4) Coach must be notified of score change and if possible, new score should be displayed to the public.
2. Routine mistakenly judged using Incorrect Division Rules
 - a. May be re-evaluated using appropriate rules, based on Judges' shorthand or notes.
 - 1) Re-evaluation must occur within five (5) minutes of end of session.
 - 2) Judging Panel must notify Meet Referee and scoring personnel of the Re-evaluation.
 - b. Coach must be notified of score change and if possible, new score should be displayed to the public.

Judges ~ Chapter 3 ~ Unusual Judging Situations

I. INCOMPLETE EXERCISE / EXTREMELY SHORT ROUTINE (VT / UB / BB / FX)

- A. Courtesy Score of 4.0 may be awarded for an extremely Short Routine due to injury or unusual circumstances.
- B. No routine will be awarded less than 4.0.
 - EXCEPTION: if a "0" (VOID) is earned on Vault.
- C. Common sense should prevail.

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 Gymnast or Coach, Gymnast may choose to:

- A. Stop immediately and request permission from Chief Judge to either:
 - 1. Repeat routine or to continue from point of interruption.
 - 2. Permission granted, perform after reasonable amount of rest time.
 - 3. No score would be given for the partial routine.
- B. Continue to complete routine. At the completion of the routine,
 - 1. Gymnast and Coach must decide whether to repeat the routine or accept the score given.
 - 2. Judges will not post score until that decision is made
 - 3. Floor Exercise: no deduction taken for music failure, if the decision is to accept the score.
- C. Equipment failure does not include: unfastening of bandages / handgrips, loss / partial loss of footwear, incorrect bar setting, or failure to tighten cables/T-handles on Bars and Beam.
- D. Any decision regarding repetition of an exercise must be made by Chief Judge, in consultation with Meet Referee.

III. INQUIRIES

- A. Coach is entitled to see the four (or two) scores of individual Gymnast.
- B. Coach has a question regarding an exercise during competition:
 - 1. Chief Judge / Meet Referee should advise Coach to submit Inquiry Form to officially receive information.
 - 2. No casual conversation during competition between Coach and Judge regarding evaluation of an exercise.
- C. Inquiries are limited to questions regarding:
 - 1. Start Value
 - 2. Neutral deductions
 - 3. Falls
 - 4. Unusual Occurrences
- D. Inquiries must be legibly written on official Inquiry Form by the Coach:
 - 1. Only allowed at the State Meet and above.
 - 2. Submitted within five (5) minutes of completion of event rotation to Meet Director or Meet Referee.
 - 3. Meet Director will forward to Meet Referee, who gives inquiry to Chief Judge of apparatus in question.
 - 4. No fee may be charged to submit an inquiry.
 - 5. Coaches need to be aware that an inquiry allows for a second evaluation, which may result in:
 - a. No change in score.
 - b. Score being raised.
 - c. Score being lowered.
- E. Score Review at Sectional / State / Regional Meets: after completion of the last event:
 - 1. All-Around score = MAXIMUM of 0.10 less than qualifying score to State / Regional Championships,
 - a. Coach may submit an inquiry for Gymnast's lowest scoring event.
 - b. This does not apply to Individual Event Specialists (IES).
 - 2. Change of Score is official and included in official results.
 - 3. Process does not apply:
 - a. For mobility purposes.
 - b. If qualification to State / Regional meet is by percentage or designated number per age division.

Judges ~ Chapter 3 ~ Unusual Judging Situations

INQUIRIES (continued)

- F. Chief Judge and Panel Judge(s) will respond, providing only information requested.
1. Chief Judge completes inquiry, Meet Referee / Meet Director returns form to Coach, either by hand / by pre-defined inquiry return procedure.
 2. Coach may not approach Judge(s) regarding inquiry, during competition.
- G. No Video Review is allowed at any Xcel competition, unless the following criteria is met:
1. State meets and above, during processing of an Inquiry:
Coach can request Video Review by Meet Referee and highest rated Non-affiliated Judge (if video is available) when an Inquiry involves:
 - a. Possibility the Judges missed an element that would affect the Start Value.
 - b. **Vault:** whether Gymnast lands on feet first.
 - c. **Bars:** verification that Gymnast grasps or touches the bar with one (1) or two (2) hands before falling on a release element.
 - Verification that the dismount landed on the feet first prior to falling.
 - d. **Beam:** To determine if gymnast landed on bottom of the feet on top of the beam.
 - Verification that an element landed with the foot on top of the Beam prior to falling.
 - Verification that the dismount landed on the feet first prior to falling.
 - e. **Floor:** To determine if gymnast landed on bottom of the feet on Saltos.
 - Verification that an element landed on the feet first prior to falling.
 2. Video Review process may not be used to appeal a judgment of degree assessment, (for example: degree of casts / handstands / incomplete turns / direct connection of elements / or leg separation in leaps.
 3. Affiliated Meet Referee / highest rated Judge with the athlete in question,
 - a. Video Review will be conducted by the two highest rated non-affiliated Judges, OR
 - b. Highest rated non-affiliated Judge and a USA Gymnastics officer.
 4. Meet Referee must inform Judging Panel that a video review will be initiated, as well as the final decision.
 5. Video Review must be viewed in normal speed. Slow motion viewing is not allowed.
- H. If procedures stated above (under "F.") are not properly followed on a submitted inquiry:
1. Coach may petition the **Jury of Appeals** for a review within five (5) minutes of the end of rotation / competition or return of Inquiry Form, whichever occurs later.
 2. Video Review, if available, may be considered by the Jury of Appeals.
 3. Jury decision should occur within 15 minutes after conclusion of meet and before awards are presented.

