

All Around News



Nancy Hawkins presents State Quilt from State Chairs to Marian for her 50th Birthday celebration.

TECHNICAL

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JUDGES' ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The responsibility of judges' certification has been brought in-house to the USA Gymnastics office and will be under the direction of the Technical Committee. I served on a Task Force that recently met to provide information and ideas that will assist the National office and the Technical Committee with the development of policies and procedures for this endeavor. The Technical Committee, in conjunction with the National office, will determine:

- a) the policies and procedures for the certification of officials for the Jr. Olympic Program.
- b) the final timelines for implementation of this program to insure that the new system will be up and running efficiently by the summer of 2005, when the exams for the new cycle will be first offered.

While there is still much work to do and be confirmed by the WTC, I can share with you several things. Any current State, Regional, or National officer for USA Gymnastics or NAWGJ will be eligible to hold the position of Test Administrator. In addition any individual who has served as a Test Administrator in the past may also apply. An application form will be developed and sent via e-mail as well as posted online in the Spring 2005.

Those individuals serving as Test Administrators may begin administering the new compulsory and optional exams after August 20, 2005. Test Administrators should be aware of the following:

- All TAs must pass the new Level 5/6 exam prior to administering the compulsory exam.
- In order to give the Optional exams, the TA must have re-certified in 2005. This may be done through a Level 10 Recertification course, a National course, or by passing the new Level 10 test.
- TAs who presently hold a Brevet rating will have their Optional ratings extended until such time that the Brevet Courses are offered, and will be eligible to administer the new exams beginning late August 2005.

Judges ratings will continue to be the same as in the past. The exams will continue with the same levels of certification: Level 5/6, Level 7/8 (with a practical exam on only Level 8 routines), Level 9 and Level 10.

PETITION PROCEDURES

Starting January 1, 2005, there will be a slight change to the physician's note required. The physician's written verification must indicate the nature of the illness or injury as well as indicate a release to return to "gymnastics training."

BREVET COURSES

The dates of the FIG-Intercontinental, FIG-Continental, and USAG Brevet Courses have yet to be determined, pending the decision by FIG of the schedule of the Intercontinental Course. All current US Brevet judges will be invited to one of the Brevet courses, which will be held in late 2005 or early 2006.

2005 Jr. Olympic Code of Points

Starting June 2005, the text in the present *JO Technical Handbook* will be included in the *JO Code of Points*. This publication will be included as part of the registration fee for anyone attending one of the WTC workshops June 4-5 in Louisville, KY or June 11-12 in Reno, NV.

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UNUSUAL SITUATION

As we all know, in rare cases an unusual situation may happen when one judge inadvertently misses the exercise. If this happens, the following procedure should be used:

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.

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.

In either case, the Chief Judge should consult with the Meet Referee, who will then notify the coach of the gymnast's options.

LEVEL 7 UNEVEN BARS CLARIFICATION FOR THE 2004-05 SEASON

If a gymnast performs a staldler circle backward to clear support (#6.104) in order to fulfill the 60° circling element at Level 7, the angle is determined according to the clarification on page 72 in the *JO Technical Handbook*. This states that this element does not require an open hip angle at the completion. The judge would consider the line from shoulders to hips when evaluating the amplitude (angle) of the body.

If the same element was used to fulfill the 2nd circling element (group 3, 6, or 7), the general rule for amplitude for optional skills would apply; that is, determine the angle from shoulders to hips and if it is 45° above horizontal or better, take no deduction. If the angle is below 45°, then an “up to 0.20” deduction would be applied.

FLOOR EXERCISE MUSIC

Clarification regarding “song or voice”: The Floor Exercise music may not include voice/song, but other sounds, such as whistling, animal sounds are allowable.

JUDGES AVAILABILITY

Availability forms for 2006 Regional Championships are in this newsletter. You will not receive an individual mailing. **Completed forms must be returned to Marian Dykes by June 1, 2005.**

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