

All Around News

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The USA Women's Technical Committee has finalized some information for the 2005 National Judges' courses. The complete minutes of the conference call covering this important issue can be found on the USA Gymnastics web site. Several highlights are:

- ◆ **First National Course:** All current National or Brevet-rated judges are eligible.
- ◆ **Second National Course:** Individuals who have held a Level 10 rating for two 4-yr cycles (since at least Dec. 31, 1997).
- ◆ The proposed dates of the two National Courses are:
 - 1st course - for current National-rated judges: **July 27-30, 2005 or Aug. 14-17**
 - 2nd course- for individuals invited for the first time to a National Course: **July 31- Aug. 3, 2005 or Aug. 18-21**
- ◆ The site is to be determined, but it tentatively will be conducted in Indianapolis.
- ◆ All judges invited to take their first National Judges' Course are required to take a graded "*Written and Practical*" exam.
- ◆ Current National-rated judges attending the 2005 National Judges' Course will **NOT** be required to take a graded "*Practical*" exam.
- ◆ Current National-rated judges attending the 2005 National Judges' Course be required to take a written exam. The Written exam for the National Judges' Course consist of one-concept questions and some visual (via video) skill and connection identification, emphasizing new changes in rules and element values.
- ◆ All National Course participants be allowed one re-test opportunity (per part-written and/or practical) to be administered by a member of the Technical Committee at a Regional or National USA Gymnastics event. Each region will offer a re-test opportunity, if necessary. All re-tests must be completed by December 31, 2005.
- ◆ Current National-rated judges be required to score a minimum of 80% on the written exam to retain their National rating (with one re-test by a WTC member allowed).
- ◆ First-time participants at the National Judges' Course be required to score a minimum of 80% on both the written and practical exams to achieve a National rating. One re-test opportunity by a WTC member will be allowed.

Level 10 Re-certification courses will be offered to any individual who has passed the Level 10 exam two times (once in the current 2001 - 2005 cycle and once in the previous cycle). The Level 10 Re-certification Courses will be offered at the WTC Symposiums held in conjunction with the Master Compulsory Workshops (first two weekends in June, 2005), the NAWGJ National Symposium July 14-17 and the USA Gymnastics National Congress Aug. 11-13, 2005. Since the Level 10 Re-certification Courses will once again be offered (with self-testing only), any individual who fails to meet the minimum standard to pass the National Course will automatically receive a Level 10 rating.

A special thank you to **NAWGJ** for all of their help at **Level 9/10 and Level 8 Regionals** with supplying the auxiliary judges. **Gwyned Bius**, Georgia NAWGJ, assigned or coordinated the help of Georgia NAWGJ at the Level 9/10 Regionals. **Cookie Batsche** worked with the Florida NAWGJ to provide volunteers for the Level 8 Regionals as well as Level 10 Junior Olympic Nationals. Thank you!