IV. JUDGE INADVERTENTLY MISSES THE EXERCISE

The following procedures are to be used in the rare occurrence that one (1) Judge misses the exercise:

- A. **2-Judge Panel:** two options after 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.
 3. Gymnast elects to repeat, score of second routine will count.
- B. **4-Judge Panel:** final score is determined
1. Enter score for Judge who missed routine = highest score given by three other Judges and then averaging two middle scores, as usual.
 2. Gives the benefit of having highest possible score and no need to repeat the exercise.
- C. Chief Judge should consult with Meet Referee, who will then notify Coach of the options.

V. PROCEDURES FOR FALLS / INJURIES RESULTING IN BLEEDING

- A. Take steps to stop bleeding immediately and cover wound as soon as possible.
- B. Bleeding wound (or any other injury due to a fall) does not give the right to repeat exercise or resume from interruption.
- C. 30-second (Beam) / 45-second (Bars) Fall Time exceeded before wound can be covered, then exercise is terminated.
- D. Blood on any equipment or mats after routine finishes, blood must be removed prior to beginning the next Gymnast's routine.
- E. Coach and Gymnast have the right to determine if Gymnast can continue the routine after the fall (within Fall Time limits).

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE Xcel MEET OFFICIALS

A. GENERAL DUTIES OF ALL OFFICIALS

1. Individual Judges shall perform their function as a Judge of the Meet according to USA Gymnastics Rules and Policies, membership policies and USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics.
2. Individual Judges shall be limited to judging, evaluating and scoring the competition.
 - a. Shall not involve herself / himself with the conduct of Gymnast during warm-ups or training.
 - b. Comments to Gymnast should be made only if requested from Coach or Gymnast.
3. Individual Judges will be bound by terms of individual contract agreed upon for the 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 contract to Meet Director and contracting official.
6. Judges are not allowed to accept gifts, in addition to USA Gymnastics Judges' Compensation Package fees / expenses, unless the gift does not exceed retail value of \$20.00.
7. Judges are not allowed to act in 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 their event station until entire competition has been completed.
 - c. Must avoid conversations with Coaches regarding evaluation of exercises.
 - d. Must be willing to compromise when the two (2) counting scores are out of range.
9. Must wear correct uniform.
 - a. Navy blue pants / skirt and White blouse / shirt or as designated in contract.
 - b. Theme meets: Judges may wear the official uniform or dress in the theme of the meet.
10. Chief Judge and Panel Judge(s) are responsible for:
 - a. Flashing Start Value at all Xcel meets, or write SV on Gymnast's score card.
 - b. Must provide SV flashing unit, unless provided by meet host.
11. Judges may use Electronic Devices (including: cell phones, tablets, etc.) only for Gymnastics purposes on the Field of Play.

B. Xcel MEET REFEREE (may also act as Chief Judge)

1. Meet Referee, or acting Meet Referee, must be designated at all Xcel sanctioned competitions.
2. Acting Judge / Meet Referee (State Championships and above), receives Chief Judge's fee or Meet Referee's fee, but not both. No dual compensation allowed.
3. Meet Referee Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. Assists in conducting the draw prior to / at Coaches' meeting (depending on organization of meet) at State / Regional competitions, in conjunction with:
 - 1) Appropriate USA Gymnastics Officer, and / or
 - 2) Meet Director
 - b. Liaison between Coaches and Judges: must attend Coaches meeting (or designate a proxy) at State / Regional competitions.
 - c. Conducts Judges' meeting prior to competition.
 - 1) Presents Base Score DVD (if available) for analysis at State and above meets.
 - 2) Reviews procedures with Judges:
 - a) Logistics of the meet / scoring system, meet mechanics, etc.
 - b) Rule changes
 - c) Equipment issues
 - d) Information from Meet Director
 - e) Professional protocol reminders

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

Meet Referee Duties and Responsibilities (continued)

- d. Assigns Chief Judge and Panel Judges to respective events, as requested by State / Regional Administrative Committee for State / Regional meets.
 - 1) Recommended that State / Regional Administrative Committee assign the duty of event assignments to designated Meet Referee.
 - 2) Criteria for assignment must be followed.
 - a) Meet Referee is a Chief Judge, assigning official may make event assignments.
 - b) Local, Pre-sectional and Sectional meets, assigning official may make event assignments.
- e. During Conferences: may observe and / or give opinion.
- f. Available for counsel, upon request of Chief Judge.
- g. May counsel Chief Judge when, in her / his opinion, Average Score and / or Score of Chief Judge seems out of line with scoring in the competition.
- h. May recommend, but never force, a change of any score.
- i. Corrects and signs official score sheets after any change of score.
- j. Gives any technical or judging information pertinent to competition to Meet Director or Organizing Committee for distribution.
- k. Acts as final authority in all technical matters involving Judges, Timers, Line Judges, Flashers, individual event and AA Tabulators, as well as Equipment.
- l. Notates Warning(s) given by the Chief Judge concerning:
 - 1) Incorrect Attire or Signaling with Verbal Cue.
 - 2) Notifies Chief Judges on other events, a warning has been given and appropriate deductions may be applied.
- m. Issues warning to Coach for Unsportsmanlike Conduct: upon notification from Judge(s).
 - 1) Follow USA Gymnastics' Safe Sport Policy and Coaches Behavior Policy in Rules and Policies.
 - 2) Applied for excessive cheers and / or behavior of Teammates, or
 - 3) Applied for Coach who is disruptive to competition.
- n. Available for minimum of five (5) minutes following last competitors' exercises to deal with questions or concerns with 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:
 - 1) On Sanction Report Form or
 - 2) Notifies USA Gymnastics Member Services directly in writing by mail / FAX / e-mail.
 - 3) May be fined \$100 for failure to report a sanction violation on the sanction report form.
- r. Judges' fees and expenses: responsible for compiling and checking information for Meet Director.
- s. Checks with scoring personnel to verify:
 - 1) All scores for Gymnasts are entered.
 - 2) All inquiries have been resolved.
- t. Issues warning to Coach:
 - 1) Observes more than one (1) Gymnast on uneven bars at the same time, during any warm-up (timed or 30-second touch).
 - 2) Notifies Meet Director.
- u. Monitors Judging Panels to ensure the appropriate use of Electronic Tablets for judging and reference purposes.

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

C. Xcel CHIEF JUDGE

1. Prepares Panel Judges for correct evaluation of exercises at Judges' meeting prior to competition.
2. Checks apparatus and mats correspond to USA Gymnastics regulations and all materials necessary are available and functioning properly, including:
 - a. Light or Time Signals
 - b. Stopwatches
3. Instructs Judging Assistants to assure:
 - a. Correct use of signal to indicate Line Violations.
 - b. Correct use of Stopwatch and Timing Device to indicate Time Limitations.
 - c. Proper reporting procedures for the following Violations:
 - 1) Exceeding Time allowed
 - 2) Stepping out of floor exercise Boundary Area
 - d. Correct method of Scoring.
 - e. Correct procedures for Flashing of Start Values, Individual Score and / or Average Score.
4. Responsible for correct work of Panel Judges / Assistant Judges.
5. Uses green flag / hand signal to acknowledge the Gymnast.
6. Must evaluate the exercises:
 - a. Accurately without bias.
 - b. Must first write / enter electronic score, before reviewing scores from other Judges.
7. Must record: number of Skills "A" "B" "C" "D" VPs / Special Requirements / Start Value, and record deductions for Execution / Amplitude, Artistry and Neutral Deductions.
8. Verifies proper range of scores.
9. Verifies properly recording: Chief Judge score, Panel Judge(s) score, Average Score and Time / Line deductions.
Note: not necessary to sign official score sheet.
10. Confirms when Gymnast may repeat an exercise (or portion of the exercise) due to technical failure and determines when repetition (or continuation) will occur.
 - a. Camera flash is not a valid reason to allow Gymnast to repeat exercise.
 - b. Decisions must be made in consultation with Meet Referee prior to score being flashed.
11. Responsible for calling Conference if impossible Start Value awarded and / or to assist Judges in arriving at common basis for scoring during competition.
During the Conference:
 - a. Start Value differences clarified.
 - b. Meet Referee may be notified / included in the discussion.
 - c. Judges may change scores, but are not obliged:
 - 1) Scores are out of allowable range, adjustments must be made.
 - 2) Professional responsibility to come to agreement, if scores are initially out of range.
 - d. Judges unable to compromise, Chief Judge may mandate scores be brought into allowable range.
12. Chief Judge deducts from Average Score:
 - a. Neutral Deduction must be indicated to Coach.
 - b. Either verbally or visually, at conclusion of exercise.

Xcel Chief Judge deducts from Average Score

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| No Deduction | Coach standing between the Bars or next to Beam, throughout the entire exercise |
| No Deduction | Coach on Floor Exercise mat inside border marking |
| <u>0.10</u> | Overtime |
| each time <u>0.10</u> | Any part of the body touching outside of the Floor Exercise border marking |
| each time <u>0.10</u> | Failure to Present to Chief Judge, before exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required to present to Chief Judge <u>before</u> the exercise <u>Not</u> required to present to a Specific Judge <u>after</u> the exercise |
| <u>0.10</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to Mark Boundary Line on additional matting, which covers Boundary Line (FX) |

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

Xcel Chief Judge deducts from Average Score (continued)

| | |
|------|--|
| 0.10 | <p><u>Incorrect Attire</u> – includes <u>jewelry</u> (on the event after warning was issued) <u>Note:</u> Jewelry is not allowed to be worn during warm-ups or competition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning issued by Meet Referee / Chief Judge. • Deduction applied to first event competed after warning. MR must inform CJ at subsequent events, no further penalty taken. Deduction taken one (1) time only. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Acceptable attire</u> is one-piece leotard with / without sleeves and no bare midriff. Unitards with long legs, with / without sleeves are acceptable. b. <u>Leg cut of leotard</u> must be below pelvis / hip bone. c. <u>Backless leotards</u> are <u>not</u> acceptable. d. <u>Underwear</u> (including sports bras) should <u>not</u> be visible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible underwear due to cut of leotard, warning given. No correction made, take deduction on subsequent event. • Underwear should <u>not</u> be intentionally visible throughout entire routine. Briefs / Bra straps show due to activity, do <u>not</u> take deduction. • Common sense should prevail. e. <u>One (1) Pair of Stud Earrings</u> allowed – one (1) earring per ear in any part of ear. All other piercings must be removed and <u>not</u> covered with tape or bandage. f. <u>Necklaces / Bracelets</u> <u>not</u> allowed. <u>EXCEPTION:</u> medical bracelets. g. <u>Spaghetti Straps</u> considered inappropriate attire – minimum of 2cm (7/8”) wide. h. <u>Elastic Waistbands</u> considered incorrect attire. Medically necessary bandages are allowed. i. <u>Failure to wear Competitor Number</u>, when required. <p><u>Failure to secure Hair</u> away from the face, may <u>not</u> obscure vision of apparatus.</p> |
| 0.20 | Failure to begin exercise within 30 seconds after Chief Judge signals to begin |
| 0.20 | Unsportsmanlike Conduct of Gymnast (after warning) |
| 0.20 | <p><u>Incorrect padding</u> (wearing Heel / Hip pads on Bars)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Judge observes Heel / Hip pads, prior to mount, Warning must be given. <p>Wearing Heel / Hip pads, during exercise (whether warning given or <u>not</u>), deduction must be taken.</p> |
| 0.20 | <p><u>Technical Verbal Cues</u> by Coach or Teammate(s) to own Gymnast (after warning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EXAMPLE 1:</u> Technical Cues – “hollow”, “pull”, “breathe”, etc. • <u>EXAMPLE 2:</u> Gymnast competing, Coach gives specific information on what to do next, deduct <u>without warning</u> given. • Deduction taken only once, regardless of number of cues given. |
| 0.20 | <p><u>Failure to observe specified Warm-up Time</u> (after warning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deduction taken from Event score / Team score at Team competitions. • No deduction for jumping on board / briefly touching apparatus immediately prior to competition on UB / BB. Deduct only for the practice of an element(s). • Preparing for Skill / Dismount, when time called, continue to finish without penalty. • Fails to leave apparatus, when “Time” called, Timer must announce “Time Exceeded”. • Remaining on apparatus, Timer reports infraction to Chief Judge, takes deduction. |
| 0.20 | <p><u>Excessive Use of Magnesia (chalk)</u> or <u>Incorrect Use of Tape</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Small chalk markings may be placed on Beam (tape markings NOT allowed) b. Spreading magnesia on FX mat <u>not</u> allowed; only small marks are allowed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-Line Arc in corner of Floor is acceptable. • Velcro / Tape markings <u>not</u> allowed within Floor mat area. c. Tape markings allowed at corners to indicate Boundary Line with carpet using two (2) colors. d. Use of Tape or Excessive Chalk <u>not</u> permitted on <u>Vault Table</u>. e. Athletic Tape / Velcro strips / Small Chalk marks may be used on <u>Vault runway</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markings (no more than 2 inches wide) must be removed by end of rotation. • Warning before deduction, if measurement exceeded / markings <u>not</u> removed. |

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

Xcel Chief Judge deducts from Average Score (continued)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| <u>0.30</u> | <u>Use of Additional Mats, Springboard on Unauthorized Surface, or use of Hand Placement Mat for traditional approach Vaults</u> |
| <u>0.30</u> | <u>Failure to remove Board after mount</u> |
| <u>0.30</u> | <u>Failure to remove Board / Authorized Spotting Device after a release element</u> |
| <u>0.30</u> | <u>Using Incorrect Apparatus Specifications – including incorrect spring configuration</u> |
| <u>0.50</u> | <u>Starting before Signal given</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts before signal given, asked to stop and repeat performance immediately. • Deduct from repeated performance score. • See Vault Chapter for specifics on Vault. |
| <u>1.00</u> | <u>Absence of Music / Music with words / song / speech</u> |
| <u>1.00</u> | <u>Performance of one-arm Vault: half of vault Panel saw only one-hand touch VT Table</u> |

1. Terminates an Exercise after a fall, exceeds allotted Fall Time:
 - a. Uneven Bars – 45 seconds
 - b. Balance Beam – 30 seconds
 - c. Bleeding wound (or any other injury due to a fall) does not give the right to repeat exercise or resume from interruption. Fall Time (BB / UB respectively) exceeded before wound can be covered, routine terminated.
2. Reports to Meet Referee / Jury if:
 - a. Gymnast's attire is incorrect.
 - b. Unsportsmanlike conduct of Coach (after warning).
 - c. Excessive cheers / behavior disruptive to competition by Teammates / Coaches.
EXAMPLE: standing around FX area, blocking view of Judges / spectators.
 - d. Failure to observe Warm-up Time by Team (after warning).
Deduction applied to Team Event score, where infraction occurred.
 - e. Coach / Teammates were warned about Technical Verbal Cues.
3. Responsible for responding, in conjunction with Panel Judge(s), to inquiry in professional manner.
4. Must wear correct uniform for competition, as designated in contract.
5. May not be affiliated at any sanctioned qualifying meets.
EXCEPTIONS:
 - a. StateAdministrative Committee determines if any additional criteria / change in criteria will be used for State organized competitions.
 - b. Affiliated Judge(s) can be used for one-Judge Panel for **BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD** Divisions.
 - c. In extenuating circumstances, Meet Director may request permission from SAC to allow Affiliated one-Judge Panel for **PLATINUM** and **DIAMOND** Divisions.
6. Shall not involve herself / himself with conduct of Gymnast during warm-ups or training.
Comments to Gymnast should be made only if requested from Coach or Gymnast.

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

D. Xcel PANEL JUDGES

1. Must evaluate the exercises quickly and accurately, without bias.
2. Must record the number of skills "A" "B" "C" "D" VP / Special Requirements / Start Value, and deductions for Execution / Amplitude and Artistry.
3. Must include on Score Slip sent to Chief Judge (when electronic score input is not available):
 - a. Signature and Assigned Number
 - b. Start Value
 - c. Special Requirement deductions
 - d. Skills "A" "B" "C" VP missing
 - e. Notification of deduction taken for Coach spotting Gymnast
 - f. Notification that Gymnast exceeded border marking on Floor Exercise.
No Line Judges are present, attempt to signal by raising a hand.
 - g. Must write European 7
4. Responsible for Flashing Score and Start Value.
Must provide SV flashing unit, unless provided by meet host.
5. When changing a score, must cross out first score, initial change, and write in new score.
Do not erase.
6. Must act in a Professional Manner.
 - a. Must not leave seat, during competition without permission of Chief Judge.
 - b. Must remain at event station, until entire competition completed.
 - c. Must avoid conversations with Coaches, regarding evaluation of exercises.
 - d. Must be willing to compromise, when the two (2) counting scores are out of range.
7. Must wear correct uniform for competition, as designated in contract.
8. May be Affiliated: may not be more than one (1) Judge per Panel with the same affiliation.
9. Shall not involve herself / himself with conduct of Gymnast during warm-ups or training.
Comments to Gymnast should be made only if requested from Coach or Gymnast.

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

E. Xcel JUDGING ASSISTANTS

1. Do not evaluate or score the exercise.
2. Signal and Record specific faults and penalties to assist Chief Judge.
3. Types of Judging Assistants and Responsibilities:
 - a. Line Judges for Floor Exercise
 - 1) Must be a USA Gymnastics Professional Member.
 - 2) Signal by raising hand or flag, when Gymnast steps (or touches some part of body) beyond Boundary Line.
 - 3) Inform Chief Judge in writing of Line Violations.
 - b. Timers
 - 1) Vault – Fall Timer (Chief Judge monitors Fall Time)
 - a) Fall on 1st vault attempt and an injury occurs.
 - b) Allowed a maximum of one minute (60 seconds) after completion of the scoring judgement to leave the landing area.
 - c) Exceeds allotted Fall Time, 2nd vault not allowed.
 - 2) Uneven Bar – Fall Timer
 - a) Time Starts, when Gymnast lands on mat after a fall.
 - b) Time Stops, when Gymnast leaves mat to re-mount.
 - c) Announces “20 seconds remaining” at 25 seconds.
 - d) Announces “10 seconds remaining” at 35 seconds.
 - e) Announces “Time” at 45 seconds.
 - 3) Balance Beam – Routine Timer
 - a) Time Starts, when Gymnast leaves the floor or mount apparatus to mount.
 - b) Time Stops, when Gymnast lands on the floor after a fall.
 - c) Time Re-starts, with first movement to continue routine.
 - d) Time Stops, when Gymnast arrives on mat on Dismount.
 - e) Signals with an acoustic instrument (or verbally):
 - “Warning” at 10 seconds remaining.
 - “Time” at final time.
 - f) Informs Chief Judge, verbally or in writing, of any Time Violation.
 - 4) Balance Beam – Fall Timer
 - a) Fall Time Starts, when Gymnast lands on the mat or mounting apparatus after a fall.
 - b) Fall Time Stops, when Gymnast leaves the floor to re-mount.
 - c) Announces “20 seconds remaining” at 10 seconds.
 - d) Announces “10 seconds remaining” at 20 seconds.
 - e) Announces “Time” at 30 seconds.
 - 5) Floor Exercise – Timer
 - a) Time Starts, with the first movement of the Gymnast.
 - b) Time Stops, with the final movement of the Gymnast.
 - c) Informs Chief Judge of Time Violation in writing, indicating the actual time.
 - 6) Additional Timers for:
 - a) Control of Warm-up periods: during timed warm-up / 30-second touch warm-up
 - (1) Timer should begin, when Gymnast is prepared to mount (within reasonable time).
 - (2) Adjustments not included in 30-second touch warm-up time:
 - ✓ Adjustment (setting) of Bars
 - ✓ Adjustment / marking of Beam
 - ✓ Setting Board for Beam / Bars
 - (3) Procedures for 30-second Touch Warm-ups:
 - ✓ Announces “20 seconds remaining” at 10 seconds.
 - ✓ Announces “10 seconds remaining” at 20 seconds.
 - ✓ Announces “Time” at 30 seconds.
 - (4) Exceeding Warmup Time:
 - ✓ “Time” called, preparing for skill / dismount, may continue to finish without penalty.
 - ✓ “Time” called, fails to leave apparatus, Timer must announce “Time exceeded”.
 - ✓ Fails to leave apparatus, Timer reports infraction to Chief Judge,
 - ✓ CJ deducts 0.20 from Average Score.
 - b) Control beginning of exercise after flashing of Green Light / Signal from Chief Judge (Fall Timer may keep time).
 - c) Assistant to operate instrument or flashboard that indicates Vault Numbers.
 - d) Other Assistants as required by Chief Judge, Jury of Appeals, or Meet Organizers.

Judges ~ Chapter 4 ~ Rights & Duties

F. Xcel JURY OF APPEALS

1. Comprised of the following individuals:
 - a. Meet Referee / Technical Director – President of the Jury
 - b. Meet Director (non-voting, if the question relates to her / his Gymnast)
 - c. Chief Judges of all four (4) events (or of the event involved, whichever would be appropriate)
 - d. USA Gymnastics personnel (State / Regional Administrative Committee Chairman and / or Regional / National Xcel Committee Chairman)
2. Regional Competitions, the Jury of Appeals is comprised of:
 - a. Meet Director (unless affiliated with the Inquiry)
 - b. Meet Referee
 - c. USA Gymnastics elected Xcel / 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.
 - 1) Deduction taken from All-Around score by Meet Referee challenged,
 - 2) Jury of Appeals would convene to make final decision.
 - c. Reviews improperly handled Inquiries:
 - 1) Administrative procedures not followed properly on submitted inquiry:
 - a) Coach may petition Jury of Appeals for a review
 - b) Within five (5) minutes of end of rotation / competition / return of inquiry form, whichever occurs later.
 - 2) State meets and above, Video Review (if available),
 - a) May be considered by the Jury of Appeals.
 - b) Jury decision should occur within fifteen (15) minutes after conclusion of meet and before awards are presented.
 - d. Procedures for Inquiries:
 - 1) Properly written inquiry form by the Coach.
 - 2) Inquiry submitted in a timely manner to Meet Referee / Meet Director.
 - 3) Inquiry reviewed / answered by Judging Panel of event in question.
 - 4) Inquiry returned to Meet Referee / Meet Director.
 - 5) Meet Referee / Meet Director returns inquiry form to Coach by hand or by predefined Inquiry return procedure.
4. Methods of settling a case by the Jury of Appeals
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Vote on a Decision
 - c. Majority vote dictates the final decision

Vault – Apparatus Specifications

I. VAULT APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS and RULINGS

Refer to the current USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies book.

Requirements are subject to change every competitive year, beginning August 1.

- A. Meet Director required to include thickness of Vault Runway in pre-meet information.
- B. Vault Table and Mat Stack may be used at any manufactured setting up to maximum height specified in the current USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies book.
- C. Alternative Springboard apparatus / manufactured "Junior" vaulting board may be used at **BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD** Divisions.
- D. Tape Measure supplied by Meet Director and securely fastened to floor next to runway. Coach's responsibility to check placement and security of tape measure for correct distance and board set correctly.
- E. Tape / Excessive Chalk is not permitted on Vault Table.
- F. Vaults with Handspring onto the board are not allowed.
- G. Hand Placement Mat may be placed on runway (but not on vaulting board)
 - 1. DIAMOND Division only for Round-off entry vaults.
 - 2. Manufactured Mat must be placed on runway according to manufacturer's directions (Velcro-side down). Mat must not exceed two (2) inches in height.
 - 3. Sting mat (or any other type of matting) not allowed on runway.
 - 4. Mat may not be placed on runway as visual aid for Forward-entry Vaults in any Division.
- H. Hand Placement Mat slips on runway:
 - 1. Mat is not considered apparatus / personal equipment failure and not a reason to repeat vault without penalty.
 - 2. Coach's responsibility to ensure mat is placed properly with Velcro secure.
- I. Round-off "Safety Zone" Mat required:
 - 1. For DIAMOND Division when Round-off Entry Vaults are performed at Xcel competitions.
 - 2. Safety Zone Mat may also be used (but not required) for ANY other Vault in Xcel Program.
 - 3. Failure to use Safety Zone Mat, when performing Round-off Entry Vault, "0" (VOID) score.
 - 4. Round-off Entry Vaults, Safety Zone Mat must be placed in proper direction (around the board) or "0" (VOID) score. Safety Zone Mat designed to protect area between board / vault / sides of board and must fit snugly against board with no space between board and Safety Zone Mat.
 - 5. Group 1 / 2 / 3 Vaults (forward entry with / without turns in pre-flight), Safety Zone Mat may be placed in either direction behind board and may have space between board and Safety Zone Mat.
- J. Combinations of *Skill Cushions (maximum of 9 inches):
 - 1. *Sting mats / *4-inch Throw mats / *8-inch Skill Cushions, may be placed on top of allowable competition landing mats (9 inches).
 - 2. 8-inch thick Skill Cushion must be minimum of 5' x 10'.
 - 3. Unauthorized type of matting will receive a deduction of 0.30 from Average Score by Chief Judge.
- K. Vault Runway must be securely fastened to floor with tape / Velcro.
Athletic Tape / Velcro Strips / Small Chalk marks placed across width of vault runway:
 - 1. May not exceed two (2) inches in width.
 - 2. Markings should be removed no later than at end of rotation.
- L. Conversions – Inches to Centimeters:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch | = | 2 cm. |
| 4 inches | = | 10 cm. |
| 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches | = | 12 cm. |
| 8 inches | = | 20 cm. |
| 9 inches | = | 24 cm. |

Uneven Bars – Apparatus Specifications

II. BARS APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS

Refer to the current *USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies* book.

Requirements are subject to change every competitive year, beginning August 1.

A. Height of Bar measured from floor to top of rail.

1. Measurement not based on length of upright, but actual distance from rail to floor, using a plumb line.
2. 0.30 deduction for competing on apparatus using incorrect specifications.
3. Chief Judge must take deduction from Average Score before next Gymnast begins.

B. Combinations of *Skill Cushions (maximum of 9 inches):

1. *Sting mats / *4-inch Throw mats / *8-inch Skill Cushions, may be placed on top of allowable competition landing mats (9 inches) in two separate areas (under Bars / Dismount area.)
2. 8-inch thick Skill Cushion must be minimum of 5' x 10'.
3. 4-inch throw mat (Skill Cushion) placed on competition landing mat(s) for Dismount purposes, may have an up to 8-inch Skill Cushion placed on top for protection on a Release Element and must be removed immediately after release element performed.
4. Manufactured "Pit Pillow" is allowed in Diamond Division for a "C" or higher release move, but must be removed immediately after the skill is performed.
5. Unauthorized type of matting will receive a deduction of 0.30 from Average Score by Chief Judge.
6. Conversions – Inches to Centimeters:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch | = | 2 cm. |
| 4 inches | = | 10 cm. |
| 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches | = | 12 cm. |
| 8 inches | = | 20 cm. |
| 9 inches | = | 24 cm. |

C. Matting Regulations for Mounts

1. Mounts without use of board / other mounting apparatus:
 - a. May stand on one (1) 12 cm / 20 cm mat or two (2) 12 cm competition landing mats, with / without 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch base mat (unfolded panel mat).
 - b. May stand on additional up to 8-inch of mats (Sting mats / 4-inch Throw mats / 8-inch Skill Cushions) placed on competition landing mat(s).
2. Mounting Apparatus:
 - a. May be placed on one (1) 12 cm / 20 cm or two (2) 12 cm competition landing mats, with / without 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch base mat (unfolded panel mat). Panel mat be placed under / on top of competition landing mat.
 - b. May be placed on top of Sting mat / 4-inch Throw mat that is placed on competition landing mats.
 - c. Must be removed as soon as possible after mount is completed.
 - d. May not be placed on an 8-inch Skill Cushion.
 - e. Plywood not permitted underneath mounting apparatus.
 - f. Chief Judge deducts 0.30 from Average Score, if mounting apparatus placed on unauthorized surface (e.g., 8-inch Skill Cushion / floor / plywood).
3. EXCEPTION: BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD Divisions:
 - a. Any combination of competition Landing Mats, Skill Cushions and Panel Mats may be used to facilitate the Mount.
 - b. Any manufactured mounting apparatus may be placed on top of the mats.
EXAMPLE: Mount with glide swing, then back hip pullover:
May stand on panel mat / spotting block / board placed on above matting to initiate jump into glide swing.
Mat / Board must be removed as soon as possible after jump into glide swing.

D. Warm-up Regulations

1. Only one (1) Gymnast at a time allowed on Bars
2. During any warm-up (general / open, timed or 30-second touch).

Balance Beam – Apparatus Specifications

III. BEAM APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS

Refer to the current *USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies* book.

Requirements are subject to change every competitive year, beginning August 1.

A. Manufactured Padded Beams required at all USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitions.

1. See *Women's Rules and Policies* for Height requirement.
2. Deduct 0.30 for competing on apparatus using incorrect specifications.
3. Chief Judge must take deduction from Average Score before next Gymnast begins.

B. Balance Beam must be placed on floor / stable surface.

C. Small chalk markings allowed to be place on the Beam / Tape markings are not allowed.

D. Combinations of *Skill Cushions (maximum of 9 inches):

1. *Sting mats / *4-inch Throw mats / *8-inch Skill Cushions, may be placed on top of allowable competition landing mats (9 inches).
2. 8-inch thick Skill Cushion must be minimum of 5' x 10'.
3. Unauthorized type of matting will receive a deduction of 0.30 from Average Score by Chief Judge.

4. Conversions – Inches to Centimeters:

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------|
| Approx. ¾ inch | = | 2 cm. |
| 4 inches | = | 10 cm. |
| 4 ½ inches | = | 12 cm. |
| 8 inches | = | 20 cm. |
| 9 inches | = | 24 cm. |

E. Matting Regulations for Mounts:

1. Mounts without use of board / other mounting apparatus:

- a. May stand on one (1) 12 cm / 20 cm mat or two (2) 12 cm competition landing mats, with / without 1½ inch base mat (unfolded panel mat).
- b. May stand on additional up to 8-inch of mats (Sting mats / 4-inch Throw mats / 8-inch Skill Cushions) placed on competition landing mat(s).

2. Mounting Apparatus:

- a. May be placed on one (1) 12 cm / 20 cm or two (2) 12 cm competition landing mats, with / without 1½ inch base mat (unfolded panel mat). Panel mat be placed under / on top of competition landing mat.
- b. May be placed on top of Sting mat / 4-inch Throw mat that is placed on competition landing mats.
- c. Must be removed as soon as possible after mount is completed.
- d. May not be placed on an 8-inch Skill Cushion.
- e. Plywood not permitted underneath mounting apparatus.
- f. Chief Judge deducts 0.30 from Average Score, if mounting apparatus placed on unauthorized surface (e.g., 8-inch Skill Cushion / floor / plywood).

3. EXCEPTION: BRONZE / SILVER / GOLD Divisions:

- a. Any combination of competition Landing Mats, SkillCushions and Panel Mats may be used to facilitate the Mount.
- b. Any manufactured mounting apparatus may be placed on top of the mats.

Floor Exercise – Apparatus Specifications

IV. FLOOR APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS

Refer to the current *USA Gymnastics Women's Rules and Policies* book.

Requirements are subject to change every competitive year, beginning August 1.

A. Xcel Divisions compete on 12-meter x 12-meter floor.

1. BRONZE / SILVER Divisions may compete on 8' x 56' tumbling strip,
2. Provided information included in pre-meet information.

B. Clarifications for Additional Matting:

1. Up to two (2) manufactured mats (maximum thickness of 8 inches / 20cm) may be placed separately on Floor Exercise area.
2. 8-inch thick Skill Cushion must be minimum of 5' x 10'.
3. Only one (1) Skill Cushion / 4" Throw mat per tumbling pass:
 - a. No more than two (2) mats on floor exercise area at any one point in time.
 - b. Sting mat may be placed on top of skill cushion / throw mat(s) or may be used in place of Skill Cushion or Throw mat.
 - c. Additional matting may be used as take-off / landing surface.
4. Additional matting covering any portion of Boundary Line(s),
 - a. Must be clearly marked with tape / chalk to indicate actual Boundary Line(s).
 - b. Failure to mark mat results in 0.10 neutral deduction taken from Average Score by Chief Judge.
5. No requirement to remove mats from floor area during the exercise.
6. Unauthorized type of matting will receive a deduction of 0.30 from Average Score by Chief Judge.

C. Corner Padding:

1. Recommended matting (panel mats) be placed around outside corners of Floor Exercise mat, especially when on concrete / wood floor.
2. PLATINUM AND DIAMOND Division competitions held in outside facilities in which floor exercise apparatus is surrounded by cement / wood flooring (or other non-forgiving surface):
 - a. Outside of corners must be padded with matting (or carpet-bonded foam at least 1 3/8" thick)
 - b. Extending at least 5' from Boundary Line.
 - c. Extending at least 6' from corner of carpet along outside edge of floor.
 - d. Corner Padding should be attached (with Velcro strips) to the floor, foam, or carpet in some way to avoid separating / slipping.
 - e. Conversions – Inches to Centimeters:

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------|
| Approx. ¾ inch | = | 2 cm. |
| 4 inches | = | 10 cm. |
| 4 ½ inches | = | 12 cm. |
| 8 inches | = | 20 cm. |
| 9 inches | = | 24 cm. |